



Giving Thanks and Giving Back

Rebecca Downing

A year ago, October, Seacliff Improvement Association members gathered in our funkiest attire for our annual dinner at the Seacliff Inn to celebrate our organization's seventy-one years of service to our community. The room was full of happy Seacliffians dressed in tie dye and paisley, groovin' to the music, enjoying food, our speakers, good company and of course, door prizes! It was a lot of fun and we hope to get together again, as soon as it is safe in 2021.

This year presents an opportunity for us all to say thank you to those generous local businesses who donated door prizes last year for our annual dinner and our 2019 summer pedestrian stroll to Aptos Village. Please thank them with your purchases so they may keep their doors open and serve our community in the future. Business hours and methods may have changed under our current sheltering order so check their websites for their latest news before you visit. The donors are:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Alfaro's Winery | Akira Sushi | Ambrosia |
| Aptos BBQ | Aptos Feed | Aptos Natural Foods |
| Armitage Wines | Betty Burgers | Blue Apple Art Studio |
| Cat and Cloud | Café Rio | Cantine |
| Hopscotch Children's Clothes | Jet Set Bohemian | Joy of Movement |
| Magnolia Gifts | Manuel's Mexican Restaurant | Marianne's Ice Cream |
| Mulberry Gallery | New Leaf Community Market | Norma Jean's Coffee |
| Pacific Coffee Roasting Company & Café | Parish Publick House | Persephone Restaurant |
| Pizza 1 | Red Apple Café | Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk |
| Santa Cruz Naturals | Seacliff 76 Station | Sock Shop & Shoe Company |
| Taqueria Los Gordos | The Mediterranean | True Olive Connection |
| Warmth Company | Windy Oaks Winery | |





Significant State Funding Approved for Local Transportation Projects

Zach Friend
Second District Supervisor

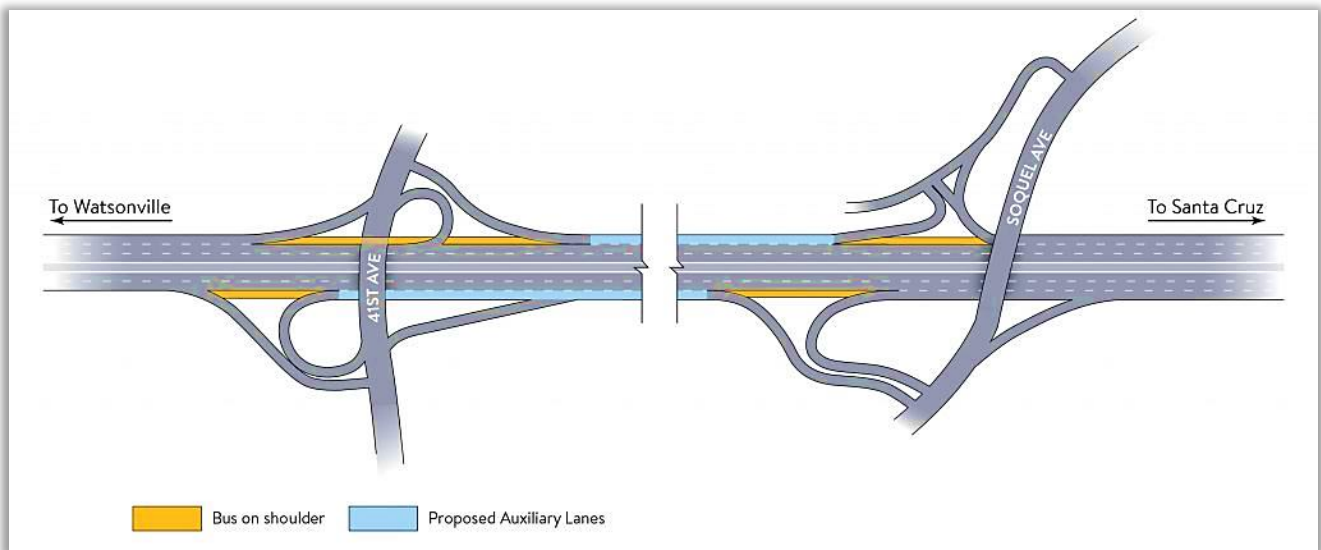
In early December, the California Transportation Commission granted over \$107 million in funding for multi-modal improvements to our local transportation network. This grant application from our local Regional Transportation Commission

(RTC) benefitted from California Senate Bill 1: the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program and Local Partnership Competitive Program. Our competitiveness for these programs was due in large part to our passage of Measure D, which provides a local match for these major transportation projects.

The funding addresses a number of challenges that are particularly acute in the mid and south county areas including Highway 1 congestion, that many of you know, impacts everyone, including those simply trying to get to work or back home, emergency vehicles, buses, and delivery vehicles. The second issue is cut-through traffic. As a result of the highway congestion, many vehicles exit the highway and create safety issues for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians in Seacliff and other areas. The third is bike and pedestrian safety. Our area is the fifth worst in the state for bike collisions and improvements to bike and pedestrian safety are essential.

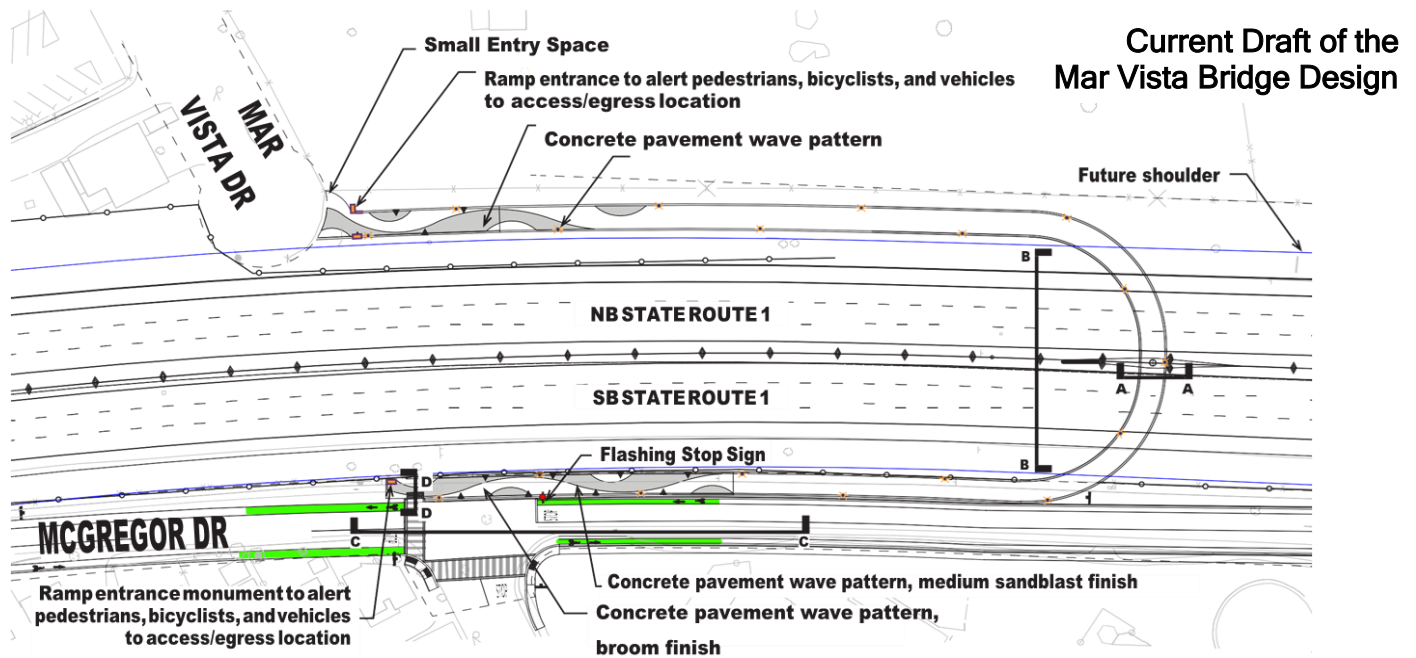
What will be funded?

- Three new sets of auxiliary lanes on Highway 1 between Soquel Drive and State Park Drive. Additionally, the first 5.75-miles of a 7.5-mile hybrid bus-on-shoulder/auxiliary lane facility, where transit buses can travel in the auxiliary lane and on the shoulders to bypass traffic.



Example of bus on shoulder integration with proposed auxiliary lanes similar to those planned for Aptos

- Two new Highway 1 bicycle/pedestrian overcrossings, including the long-awaited Mar Vista Drive project. A bridge replacement at Capitola Avenue, with new pedestrian and bike facilities is also included in the funding.



- Lastly, a significant improvement on Soquel Drive including five miles of buffered/protected bicycle lanes, forty-six green bike boxes for left turn movements, new sidewalks to connect to existing sidewalk facilities, ADA improvements, 96 crosswalk upgrades, crosswalk warning devices at 10-mid block locations, and adaptive traffic signal control prioritizing transit at twenty-three intersections to improve bus transit time.

The benefits of funding these projects are increased safety and reduced transportation times on this congested corridor with an innovative package of projects to improve and integrate transportation on both the highway and local roadways.

Buses can bypass traffic at intersections by traveling on the new Highway 1 shoulder and can, with signal prioritization, travel more efficiently on Soquel Drive. Safe routes to school will expand with new buffered bike lanes and new sidewalks and crosswalk improvements on Soquel Drive. The two new bike and pedestrian overcrossings will connect neighborhoods to new, safer bike and pedestrian routes. The highway improvements will mean less cut through traffic on side streets improving neighborhood safety and relieving congestion on Soquel Drive.

The RTC is partnering with Caltrans, METRO, and the County on these projects. The County will be the lead agency for the multimodal improvements on Soquel Drive. The Highway 1 improvements will be constructed by Caltrans with the RTC implementing environmental clearance and final design. The RTC anticipates that all components of this extensive project will be under construction by 2023 with some beginning even before then.

For more information on the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor Program visit <https://sccrtc.org/projects/multi-modal/wsc-mc/>

As always, I appreciate any feedback you may have on this or any other County issue. I am maintaining regular updates on social media at: www.facebook.com/supervisorfriend and you can always call me at 454-2200.

Along the Moosehead Trail

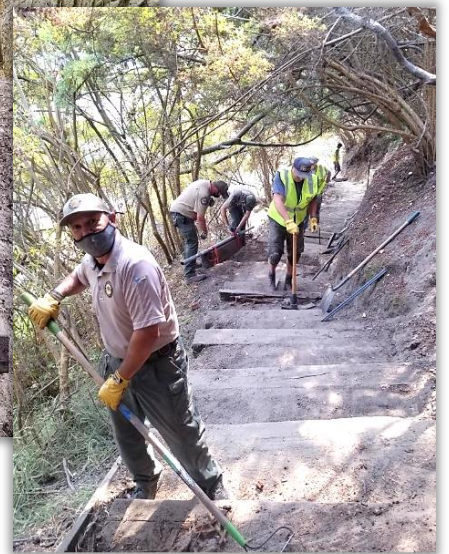
Dave Somerton

During the last three months, the repair of the Moosehead Trail connecting East Seacliff Drive, near the Seacliff Mini Park, to the Aptos Creek footbridge has progressed steadily and is mostly complete. It was a real team effort. Our work party included board members David Somerton, Dennis Doo and Will Roblin, Seacliff residents Peter Smithey and Paul Vitali, and State Park Maintenance Chief Augie Ceballos and four members of his staff.

Two main workdays focused on replacing rotten stairs and adding additional ones to improve safety. On subsequent workdays the sections of the trail between each stair were both graded and widened. Fallen trees were cut back and a slide barrier was installed near the hairpin bend.

Trail walkers including seniors and families with young children have commented that the stairs are now safer and more easily negotiated with the improvements.

Kudos to all participants for their work!



Amending our Association By-laws

Emily Chorba

The SIA board of directors spent our last few meetings reviewing and revising our bylaws. Last amended in 2015, our board found some sections in need of updating, rewording, or removal.

At our first quarter membership meeting in March, we will ask members to approve the amendments as required by Article IX of the bylaws. Please review the amended by-laws, highlighted with the changes we propose.

The six-page Bylaws of Seacliff Park, Inc. (AKA - Seacliff Improvement Association) containing the proposed amendments can be reviewed at: <http://seacliffimprovement.org/amending-our-bylaws/>

Every Day is Pedestrian Safety Day in Seacliff

Rebecca Downing



A lot has changed since our Pedestrian Stroll to Aptos Village in the Summer of 2019. We are all strolling a LOT more around Seacliff! Other county residents are walking Seacliff streets too, so the association has been focusing our efforts right here in our neighborhood to help everyone.



As soon as we learned, in 2018, the streets to be included in the Measure D paving work, the Seacliff Pedestrian Safety Committee reviewed the area and made pedestrian safety recommendations to the County Public Works Department that were

incorporated into the project. After the work was completed, the roads were much smoother, and speeds increased on all the newly paved streets. With help from Patrick Mulhearn of Supervisor Friend's office, the association posted sixteen pedestrian safety signs on some of our busier streets and at dangerous intersections. We plan to rotate signs to other locations so let us know of any areas needing attention.



A flashing crosswalk sign was also installed on Center Avenue near the Metro bus stop so please yield to pedestrians in this and every crosswalk.

To assist our local cyclists with safety, bike lights were given to residents who needed them at the Seacliff Village Park by Bike Santa Cruz County as part of their public outreach efforts on December 21st. This organization advocates for better cycling policies in countywide planning and transportation projects to create a more bike-friendly and healthier community. To learn more visit:

<https://www.bikesantacruzcounty.org/>

Time to Renew for 2021!

You may have received an email recently requesting you to pay your 2021 dues of \$20. We have been able to make some noticeable improvements around our neighborhood this year thanks to your generosity and support. If you have yet to renew, you can use the form on page 8 of this newsletter and mail it to our post box. If you have an idea for a Seacliff improvement, please include it with your payment or send it to us at: info@seacliffimprovement.org

Be the Difference

Katharine P. Minott Santa Cruz County Parks & Recreation Commissioner, 2nd Supervisor's District



Even though the Covid-19 pandemic has altered where and how we play in our local parks, Supervisor Zach Friend has been steadily at work with the County Parks Department and the non-profit Friends of County Parks to ensure the forward progress of our neighborhood's long planned Seacliff Village County Park.

The skate-site, for example, opened early in the year and quickly became a popular, outdoor location for kids and adults of all ages and abilities to skate and scoot along the concrete wave.

Also, Before Covid-19 stymied aggressive fundraising, the Friends of County Parks partnered with the generous Strock family and launched a \$1 to \$1 fundraising campaign that netted around \$30,000.



During the smoky CZU fire, the new restroom was delivered and placed by crane into position at Seacliff Village County Park. Artist Anastasiya Bachmanova then covered it with a colorful mural, part of the county public art program.

A bulbous thermometer will remain in the park to remind us that while 73% of the park has been built, we need to raise approximately \$775,000 to complete the park's Master Plan Phase II and includes a corner amphitheater, shade structure, improved ADA walkways and landscaping.



Donate On-line:

Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks is a non-profit 501(c)(3).

On-line, tax-deductible donations may be made to the Seacliff Village Neighborhood Park Fund in care of Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks:

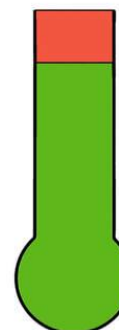
<https://www.countyparkfriends.org/donate1.html> .

Donate by Mail:

Donations may also be mailed to:

Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks; 870 17th Ave., STE 2; Santa Cruz, CA 95062

HELP FINISH THIS PARK!



← YOUR NAME HERE

Made possible by:

Richard Novak
Rowland & Pat Rebele
The Strock Family
K&D Landscaping

Major funding by:

Santa Cruz Parks Dept
County of Santa Cruz

For a bird's eye view of opening day at the skate site, please visit the Friends' website for film footage shot by Ben Strock: www.countyparkfriends.org

Seacliff Improvement Association
Treasurer's Report for 2020

YTD

Ending Balance from Dec 2019: \$27,373.28

INCOME:

General Donations	\$786.50
Membership Dues	\$2,520.00
Street Fair Booth Fee	\$350.00
Beachgate Trail Donations	\$1,372.45
Moosehead Trail Donations	\$72.52
TOTAL INCOME:	\$5,101.47

EXPENSES:

Website	\$1,498.56
Newsletter	\$2,959.01
Post Box Annual Rental	\$118.00
SIA Volunteer Vests	\$258.64
Insurance	\$290.00
Checks from Wells Fargo	\$36.91
Street Fair Booth Reimbursement	\$250.00
Non-profit registration fees	\$20.00
Membership Supplies	\$46.22
Beachgate Trail Expenses	\$2,035.24
Moosehead Trail Expenses	\$874.20
Gardening	\$1,005.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$9,391.78

ENDING CASH BALANCE: \$23,010.45

Beachgate Trail Fund Balance: \$5,585.62

Stop, Sit, and Enjoy the View

A new County Parks memorial bench, yet to be commemorated, was installed recently along the cliff above Seacliff State Beach just down the block from the Seacliff Mini Park. This popular stretch has seen an increase in visitors during the pandemic as more people come to view the ocean from their cars or pass through here on a walk. Park staff staked burlap over the area around the new bench and spread native flower seeds which hopefully will start sprouting now that we have had our first significant rain. They will maintain the area periodically with trash removal twice or more each week. The sidewalk along here is narrow so exercise caution along the cliff edge near the bench.

Welcome New Members!

Dru Mogge

Dale and Molly Pilgeram

Mike and Ali Saso

Stephen and Kathy Smith

Frankie and Shelby Taranto

**We thank all 354
member households
and friends for your
continued support.**

To report neighborhood concerns, including: potholes, bicycle and pedestrian hazards, or encampments, use the My County App: <https://sccappstore.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/>

To learn more or join the association visit: <http://www.seacliffimprovement.org/>

If you have a suggestion or a Seacliff question write to us at: info@seacliffimprovement.org

Our board of directors meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Contact us if you wish to attend. All are welcome.



Seacliff Drive has a new bench!

Seacliff Improvement Association
PO Box 533
Aptos, CA 95001-0533

Share your newsletter with a neighbor and invite them to join!

Membership Application/Renewal-Newsletter

Annual Dues are \$20.00 (January– December)



Name(s): _____

Seacliff Address: _____

Mailing Address if different: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: (_____) _____

E-mail Address (for newsletters and bulletins):

Email: _____ Email 2: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ Annual Dues \$ _____ Additional Donation Total: \$ _____

Please include your check and mail to: Seacliff Improvement Association, P.O. Box 533, Aptos, CA 95001