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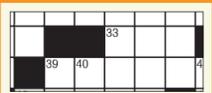
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3215J Encinal Ave.
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News: (510) 263-1470
Ads: (510) 263-1471
Fax: (510) 263-1473

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JoanAnn Radu-Sinaiko

**Alameda Sun
Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	07:05	18:52
Oct. 3	07:06	18:51
Oct. 4	07:07	18:49
Oct. 5	07:08	18:48
Oct. 6	07:09	18:46
Oct. 7	07:10	18:45
Oct. 8	07:11	18:43

Election 2014

City Council, School Board candidates

Michele Ellison
The Alamedan

Council Candidates

A legislative staffer who has served on several local committees and a pair of city councilmen — one incumbent and one former — are vying for two open City Council seats this fall.

Incumbent City Councilman Stewart Chen, who joined the council in 2012, faces former Councilman Frank Matarrese and Jim Oddie, who has served as chair of Alameda's Open Government Commission and as a member of the city's America's Cup Ad Hoc Committee.

Chen, a chiropractor, has served on the city's Social Service Human Relations Board, Alameda County's Human Relations Commission and the Alameda Health Care District Board that oversees the hospital. He said the current council and city administration have made Alameda more attractive to new residents and that he wants to continue aiding that work.

Earlier this year, reporters from *The Alamedan* and the *East Bay Citizen* learned Chen was convicted of insurance fraud in the 1990s. Chen has maintained his innocence, saying he took a plea deal at the behest of an attorney who was later disbarred for his handling of unrelated cases.

Oddie, an attorney and certified public accountant with a master's degree in business administration, serves as Assemblyman Rob Bonta's district director; he's also a member of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, an elected position. He said he thinks the city's headed in a positive direction and has largely staked out positions that will maintain its current course.

Matarrese, a consultant to biotechnology firms, served on Alameda's Planning Board and Economic Development Commission before earning two terms on the City Council, from 2002 to 2010; the city's rules prohibit more than two consecutive terms on the council but do not bar a run following a few years off. Matarrese said his goals are to increase jobs and parks at Alameda Point.

Whoever wins will be charged with managing development of Alameda Point and other areas of the Island and addressing the city's growing unfunded retiree health liability (new city worker contracts are due in 2017). They'll also decide how to handle concerns about evictions and rising rents.

Here's where they stand on three major issues. Read the entire article at www.thealamedan.org.

Alameda Point: The City Council has signed off on a development envelope for Alameda Point that will allow up to 1,425 homes, 5.5 million square feet of commercial space and 291 acres of parks, and they're looking at finalists to develop commercial space on an 82-acre parcel and a mixed-use development with up to 800 new homes on another 68 acres.

Chen voted in favor of the plans and has expressed support for them. He's also touting a compromise he brokered between council members who want to stick to the plan and others who want more homes built at the Point that would allow additional developers to build additional housing on the 68-acre site beyond the 800 units permitted if they pay a \$50,000 per unit fee (\$50,000 is the amount the Navy demanded for every home that's built over the total cap of 1,425).

Oddie said he'll evaluate any proposal for the Point based on whether it generates revenue to pay for roads, utilities and other infrastructure at the Point, has a concrete traffic mitigation plan and is green and provides parks — most of which is already required of development there.

Matarrese, who originally supported developer SunCal's plan to build more than 4,500 homes at Alameda Point, is now advocating jobs-and-parks-only development there; he doesn't want any homes there except for the ones already built and required housing for formerly homeless people. When questioned by a reporter regarding the about-face, Matarrese said he concluded SunCal's plan was bad for Alameda Point after learning details on costs and that visits to other shuttered

bases and further research convinced him job replacement should drive redevelopment at Alameda Point.

Harbor Bay Development: Matarrese has earned a nod from the powerful Harbor Bay Neighbors group for his apparent opposition to Harbor Bay Isle Associates' proposals to build 80 homes or a hotel and conference center where the Harbor Bay Club now stands (a proposal that isn't currently active) and to build a new club on North Loop Road; he told forum attendees that Island Drive is "maxed out." But he also said he probably will have to "steer clear" of voting on the proposals because he has a business in the Harbor Bay Business Park.

Chen said he needs to remain mum until the proposal to build a new club comes to the council, though he said that any proposals would be subject to "a very stringent review process." Oddie also demurred on this question, saying that he wants a chance to review the facts around any proposal but that he is "skeptical" of the developer's earlier claim that its agreement with the city gives it the right to build more homes.

Measure A and Affordable Housing: Candidates walked a fine line on development-limiting Measure A, which could be considered the third rail of Alameda politics. Oddie said he appreciates the impact and success the measure has had in preserving Alameda's Victorians and other vintage homes, while Matarrese — who as a councilman supported a contentious proposal to hold a forum on the measure — said he'd uphold it if given another term.

All three candidates pointed out that the state's density bonus law trumps Measure A and that it has always given developers the ability to seek permission to build multifamily housing in exchange for affordable units that exceed the city's requirements (even if that fact wasn't exactly promoted by prior generations of city leaders), and all three said they intend to abide by it. Oddie said that any Measure A exemptions beyond the ones council members granted when they approved a 2012 housing element for the city's general plan should go before voters.

As councilmen, both Chen and Matarrese supported the development of affordable housing. Matarrese was part of a unanimous vote for a city-specific density bonus ordinance, and he also voted to approve the acquisition of the former Islander Motel and exchange of a city-owned property for the development of affordable units. The Alameda Landing development approved by the council

by the council also includes dozens of affordable new homes.

Chen voted in favor of the 2012 and 2014 general plan housing blueprints that permitted the development of multifamily housing on a host of to-be-developed properties in Alameda. A quarter of the housing to be built at the Alameda Point development he signed off on will be affordable to lower income Alamedans.

School Board Candidates
A school board veteran, a special education teacher and an accountant who helped start a local youth sports league are vying for a pair of seats on Alameda's Board of Education this fall.

Mike McMahon is seeking his fourth term on the board, while teacher Solana Henneberry and Gary Lym, a retired accountant and professor, are also seeking a seat. Margie Sherratt, who is wrapping up her first term on the board, opted not to run for re-election.



Photo by Asia Gard

Home Tour Among Weekend Highlights

Alameda's premier event featuring tours of the city's finest Colonial-Revival style homes provided by the homeowners and the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society took place this past weekend. Tour-goers could be found perusing their guidebooks from the Gold Coast to west of Webster this year.

Alleged Arsonists Nabbed for String of Local Fires

Dennis Evanosky
A string of fires sent Alameda firefighters and police officers reeling in the early morning hours last Sunday. Before the sun was up the Alameda Police Department (APD) had arrested Stephen Michael Petersen, 27, of Alameda and Andrew Resto Gutierrez, 22 a transient.

Both men are in Santa Rita Jail. They were arraigned on Tuesday afternoon in Department 112 at the Wiley Manuel Courthouse in Oakland, charged with willful and malicious arson. The court set Gutierrez' bail at \$1 million. Petersen is being held in lieu of \$750,000 bail.

According to APD, the pair went on a fire-setting rampage, torching automobiles, trash bins, homes and businesses at eight different places before they were stopped. Their exploits left four people homeless and several business owners without a place to earn their keep.

The first report of a fire came into AFD dispatch at 12:56 a.m. with the report of a trash can on fire on the 1300 block of Regent Street. The second call came in just 15 minutes later at 1:11 a.m. when residents reported smelling smoke on the 500 block of Willow Street. An investigation turned up nothing but less than 30 minutes later, at 1:39 a.m., firefighters raced to the 1100 block of Regent Street to find a fire burning outside a home.

Alameda Fire Department spokesperson Capt. Jim Colburn said that this fire, while contained outside the residence, displaced

the family living there.

The next report came in at 2:22 a.m. This time someone had set a house on fire in the 2200 block of San Antonio Avenue. Colburn said that this fire destroyed an automobile and burned the home next door as well.

Just past 2:30 a.m. firefighters were called to the 1000 block of Willow Street. An hour later at 3:29 a.m., they were putting out a fire on the 2200 block of Encinal Avenue, Colburn said.

The alleged arsonists did the most serious damage to a string of businesses on the 1600 block Park Street, between Pacific and Lincoln avenues. This call came in to dispatch at 4:11 a.m.

Colburn said that this three-alarm fire damaged five businesses, including Angela's Restaurant that was looking forward to opening its doors.

The final call in the string came in at 4:41 a.m. about a fire in the 1500 block of Park Street.

Jim's Homestyle Diner at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Park Street did not suffer any damage. Its security cameras, however captured one of the alleged arsonists in the act of starting a fire.

Preliminary estimates put the damage at \$2.9 million with bulk of the damage — \$2.6 million — at the commercial properties on the 1600 block of Park Street.

The Alameda County Fire Department provided assistance in fighting the fires, as did firefighters from Oakland and Berkeley and

paramedics from Parmedics Plus.

Some question Petersen's arrest. The *Alameda Sun* received a phone call from Zack Bateman who plays in a band with Petersen. Bateman told the *Sun* that it would have been impossible for Petersen to be involved with starting the fires. Bateman explained that Petersen was working at Rooster's on Clement Avenue at the very time one of the fires had been set.

Others have shared their disbelief with Petersen's arrest with local television stations. A video that aired on Channel Two News allegedly shows just one man starting one of the fires. Channel Two reported that the man on the video was Gutierrez. There is no one else in the video.

According to Alameda County Sheriff Department records police arrested Petersen at 2:43 a.m. Alameda Fire Department records show that three of the fires were reported after Petersen's arrest, including the Park Street fires that caused so much damage.

There were no injuries to civilians or firefighters in any of the fires.



Courtesy photos
Chen



Oddie



Matarrese



Photos courtesy APD

Above, Petersen; below, Gutierrez



All City's Finest on Display at Park Event

Sun Staff Reports

The Berkeley Juggling Club showcased its skills at the renowned Everything Alameda event last Saturday, Sept. 27 at Lower Washington Park.

The community event had local food vendors, live youth entertainment and local bands, many local youth groups and associations, jumpers for the little children, arts and crafts vendors, a beer and wine garden and a chance to enjoy a beautiful day in the park.

The juggling club put on a great performance and if you did not check it out last week, you still have a chance to see it here in Alameda. The team will be a part of the Bay Area Circus Arts Festival this weekend, Oct. 3 through 5, at Kofman Auditorium on the Alameda High campus. Hundreds of jugglers, unicyclists, aerialists, acrobats and more will unite for three days to share skills, learn new tricks and make new friends.

"The big show" will take place Saturday, Oct. 4. For more information, visit bacaifest.com.



Maurice Ramirez