

# SEACLIFF IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

SPRING  
2019

So many  
Seacliff Activities...  
Mark Your  
Calendar!  
And join us for  
Summer fun in the  
neighborhood!



## *The SS Palo Alto Centennial Seacliff Street Fair - June 1, 2019*



In conjunction with celebratory activities at Seacliff State Beach, join us on Broadway in downtown Seacliff for the first annual SS Palo Alto street fair hosted by our association and our Seacliff Business Partnership. Events begin at 11:30 with the Steve Graves Band - the West Coast Americana roots band with crafty lyrics and a danceable beat. Enjoy surfing magician, Doug Hopkins, and tasty treats from visiting food trucks and our downtown restaurant favorites.



## **Ice Cream Social - Saturday, June 22nd, 2019**



Join us at 2 pm for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Membership gathering at Seacliff Village Neighborhood Park, at the corner of Canterbury and McGregor Drives, to hoist a cone with your Seacliff neighbors. Bring your kids and dogs (on leash) and meet your neighbors and the SIA board of directors. Share a scoop with 2<sup>nd</sup> District County Supervisor, Zach Friend. Learn about association projects including the Seacliff Safety Sign contest, committees and the progress of issues that are important to our members and Seacliff Village. Ice Cream generously provided by

*Mariannes*  
★ ICE CREAM ★



## **March with Seacliff in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade - July 4, 2019**

Show your Seacliff pride! Grab your dog, your kids, your bike and your red, white and blue to join your neighbors as we parade with our banner in the world's shortest parade!

## **Saturday Stroll to the Village - August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019**

Our third quarter membership activity is a Saturday stroll to Aptos Village. Join our neighbors as we walk to the new businesses in in the village and promote pedestrian safety awareness.

Details and RSVP instructions will be announced this summer.





## The Latest on Measure D Fund Projects

Zach Friend  
Second District Supervisor  
County of Santa Cruz

The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) recently received an update on Measure D including the results of an independent auditor’s report. The audit came back clean and provided additional information on the financial outlays for the previous year. Though the most discussed

element of the plan is what will occur on the rail corridor, over 90 percent of the funding goes to other transportation elements. Here is how the transportation tax measure was divided:

- Neighborhood Projects (local roads) - 30%
- Highway Corridor - 25%
- Bus Transit/Paratransit- 20%
- Active Transportation - 17%
- Rail Corridor - 8%

In the first year, all of the local cities, the County, Santa Cruz METRO and Community Bridges used the funds to fill potholes, build new bike and walking paths, replace busses, increase transportation service for seniors and people with disabilities, design infrastructure projects (highway) and more. Specifically, La Selva was the first area to receive Measure D neighborhood resurfacing funds in the unincorporated area. In the coming year, Rio Del Mar will be resurfaced followed by Seacliff. I’ve been working with Public Works on the possibility of bonding against Measure D funds to expedite local road work. Given the increases in construction costs, I requested bonding to ensure to complete more work than would be possible if it were subject to the increased costs of construction in a few years.

In the last year, METRO, using Measure D and SB1 funds, acquired 18 new vehicles to replace aging ones (with cleaner equipment). Lifeline expanded service from 5 to 7 days per week and recently acquired new electric transportation vehicles for seniors and people with disabilities.

In Watsonville, bike and pedestrian safety training was conducted and pedestrian safety measures such as new crosswalk flashing beacons and lighting through the downtown corridor were installed. In Capitola, a new Highway 1 Interchange green bike lane improvement was completed along with new markings and signage on 41st Avenue, Bay/Porter and Park Avenue.

The following were budgeted in the last fiscal year from Measure D:

- Neighborhood Projects: \$5,787,530
- Highway Corridor - \$4,822,942
- Bus Transit/Paratransit- \$3,858,354
- Active Transportation - \$3,279,601
- Rail Corridor - \$1,543,341

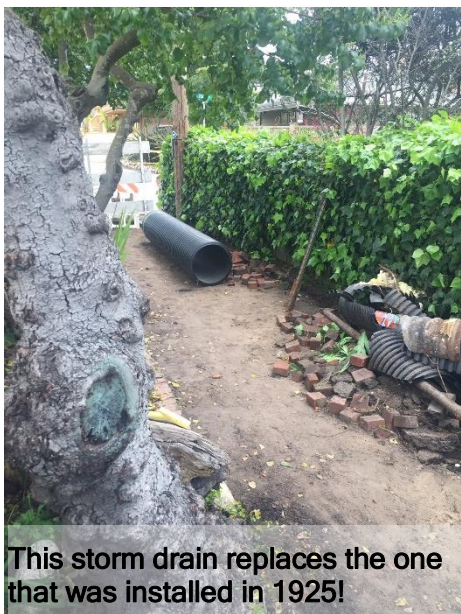
The audit noted that tax receipts came in slightly higher than originally projected but that construction costs were significantly higher than originally projected. As mentioned above, different options to help accelerate projects are being reviewed including bonding and leveraging new state grants and funding that is only available now that the County has a local match through Measure D.

This is a short overview of the work completed in the first year from Measure D. As always, if you have specific questions feel free to stop by my office hours or call me at 454-2200.

# Beachgate Trail Storm Drain Replacement

Rebecca Downing

Well, that was quick! We were just about to begin a major fundraising effort to replace the storm drain on the beach gate trail when Auggie Ceballos, Santa Cruz District Maintenance Chief for State Parks was able to include the Beachgate storm drain replacement in an emergency funding request for other storm drains at Seacliff State Beach. After approval, Earthworks was able to complete the work within just a couple of weeks. This included removing and replacing the old pipe with a higher capacity one, gently setting the stairs aside for demolition and construction then reinstalling them, carefully matching the top of a new path that is now graded to send water into the storm drain at the top of the trail. They accomplished this all without disturbing the popular adornments at the trail entrance.



This storm drain replaces the one that was installed in 1925!

We are forming a trail committee, led by our vice president Dennis Doo, to address the Beachgate Trail and our other path to the beach - the Moosehead Trail at Aptos Creek. The group will first prioritize and oversee repairs and maintenance at Beachgate. The Moosehead Trail will also be reviewed and discussed with State Parks to determine how to best maintain this route. We seek members to join this committee to help the association give these paths the love and attention they deserve so, if you walk either trail, join the committee by writing to: [info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org).

We anticipate railing replacement, trail realignment, and reinforcement costs for the Beachgate Trail to exceed our current dedicated funds so if you wish to donate, you can send a check to our post box (see page 8 for the address) or use our PayPal link at: <http://www.seacliffimprovement.org/>

Remember the “Travel Safely Through Seacliff this Summer” contest from last year? Well, it’s back with a twist...

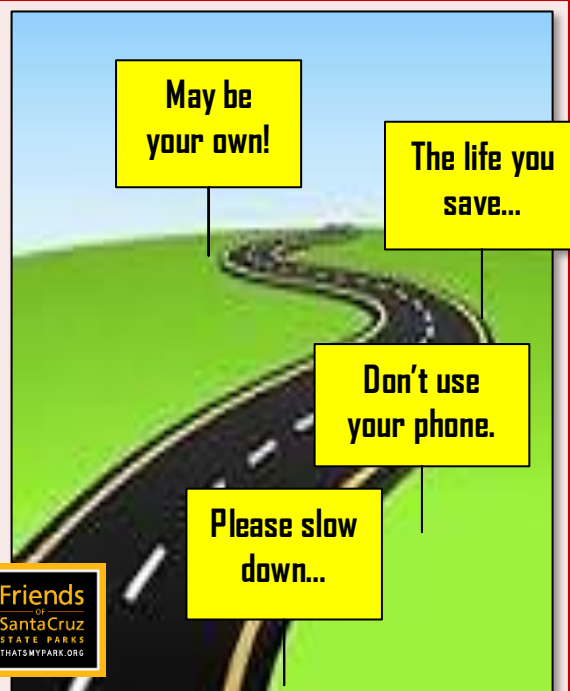
## ***Seacliff Safety Poetry Sign Contest!***

This year we invite the poet in you help remind us all to slow down and pay attention during the summer months of longer days, more visitors in our village, and more of us out walking and playing in the street. We’ll place your poem on four sequential signs and post them throughout Seacliff in problem speed areas.

Send your four-line original poem by June 10th to: [info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org).

SIA members will vote for the best entry and 4 winners will be announced at our Ice Cream Social on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Winners each receive a \$25 gift certificates for State Parks Gift Store.

**Enter today!**





# Spring in Seacliff Village Neighborhood Park

Katharine Minott

SC County Parks & Recreation Commissioner, 2nd District

This year, our lighthouse-themed Seacliff Village Neighborhood Park at the corner of Sea Ridge Drive and McGregor Road celebrates its fourth year of playground fun.



Example of Tented Shading in Park

Known for its spectacular view of Monterey Bay, Phase I of the 1.25-acre county park's Master Plan has been built to include the popular swings, slides and climbing net set next to a small central plaza with picnic tables, benches and mosaic topped pylons dotting the park's meandering pathways.

However, construction at the park isn't complete. Supervisor Zach Friend is working with the SC County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services and the non-profit County Park Friends to raise the money to build the park's Phase II, which includes a shade providing shelter, a permanent restroom with flush toilets, a skate-able art structure, more trees and drought tolerant landscaping.

The Seacliff Improvement Association has a long history of hard work and determination to making our neighborhood park a reality. Through tax deductible donations to the County Park Friends, our neighborhood can continue building the park we've envisioned.

So why would anyone want to steal two swings from the swing set at Seacliff Village Neighborhood Park? County Parks staff routinely check all county park playground equipment for safety and soundness. Nonetheless, on or around Monday, May 13, 2019 someone cut through tops of four rust-proof, safety-coated chains nabbing two sturdy swing sets.

Donations for Seacliff Village Park repairs are gratefully accepted by the non-profit Santa Cruz County Park Friends, Tax ID #77-0209249.

Sign-up to get county park friends news and updates:

<https://www.countyparkfriends.org/seacliff-village-parkfriends.html>

Tax deductible donations: <https://www.countyparkfriends.org/donate.html>

Or, by check, writing Seacliff Village Park on the memo line:

Santa Cruz County Park Friends, 870 17th Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062



Swing set now needs two new swings



# Standing Room Only at the SIA 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Meeting!

Gregory Peinado

The Mediterranean was packed for this year's first quarter membership gathering - or was it for the free pizza? After some brief introductions, President Rebecca Downing announced that the Seacliff Improvement Association will co-sponsor the SS Palo Alto Cement Ship Centennial Street Fair with the Seacliff Business Partnership, on June 1, 2019, from 11:30a - 4:30p in downtown Seacliff.

Supervisor Zach Friend took the stage next to report recent County developments, including the Rio Del Mar Beach area walkway that opened to the public in between the beach and Beach Drive residences. He also said the county is streamlining the permit process for Accessory Dwelling Units so residents can get "granny units" built more efficiently and expeditiously. Zach then explained the work the County is doing to assist the homeless, especially the growing senior homeless population. He also announced discussions with the district attorney's office and sheriff's department to create a center to educate residents about financial elder abuse.

Supervisor Friend then fielded questions from the lively crowd. Surprisingly, traffic congestion was mentioned first. Because most of us use Waze, the Apple Map App or some sort of navigation system in our vehicle, he described how his team met with Waze, a Google owned company, to request they redirect traffic to areas that are less residential. He said traffic problems are also a positive sign that there is a good economy because more people are working and driving to jobs on the West Side or over the hill. Since a lot of the new housing is in South County, there is an influx of traffic in the morning going Northbound, and the opposite in the evening.

Supervisor Friend introduced the new Director of Public Works and Assistant County Administrative Officer Matt Machado who previously worked at Stanislaus County, and local governments for over twenty years. Matt explained that the Public Works Department is more than just roads; it also includes sanitation, sewer collection, recycling solid waste, flood control and capital projects such as the Aptos Library. He said the biggest asset the County owns are the roads. which also generate the most resident complaints. Matt also shared that, since last year, 327 trees fell, and crews worked night and day to clear affected roads. There were 109 landslides, 20 washed out roads, and 91 incidents of serious road floods. He also said that there were over 2,300 potholes filled!

Mr. Machado described our infrastructure as outdated and in disrepair, created by the 1950's sales tax on gasoline and that, due to inflation and the percentage of current tax rates, the county is unable to maintain. Fortunately, Measure D and Senate Bill 1 provide more funds for staff to repair and maintain county roads. The storms of 2016 - 2017 were probably the worst in recent history with damage to over 200 sites,



Meeting and Greeting at The Med!

Meeting Recap continued...

requiring approximately \$120 million in repairs and will take approximately another three to five years.

Mr. Machado also discussed some capital projects, including the Aptos Library. The County has set aside \$12 million to rebuild or add on to the existing library with plans for a design team in place this fall, and construction expected to begin next year. He also reviewed the Seacliff Downtown Streetscape project, which is still a work in progress, requiring more funds than currently budgeted. Attendees voiced concerns over certain aspects of the project including parking and pedestrian safety.

After taking some general questions from the crowd, it seemed the moment everyone had been waiting for arrived...MARIANNE'S ICE CREAM WAS SERVED!



Our favorite neighborhood lookout, the Seacliff Mini Park, is sporting some new improvements this season thanks to your membership dues. Two varieties of Ceanothus plants have been added recently to replace seedlings that failed last year and to stabilize a steep slope that seems to be popular with visitors but is also very dangerous. A big load of mulch is also being delivered and spread to hold in moisture and deter weeds.

Your dues pay for our gardener and his crew to keep it tidy and we appreciate the donation from Alicia and Bill Kennedy whose gardeners also tend the park. We also thank everyone who picks up trash here on their daily walks and visits to keep it clean for everyone to enjoy.

## Welcome New Members!

Anne and Emiliano Bachar  
R. Del Prete  
Jorge and Patricia Galazzo  
Timothy Genske and Sylvia Ferronyalka  
Todd and Gwen Gummow  
Ron Heath and Alice Hansen  
Chris and Danielle Killen  
Ken Knobler and Skippy Comins  
Eileen MacKusick  
Lynn Marcus-Wyner and Ian Hardcastle  
Howard "Boots" McGhee  
Mark and Virginia McPherson  
Ken and Mary Jane Morrison  
Maggie Nakas and Kevin Nordenstrom  
Garry Ness  
Arlene Powers  
Gee and Simone Rittenhouse  
Suzanne Varni  
Rosalind E. Wick  
Esther Wilson

We thank all 341 member households and friends for your continued support.

## Seacliff Mini Park Ready for Summer

Rebecca Downing



## Seacliff Improvement Association Treasurer's Report 2019

	January	February	March	April	YTD
Ending Balance from Dec 2018	\$30,987.89				
<b>INCOME:</b>					
General Donations	\$30.00	\$110.00			\$140.00
Membership Dues	\$402.61	\$482.61	\$520.00	\$165.58	\$1,570.80
Return Check fee reimbursement			\$15.00		\$15.00
Beachgate Trail Donations	\$200.00		\$90.00		\$290.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$632.61</b>	<b>\$592.61</b>	<b>\$625.00</b>	<b>\$165.58</b>	<b>\$2,015.80</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>					
Website Hosting and Admin		155.88		\$210.00	\$365.88
Newsletter (edit, post, print)			\$855.88	\$595.00	\$1,450.88
Postage, shipping, etc.	\$90.99	\$69.06			\$160.05
Return Check and fee			\$32.00		\$32.00
Gardening	\$240.00	\$240.00	\$1,192.00		\$1,672.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$330.99</b>	<b>\$464.94</b>	<b>\$2,079.88</b>	<b>\$805.00</b>	<b>\$3,680.81</b>
<b>ENDING CASH BALANCE</b>	<b>\$31,289.51</b>	<b>\$31,417.18</b>	<b>\$29,962.30</b>	<b>\$29,322.88</b>	<b>\$29,322.88</b>
Designated \$\$ for Beachgate Trail	<b>\$7,359.59</b>				<b>\$7,449.59</b>
Total as of Jan 1, 2019 = \$7,159.59					

Are you a **web designer**? The association is looking for a volunteer with experience in web architecture and maintenance. WordPress knowledge is helpful too. If you are interested, contact us at: [info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org)

Our board of directors meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Aptos/ La Selva Fire station at 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

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

If you have a suggestion for an improvement or a Seacliff Question write to us at: [info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org)

Supervisor Zach Friend has openings on three commissions and is looking for participants on the:

Mental Health Advisory Commission

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

You can learn more about these commissions and apply to them by calling Zach at 454-2200 or visiting: <http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Government/Commissions,CommitteesAdvisoryBodies.aspx>

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

Remember to join us for the  
**Palo Alto 100<sup>th</sup>**  
**Anniversary and**  
**Centennial Street Fair**  
**June 1, 2019!**

*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: \_\_\_\_\_



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

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