



**CELEBRATE NATIONAL MACARONI & CHEESE DAY!**

Locally Owned, Community Oriented

Vol. 15 No. 38  
July 14, 2016

**INSIDE**

**HOMETOWN**

**Fire Wire**  
page 2

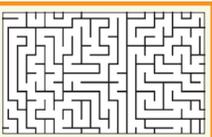
**Police Blotter**  
page 3

All the doings of Island safety & law personnel



**SPORTS**  
**Little League** Page 5

Local baseball team wins district four championship.



**THE KIDS PAGE**  
**And Puzzles!** Page 7

A calendar of events designed just for young Alamedans.



**LOCAL HAPPENINGS**  
**Events Calendar** Page 4

Obon Festival on tap at Buddhitt Temple and other fun.



**HOMETOWN NEWS**  
**Tube Updates** Page 13

Everyone's favorite tunnels are getting a facelift.

**CONTENTS**

**HOMETOWN NEWS... 2**

**OPINION... 6**

**PUZZLES... 7**

**EVENT CALENDAR... 8**

**CLASSIFIED... 9**

**SPORTS... 10**

Alameda Sun is a publication of Stellar Media Group, Inc. 3215J Encinal Ave. Alameda, CA 94501  
News: (510) 263-1470  
Ads: (510) 263-1471  
Fax: (510) 263-1473

Visit us Online at [www.AlamedaSun.com](http://www.AlamedaSun.com)  
Like or Friend us on Facebook  
Follow us on Twitter at Alameda\_Sun



**Alameda Sun Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	05:59	20:31
July 15	05:59	20:31
July 16	06:00	20:30
July 17	06:01	20:30
July 18	06:02	20:29
July 19	06:02	20:29
July 20	06:03	20:28

## Rent Control Issue Moves to November Ballot

**Ekene Ikeme**

The Alameda Renter's Coalition's (ARC) initiative that calls for more renter's rights protection against landlords was approved to be placed on the November ballot on July 6.

The Alameda Renter Protection and Community Stabilization Charter Amendment seeks to cap rent increases at 65 percent of the consumer price index, limit evictions and create an elected rent board.

"When I think of all of the effort that so many people put in to making this happen, it just brings me to tears," said Catherine Pauling, spokeswoman for ARC, in a statement. "Senior citizens and high school students all pushed themselves to their limits and beyond collecting signatures. This is so important for Alameda, and the people here really made it happen."

To get the initiative on the ballot, ARC had to first write the

amendment. This effort started in 2015 when ARC recruited regional tenants' groups and local lawyers to write the initiative. "We started with the Santa Monica ordinance and then adapted it for our needs in Alameda," says Pauling.

The coalition then filed a petition with the city clerk's office on Feb. 29. Once the clerk reviewed and approved the petition — this process took three weeks — ARC had 180 days to collect 6,461 signatures, or 15 percent of Alameda voter population. ARC turned in just under 8,000 signatures, in under 90 days, on May 24 with the help of more than 100 volunteers.

"We know that more than 8000 Alamedans signed our petitions, but some were just incomplete or illegible," said Pauling.

City staff then turned the petition and signatures over to the Alameda County Registrar of Voters

**RENT:** Page 14

## Utility Modernization Act Headed for Ballot

**Sun Staff Reports**

The City Council approved placing the Utility Modernization Act on the November ballot. The measure passed 4-1. Mayor Trish Spencer cast the lone dissenting vote.

The act has two main proponents. The first modernizes language to update the existing Utility Users Tax. The second confirms the annual transfer of funds from Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) to the city.

This provision protects core city services without raising tax rates, according to the city's press release.

Updating the tax clarifies what services can be taxed under the act. Since 1970, Alameda residents have paid this tax on their AMP bills.

Voters approved the act in 1998. The current tax rate is 7.5 percent. The money collected accounts for 10 percent of the General Fund, according to the City Council memorandum.

If voters approve the act, the

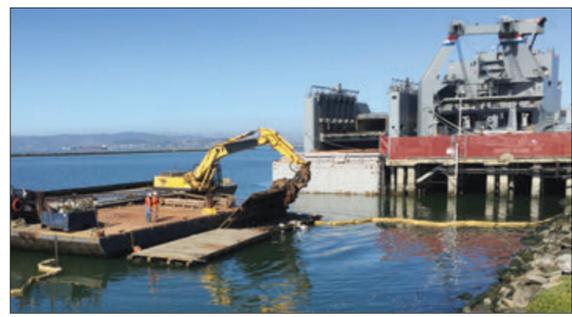
memorandum states that there will be no increased tax rate. However, more services, including those that involve technology, could see the tax applied to them.

Part of the act's new language includes a modern, functional definition of telecommunication and video services that is technology-neutral. This includes voice over-Internet protocol (VoIP) telephone service, Broadband cable-like services (IP-TV), paging, and private communication services.

The second part of act reaffirms AMP's obligation to provide money to the General Fund. Currently, AMP transfers \$2.8 million a year to the city. This is standard operating practice for municipal utility companies. This also funds approximately \$900,000 for the electricity and maintenance of the city's street lights, according to a memo from City Manager Jill Keimach and City Attorney Janet Kern.

The act affirms this transfer and authorizes the possibility to adjust in the future to account for

**BALLOT:** Page 13



Irene Dieter

Construction crews recently placed a new haul-out at Alameda Point harbor seals can use as a place to rest.

## New Hope for Harbor Seals

**Irene Dieter**

A new cement float for harbor seals was delivered to Alameda Point on June 22. Seals had been staying on the existing, familiar wooden dock. On Monday, July 11, the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA), the Bay Area's ferry agency, removed that dock in preparation for building its maintenance facility.

If the seals decide to stay in the harbor, they will have to adapt to the new structure. As of the morning of Tuesday, July 12, four seals were already on the new float, a promising development.

Workers tied the new float to pilings alongside the old dock.

They will move it incrementally closer to Breakwater Beach, away from the planned ferry facility, moves that will allow time for the seals to adapt.

The sheltered harbor with good food foraging makes the

**I on Alameda**

area ideal for seals. When they come out of the water (haul out) they are extremely vulnerable to human disturbance.

The marine mammal expert hired by WETA, Dr. Jim Harvey, director of the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, said that the ferries moving in and out of the new facility should not affect seal behavior.

Kayakers were recently seen approaching the easily spooked seals. Folks who monitor the number of seals and their behavior posted a temporary sign at Breakwater Beach informing water users of the need to keep 150 feet away from the seals. The educational sign appears to be having a positive impact. The city will be posting a new sign in the near future.

**HOPE:** Page 14



Photo by Richard Bangert

Two striped crabs eating their greens on the Crab Cove breakwater. Note their eyes, which they can raise out of their sockets. The large crab is about three inches wide.

## Marine Life Offers Valuable Lessons

Conservation of wildlife isn't just important at Crab Cove

**Richard Bangert**

Visitors flock to Crab Cove, a State Marine Conservation Area, to learn about and experience the Bay's sea dwellers. The educational lessons at the Crab Cove Visitor Center are equally relevant throughout the waterway south of the USS Hornet at Alameda Point where even more creatures thrive in relative obscurity.

The area encompasses an interconnected web of vegetation, birds, seals, fish, mollusks, crustaceans and worms. Ghost shrimp, bat rays, leopard sharks, striped crabs, mussels, California sea hares and fish with light-emitting diodes are just a sampling. A 36-foot-wide rock wall, known as a breakwater and built by the Navy in 1945, forms the mile-long southern boundary.

Ghost shrimp are seldom seen, since they spend most of their lives

in tunnels constantly digging and filtering the sandy mud for nutrients. But the evidence of their presence is plain to see during low tide at the mudflat west of the Encinal Boat Ramp. Thousands of small mud mounds dotting the landscape have an opening in the center leading down into the shrimp burrow.

The shrimps' perpetual mining and aeration of the mud makes the environment attractive to other species as well, such as the arrow goby. These tiny fish are only a few inches long and almost completely transparent. They share the burrows with the shrimp. At low tide they can be seen darting around in shallow pools of water in the sand. Occasionally least terns dive to grab a goby.

A neighbor of the shrimp and gobies is the lugworm or sandworm. They, too, are seldom seen,

but at low tide their ropey casings of excavated sand and mud are a clear sign of their presence. Another sign of their presence in recent weeks are the almost clear egg sacs. At low tide they look like deflated balloons that washed ashore. But when submerged in water, it becomes apparent that the egg sacs are tethered to the worms' tunnels. The jelly sac keeps the eggs moist at low tide.

Another seldom-seen creature is the foot-long California sea hare or sea slug. Their brownish color and slow movement makes them difficult to spot, even when they venture among the rocks near the water surface. During egg-laying season, a clue to their presence is the large bright yellow clumps of eggs deposited on the rocks, which look like angel hair pasta.

**LIFE:** Page 12

## Command Changes at Coast Guard Island

**Sun Staff Reports**

Rear Adm. Todd A. Sokalzuk assumed command of the 11th Coast Guard District from Rear Adm. Joseph A. Servidio during a change-of-command ceremony held Thursday, July 7, at Coast Guard Island.

As commander of the 11th District, Sokalzuk will oversee Coast Guard operations in California, Arizona, Nevada and Utah, coastal and offshore operations from the California-Oregon border to the U.S.-Mexico border and counter-smuggling law enforcement operations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean off the coast of Central and South America. He will also direct maritime homeland security operations, port safety and security, environmental protection, commercial and recreational vessel safety and maritime law enforcement throughout the district.

**COMMAND:** Page 12



Chief Petty Officer 3rd Class Loumania Stewart

The 11th Coast Guard District's incoming commander Rear Adm. Todd Sokalzuk shakes hands with outgoing district commander, Rear Adm. Joseph Servidio during a change-of-command ceremony held at Coast Guard Island.

## News in Brief

### Get Rid of Hazardous Waste Free Next Sunday

Alameda residents can dispose of hazardous household waste for free at a one-day drop off event on Sunday, July 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Alameda Point.

The public is invited to bring old paint, computers, cell phones, leftover pesticides, herbicides, batteries, compact fluorescent bulbs and more. To see the entire list of accepted materials and make a drop off appointment, visit [www.stopwaste.org/onedayevent](http://www.stopwaste.org/onedayevent).

Alameda County and StopWaste are sponsoring the event in partnership with the city of Alameda Public Works Department.

### Councilmember to Hold Public Office Hours

On Wednesday, July 20, at 7 p.m. Alameda residents are invited to meet with City Councilmember Frank Matarrese at the Peet's Coffee location inside Nob Hill Foods at

the Bridgeside Center located at the intersection of Blanding Avenue and Broadway. Matarrese will give updates on City Hall activities and answer questions.

For more information, contact Matarrese at 759-9290 (voice or text), [f.j.matarrese@gmail.com](mailto:f.j.matarrese@gmail.com) or visit <http://councilmanmatarrese.blogspot.com>.

### Nomination Period for Election Opens Monday

Have an idea of who should sit on the Alameda City Council? The public can nominate candidates who haven't filed for the general municipal election to be held in the city of Alameda on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Candidates are sought for these four elective offices:

- City Councilmember, 2 seats
- City Auditor
- City Treasurer

The filing period for candidates is Monday, July 18, through Thursday, Aug. 11. In the event an incumbent fails to file by Aug. 11,

voters have until Aug. 17 to nominate candidates other than the incumbent for that office. The City Clerk can issue nomination papers no earlier than July 18.

Every elected officer of the city must be a registered voter of the city at the time of filing nomination papers and for a period of 30 days immediately preceding the date of filing.

The auditor is required to have a degree in accounting or business administration or be licensed as a certified public accountant and five years of accounting experience.

The treasurer must have five years experience in administering investment programs and be licensed as a chartered financial analyst or certified financial planner.

Starting on July 18, nomination documents will be available during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the City Clerk's Office, Room 380, City Hall.