



Island Honors RBG

Mourners gathered at City Hall last Sunday evening to mark the passing of United States Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Ginsburg served on the Supreme Court from 1993 until her death Friday, Sept. 18. She was nominated by President Bill Clinton.

Make Housing More Accessible

Passionate questions swirl around Measure Z

Dennis Evanosky

Editor's note: The Alameda Sun published an article about Measure Z on Sept. 3. ("New Housing Measure on Upcoming Ballot") On Sept. 17, the Sun published an article voicing the opposition to the ballot (Concerns for Measure Z). This third and final article gives voice to those in favor of the measure.

Proponents of Measure Z on the Nov. 3 ballot want Article 26 struck from the City Charter. On March 13, 1973, voters approved banning the construction of apartment buildings in Alameda with these words:

"Sec. 26-1. There shall be no multiple dwelling units built in the City of Alameda.

Sec. 26-2. Exception being the Alameda Housing Authority replacement of existing low-cost housing and the proposed Senior Citizens low-cost housing complex, pursuant to Article XXV Charter of the City of Alameda."

A lawsuit filed in January 1989 reflects the problems inherent in forbidding the building of apartment houses in Alameda as stipulated in Article 26. Clayton Guyton and Modessa Henderson sued the city on behalf of the Buena Vista Community Association.

The suit addressed the city's refusal to provide low-cost housing

to tenants when the 615-unit Buena Vista Apartments raised its rents beyond what the tenants — most, if not all, Black — could afford. In April 1990, the city settled with the plaintiffs. The court-approved arrangement required the city to apply for state Proposition 84 Rental Housing Construction funds to build 85 units of low-income housing.

Less than a year later, on March 5, 1991, Alameda voters redefined the 1973 ban on multiple dwelling unit by approving this addition to Article 26:

"Section 26-3: The maximum density for any residential development within the City of

Alameda shall be one housing unit per 2,000 square feet of land."

The intent of Measure 26 was "not racist. However, the measure's "one unit per 2,000 square feet" requirement — picture 20 equally spaced buildings on land the size of a football field — did not permit developers to build apartments. The city claimed that it could not find space for these apartments. This effectively stifled the building of the low-income housing units required in the 1990 settlement with Guyton.

Racism does play a role in this game. It raised its head on March

10, 1992 — a year after passage of Article 23-3. The City Council — sitting as the Alameda Housing Authority Board of Commissioners — decided to defy the settlement reached two years earlier. The Council voted not to apply for Measure 84 funds, as the settlement with Guyton required. Brett Mahoney covered the meeting for the Oakland Tribune.

"Thirty-five residents spoke at the meeting, complaining that low-income housing should not be built in their neighborhoods because it would lower property values, create traffic congestion and make streets unsafe," Mahoney reported.

Mahoney also told Tribune readers that, "One resident received a standing ovation when he said building low-income housing in the island city would only lead to the creation of "an East Alameda like East Oakland." Mahoney also reported that this same resident added that allowing such housing would "create roving bands of anarchist gypsies which vandalize storefronts as they do in Berkeley."

"At least one member of the crowd did not cheer the decision," Mahoney wrote. Clayton Guyton walked out of the meeting.

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City to Seek Wetland Park Funding

Richard Bangert

The proposed ecological wetland park at Alameda Point, known as DePave Park, is another step closer to becoming a reality. On Sept. 15, four members of the city council gave thumbs up to moving forward with seeking a \$2 million grant to pay for a master planning process.

"I am super-stoked about this project; it's better than I ever imagined," said Councilmember Jim Oddie, who has led recent efforts at City Hall to get action on this park. "I was really touched when I saw the drawing. I broke down in tears it was so beautiful."

As currently envisioned, park construction will entail removing old pavement and softening the edge of the western side of the Seaplane Lagoon which will allow water into the park and become

adaptable to sea level rise. A tidal channel through the park will connect the Seaplane Lagoon with the existing wetland on the federal property, thereby creating a combined wetland ecosystem with multiplied benefits.

The existing boulders that stabilize the shoreline would be removed and re-positioned to serve as habitat jetties. The existing pavement would be crushed and reused onsite to build elevated overlooks and pathways. A strip of existing concrete is envisioned as remaining to serve as a multi-use trail through the park, thereby reducing the construction impact.

The ecological park concept was approved in 2014 as part of Alameda Point's Town Center and Waterfront Plan. The park concept was promoted in the 2019 Climate Action and Resiliency Plan

for its adaptation value. And to affirm the importance of moving forward with implementation, the Recreation and Park Commission deemed DePave Park the top priority among its pending projects and subsequently approved the vision plan.

In May, to refine the vision plan, Recreation and Park Director Amy Woodriddle secured pro bono services from CMG, the architectural landscape design company that created the park concept in the Town Center and Waterfront Plan and who specializes in resiliency projects.

Environmental stakeholder groups, including the Sierra Club, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda, San Francisco Baykeeper,

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Mayor: Get Ready to Vote

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

Alameda County Registrar of Voters Tim Dupuis and Alameda City Clerk Lara Weisiger joined my Sept. 18 Mayor's Town Hall via Zoom and Facebook Live to discuss the many ways Alameda County voters can cast their ballots this November. You can view this and other Town Halls at www.youtube.com/cityofalameda. Every registered voter in California will receive a ballot in the mail beginning Monday, Oct. 5. If you haven't received your ballot by Monday, Oct. 12, contact the Registrar of Voters at www.acvote.org.

Return your completed ballot starting Oct. 5 at one of three drop-box locations in Alameda: the Oak Street side of City Hall, College of Alameda and outside the Bay Farm Branch Library. For more information visit www.acgov.org/rovapps/maps/balldropbox_map.htm

Or mail your completed ballot in the envelope provided. No postage is required, but the envelope must be postmarked by Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, or earlier and reach the Registrar's office within 17 days after the election to be counted.

Be sure to sign and date the Voter's Declaration on the return envelope. You can track your vote-by-mail ballot — when it is mailed, received and counted — through the County by signing up at www.acvote.ballottrax.net or the Secretary of State at www.WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov to receive automatic email, text or voice notifications about your ballot.

If you want to vote in person, traditional polling places are being replaced by Accessible Voting Locations (AVL), which are larger spaces that allow COVID-19 social distancing and offer drive-through, curbside or indoor electronic voting. All equipment is sanitized after every user, and voters who vote inside will be asked to wear masks.

AVLs will be open from Saturday, Oct. 31, to Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday through Monday and from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. There are six Alameda locations:

- South Shore Center
- Gracepoint Church Alameda on Harbor Bay
- Almanac Beer Company at Alameda Point
- Lincoln Middle School
- Island High School
- Alameda High School.

Alameda County voters can also vote at any AVL in the county.

Locations will be listed at www.acvote.org/go after ballots are mailed. Both Dupuis and Weisiger urge you to vote before Election Day, if possible. We're seeing a record number of registered voters this year — 51,000 in Alameda so far. Casting your vote early will help take the pressure off the Registrar of Voters on Election Day.

Remembering Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a pioneering figure in the fight for women's and others' legal equality. She helped make the phrase in our Constitution — "We the People" — more inclusive. Similar to another pioneering Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall, she took an incrementalist approach to major change, saying, "Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time." We must all be part of the real, enduring change that needs to happen in our society. Be sure to vote.

Good news on the COVID front: We're finally seeing a decline in COVID-19 cases. Alameda County has been categorized in the most restrictive purple tier because of high county-wide case numbers, but for the last two weeks, our new cases per day and test positivity rate have declined significantly.

Hospitalizations and ICU admissions are also down, and the county's supply of personal protective equipment for the next 30 days is good. If we can lower these numbers, Alameda County can enter the red tier where more businesses will be allowed to reopen, and schools will move closer to resuming in-person instruction.

We must maintain the vigilance that got us to this point. Please wear your mask whenever you leave home, wash your hands frequently and maintain 6 feet of physical distance from anyone who doesn't live in your household!

Get ready for a different Halloween

It's really scary to think about a resurgence of COVID-19 that could occur if large crowds of people fill our streets for Trick or Treat. The County public health officer's office is expected to issue guidelines for safely celebrating Halloween soon. We'll keep you posted.

Be safe! Be smart! Be Alameda Strong!

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft is the Mayor of Alameda.

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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	6:59	19:04
Sept. 25	6:59	19:02
Sept. 26	7:00	19:00
Sept. 27	7:01	18:59
Sept. 28	7:02	18:57
Sept. 29	7:03	18:56
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City of Alameda

This view looks across the wetland park planned for the west side of the Seaplane Lagoon at Alameda Point. The city hopes to remove the pavement currently at the site and return it to nature.

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