

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

APC thanks community

Editor:
On behalf of the residents and staff of the Alameda Point Collaborative (APC), we would like to thank Perforce Software and the Perforce Foundation, for generously sponsoring "Breakfast for Dinner, a Short Stack for a Tall Cause" As a sell-out, "Breakfast for Dinner" showed what makes Alameda so special.

Perforce has already demonstrated a deep commitment to the health and happiness of the local community through its sponsorship of the "The Little Ice Rink" and support of organizations working to create better futures for families; particularly our youth.

A group of Perforce employees conceived "Breakfast for Dinner." Despite all that their company already does, they knew that they could leverage their talents and resources to do even more. It was more than just another fundraiser. It was an opportunity for families to come together in the spirit of community and philanthropy, over an excellent meal. We were truly gratified by the creativity and dedication of the Perforce staff that organized the event.

Two organizations benefited from the event, APC and the East Oakland Boxing Association. Both share a dedication to creating healthy lives for young people who have been challenged by homelessness, violence and/or poverty.

We were humbled by the number of people who attended, and the outpouring of concern and support expressed on behalf of the families served.

From our family to yours, thank you very much!

— Paula Swanson, Chair
Alameda Point Collaborative

Hats off to Scouts, community

Editor:
The Alameda Food Bank would like to offer its sincerest thanks to everyone in the community who participated in the Nov. 16 Scouting for Food Drive, a national day of service by the Boy Scouts of America and the single largest annual food drive for the Alameda Food Bank.

The Alameda Council showed amazing leadership to ensure our local program was exemplary. Lo-

cal Scouts distributed door hangers and bags, and then canvassed and collected canned food that local families contributed from their homes.

We also want to thank the Rotary Club, Alameda Elks Lodge, American Red Cross, Girl Scout troops and local college students who helped to unpack and sort food donations.

Of particular note is the participation of many volunteers from local Coast Guard units under the direction of Cmdr. Peter Brady, the executive officer for Coast Guard Base Alameda. Coast Guard volunteers were critical in packing and getting boxed food across town for temporary storage at the food bank warehouse.

This year's Scouting for Food Drive brought in more than 17,000 pounds of non-perishable items for distribution to needy families right here in Alameda. In 2012, the Alameda Food Bank served 5383 clients, nine percent over 65 and 31 percent children under the age of 18. We offer our sincerest thanks for this truly community-wide effort.

— Troy Gilbert
Executive Director,
Alameda Food Bank

Dreams may come true for city, local museum

Editor:
After reading "Pinball Museum Shoots for Carnegie Library," Nov. 22, it looks like John Russo's dream is now a possibility, and I must say I'm pleased with the idea.

While restoration of this magnificent old building is unfortunately not something the city can afford at the present time, it certainly seems like a good idea to allow a private investor to get involved and do something that benefits Alameda and our visitors. Go, Pinball Museum!

— Jaan Carter

A letter to friends of Bob Chesler

Friends:
I would like to learn more about the life of my cousin, Bob Chesler whose obituary appeared in the Nov. 7 edition of the *Alameda Sun*. If you can help, please contact me at 15308 Ardath Ave., Gardena, CA. 90249. I can also be reached at (310) 909-6857 or evchesler@yahoo.com.

Thanks.

— Evan Chesler

Good to see Estuary getting cleaned up

Editor:
Glad to see the rousting of the derelict anchor outs ("Estuary Cleanup in Full Swing," Oct. 24). This should decrease the theft problems, primarily outboards, in the nearby marinas.

— Martin Thomas

A couple of good Joes prove we're not alone

Editor:
The sounds of the emergency vehicles brought Joe Mariscal out of his home and around the corner to the recent apartment fire on Briggs Avenue. He conversed with those suddenly homeless in the street and within moments was on his way to Encinal Market.

He gathered an ample supply of food and approached the register to purchase the goods. He encountered Encinal Market's owner Joe Trimble and shared the story of the fire.

Without hesitation Trimble advised Mariscal that the groceries were on him. A good Joe, in fact two good Joes. When Mariscal returned to the apartment building with his bounty he was asked why he did it.

His response, "I am your neighbor." Indeed, with people like Mariscal and Trimble, we are not alone on this island.

— Don Arnold

Let the light shine in

Editor:
"Zoning Matters but so Does Intent," Nov. 22 was a well-written review of the current situation on Bay Farm Island.

A thoughtful reminder of honor and integrity.

I still wonder how the city can consider dealing with a developer that has defaulted on \$65 million of debt in the past: two loans from California labor unions and one from Lehman Brothers.

Perhaps we need to consider honor and integrity with the light shining on Harbor Bay Island Associates.

— Jersey Lynch

Building 400 needs more than a new drain pipe

Editor:
I was hired in 1972 at the Naval Air Rework Facility (NARF); later renamed NADEP. I ultimately attained the position of foreman in the 3000 Division.

One year during Christmas vacation, the idea arose to shore up the hangar deck in Building 400. The idea was to pump concrete under the deck to stabilize it and keep it from sagging. That stabilization effort began and continued for two weeks. As soon as one concrete pumper truck emptied, another was taking its place and began emptying its load. It was a continuous procession.

At the end of two weeks there was no sign that any concrete had ever been pumped under the hangar floor. All that concrete went somewhere, but it wasn't under the hangar deck. The effort ended as a failure. There was never a solution to the original problem of a sagging hangar floor.

The base was built on wetlands and marsh. In that type of ecosystem, the ground is so saturated that the water actually migrates in the soil/sand mixture. Water flows and acts as a very slow current. Any contaminants would likely migrate just like the moisture and or concrete.

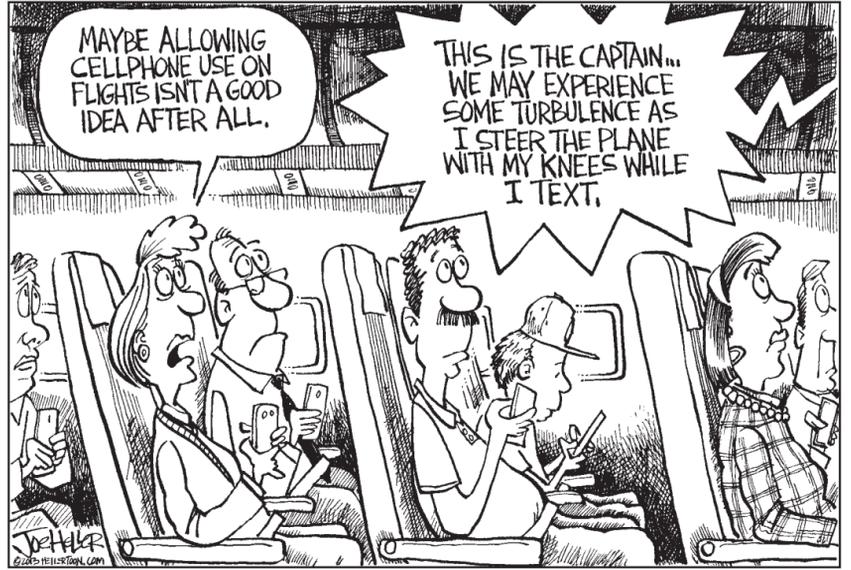
More than 50 years worth of contamination has spread from the original point of contamination to who knows where. It will never be fixed, not because we don't care or want to clean it up, but because the clean up is impossible.

Radioactive material, strippers, acid, solvents — there is a huge problem at the Alameda site — and it won't be fixed with a new drain pipe.

— Victor Quintell

Kudos and thanks

Editor:
The board of directors, staff and especially the youth at



Joe Heller

Alameda Boys & Girls Club extend a big thank you to everyone who helped make the 2013 Kids Nite Out (KNO) on Friday, Nov. 15, a most inspiring, fun and memorable evening. Many appreciations to the 100 adults who "buddied" with 100 of our club kids and competed as two-person teams in a range of games and activities.

They enjoyed a delicious meal, took "buddy" photos, and won awards. A big shout out to the KNO Committee: Co-Chairs Dave McCarver and Tim Marr, Marty Garchar, Jeff Sherratt, Al Wright, Joe Sherratt and Bill Dal Porto and to our many volunteers.

Kudos to Coach Brad Thomas and the Alameda High School women's basketball team. And a special thanks to the generous partners who helped fund the event: the presenting sponsor, GoDaddy; mentoring sponsor, Big Rick Foundation and the leadership sponsors, Alameda Police Manager and Alameda Police Officers associations and Rich Sherratt.

Thanks are also due to the evening's keystone sponsors: Aerotek, Alameda Advertising and Recognition, Bill Dal Porto, Gunderson Direct, Inc., Harbor Bay Realty, JSternburg Productions, La Val's Pizza and Raintree Studios; torch sponsors: Brown & Sullivan, LLP; Steve Cressy, Harbor Bay Realty; Joe Restagno and Jordana Elderts; John Jameson Construction; Linda & Dennis Kolowich; Scott MacAskill Insurance Services; Tim Marr, Harbor Bay Realty; McGee's; Neptune Beach Pearl; and Peter Holmes, Sterling Mortgage.

— Jeff Miller
Chief Professional Officer
Alameda Boys & Girls Club

Check out this rarely-mentioned benefit

Editor:
Many have to pick and choose an Affordable Care Act plan or, in the case of seniors, Medicare Supplemental Plans or Medigap plans. An oft-hidden benefit for most (including Blue Cross, Shield, Humana, and others) might save you hundreds of dollars annually. And most policyholders are unaware they've always had it!

It's called Sneakers (or Silver Sneakers for Medicare seniors) and often hidden within your insurance plan or just not mentioned by most agents. But it pays totally in full for annual gym and health club memberships. Of note is that nearly every gym, spa, club and work-out facility is covered by it here including Any Time Fitness, 24 Hour and Bladium.

Ask your health insurance representative if your health club is covered by your policy.

Now that's what I call a holiday bonus.

— Mike Lano

Harris weighs in on Crown Beach

Editor:
Friends and supporters of Crown Beach were surprised and delighted at the correspondence, which has recently come to light, between California Attorney General Kamala Harris's office and the U.S. Department of Justice. The letter stated important points unequivocally.

Harris's office stated: "the federal excess land ought to be owned and controlled by the state

of California or East Bay Regional Park District because that indisputably would be the best and highest use of it."

Many of us wonder how this misuse of our future parkland came about. It certainly appears our city leaders were conducting business behind the residents' backs and were once again catering to developers without considering the wishes of 70 percent of the people who voted for Measure WW to expand Crown Beach.

Moreover, we know the city's Housing Element had sufficient units to meet requirements without adding this "federal excess land" to the mix.

It's time to recognize the will of people and the legal arguments put forth in the state Attorney General's correspondence and rezone the parcel in question to open space.

Parks are an important part of making our community a wonderful place to live. They also enhance and protect our property values. Moreover we have a track record of successful ballot initiatives and a know-how to make our parks a reality.

— Gretchen Lipow

Remember your friends this holiday season

Editor:
The Alameda Friends of the Parks Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. Its mission is to promote, protect and support recreation and park activities and community wellness in Alameda.

The foundation's success depends on members, volunteers and individual and business donors. In recent years, Friends' projects have included building outdoor fitness parks, replacing trees, providing funds for picnic table benches, Movies in the Park and scholarships. In addition, the foundation has paid for park signage and transportation vehicles.

As a nonprofit, we depend on your support to provide what we believe is a critical element of a healthy community: The wellness and health of our community through safe and healthy parks and recreation programs.

Please consider donating today to our foundation. Visit www.alamedaparks.org to review what we do and how you can support our cause and our work.

— William Delaney,
President, Alameda Friends of the Parks Foundation

Friends bench an eyesore, unsafe

Editor:
In regard to "Wind Helps Damage Famed 'Friends' Bench," Nov. 28, it would be nice if the bench could be in a different spot. It is unsafe.

Maybe a see-through bench, like the ones at Crown Beach. I have seen kids hide behind it and jump out and scare people walking by. It is an eyesore.

I wonder what everyone else thinks. I like its history, it just needs to be tweaked a little.

Repair, replace or remove?
— Linda Weinstock

Adopt-a-Bed update

Editor:
The Midway Shelter for abused women and children would like to thank the following individuals and groups who contributed

to the shelter in November. A number of the listed donors gave several times during this period. One generous donor chose to remain anonymous.

We'd like to thank Betty Sanderson, Barbara Anderson and Virginia Krutilek. The shelter couldn't survive without the munificence of groups like Isle City Institute #51 YLI, the Alameda Welfare Council and Rising Star Montessorri School.

Chancel al-mansour Matthews, Karne McCloud, Sherman and Beatrice Lee and Angela and David Harmon all donated in memory of Frances Satchell.

Jane Watson of Edward Jones donated in November as did Jean Smith-Castle, John and Susanne Gallagher, Srinivasan Suresh, Keith Nealy and Carol Fitzgerald. Charlotte C. Kellogg and John Cashman helped with their donations, as did John and Johanna Schuitema, Robert S. McBride, Ann and Robert Kenyon and Lois Pryor.

Lance and Sandra Russum donated in memory of Josefina Del Rosario. Conrad Goerl, Robert M. Taylor, Dorothy Mitchell, MD, and Judy Plard showed their generosity, as did Ronald Hall, John H. Rozman, and Antonina Francisco.

We'd also like to thank Thomas R. Edwards, Iris Peacock, Robert E. McPeak, Thomas and Sheila Lewellyn, Linda and Avianna Goomishian and Tracy Corbally.

If you'd like to help the women and children at Midway and see your name among the shelter's generous donors in next month's *Alameda Sun*, send a donation to Alameda Homeless Network, P.O. Box 951, Alameda CA 94501. To learn more, call 523-2377 or visit www.midwayshelter.org.

— Ginny Krutilek

Blight as a way of life

Editor:
This city obviously has a history of looking the other way as buildings fall apart, (Alameda Point, Boatworks, Carnegie Library, etc. etc.) But how long do we need to look at the burned-out wreck of a building at Park Street and San Jose Avenue? That building burned a year ago and is now a target for vandals and a potential danger to passersby as burned lumber and broken glass fall to the sidewalk.

— Coho Jerkins

Our Letters Policy

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the *Alameda Sun*, its advertisers or staff.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from the community. Letters must include a name and phone number for verification purposes. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Letters are subject to editing for length, clarification and legal considerations. Please try to limit letters to 250 words.

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