

# Seacliff Improvement Association

# Spring 2020

*Announcing our Second Quarter*  
**Membership Zoom Gathering**  
Thursday, June 18th, 2020 at 6:00 pm



Our guest is Guy Preston, Executive Director of the Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission  
With Zach Friend, our Santa Cruz County Second District Supervisor  
Attendance is limited to 100 so **RSVP by June 10<sup>th</sup>** for Zoom meeting details:  
[info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org)



## The Health Services Agency of Santa Cruz County announces a partnership: **SAVE LIVES SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**

A framework to safely move forward that protects residents and aligns with State public health authorities, based on measurable objectives, to increase community resiliency. Recognizing the challenge COVID-19 poses to the community, SAVE Lives Santa Cruz County is a partnership between the County of Santa Cruz and Community Foundation Santa Cruz County designed to facilitate a community-based plan for moving forward based on four principles:

- SLOW THE SPREAD
- ADAPT AND ADJUST
- VACCINATE AND TREAT
- ELEVATE READINESS

For more information visit: <https://www.santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome.aspx>



## Enter the "Travel Safely Through Seacliff" Contest!

Everyone is out walking, cycling, scooting, and enjoying the neighborhood! To remind us all to slow down and pay attention, we are sponsoring our third annual summer safety sign contest. Here is how it works:

Make your sign and post it in your yard so we can all see it. It should be big and bold enough to be easily read from a passing car. Use family-friendly language. Take a photo of your sign and enter the contest by writing to: [info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org) Include your name, address, and attach your photo. Contest entry deadline is July 5th. We will announce the entries via email to SIA members by July 10th with an invitation to visit all the signs and vote for your favorite.

The three entrants receiving the most votes each win a \$25 gift card for Marianne's Ice Cream!





## County Budget in Light of COVID-19

Zach Friend  
Second District Supervisor  
County of Santa Cruz

As the world economy has plunged toward recession the local economy, and County budget, are facing the same retraction...

How Significant Will The Impact Be?

During the Great Recession, beginning in late 2008, the County experienced revenue declines of approximately 12 percent. In this case, we anticipate facing double that. Nationally, the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to impact county budgets by over \$144 billion through fiscal year 2021. This estimate includes anticipated increases in expenditures for health response costs and lost sales, hotel, and cannabis business taxes, fees, along with delays and defaults on property tax payments.

What's At Risk?

The County has seen a significant increase in the number of safety net program requests for food and housing assistance, health care needs and more, and these state and federal programs all require local financial matches that are imperiled by the same economic impacts that caused the increased demand. Additionally, public safety - the Sheriff's Office and public health programs and staff are funded through the same revenue streams that are seeing significant declines - all while costs for the public health and safety response have increased during the pandemic.

What's Being Done To Address It?

The Board of Supervisors has built up a reserve - tripling reserves in the last few years to approximately \$58 million - originally in anticipation of a recession but now needed for a much greater economic challenge. We anticipate needing approximately \$40 million of this reserve to make it through the next 12-15 months. While the reserve is not enough to shoulder the extent of the loss, it does at least provide some cushion. Employee furloughs, service and program cuts and other savings are now on the table to balance the budget because the County is constitutionally required to have a balanced budget each year.

The most important thing that could happen to help would be a federal stimulus bill. Cities and counties under 500,000 in population are not directly eligible for what Congress has previously allocated. 40 of the 58 counties in the state are not eligible - including ours, but we are hopeful that in the next stimulus such funding will be available. If not, and if it takes as long as some economists predict it will take to climb out of this downturn, cuts to programs, services and staffing will be greater than what we experienced in the Great Recession ten years ago.

How can I get more information?

You can call 211 or text "COVID19" to 211211. I'm also maintaining regular updates on social media at [www.facebook.com/supervisorfriend](https://www.facebook.com/supervisorfriend) and during the shelter-in-place order I host weekly tele-townhalls on various issues each Tuesday evening from 6-7 pm. The call in information for the town halls is 454-2222 with the Meeting ID: 145384#. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do feel free to reach out to me. You can always call me at 454-2200.



## **Pedestrian Safety: Everyone's Responsibility**

Julieta Trenado,  
California Highway Patrol  
Public Information Officer

With neighbors sheltering at home and getting exercise by walking, running, and cycling on local roads, our office offers the following safety reminders for sharing the road. Motorists, cyclists, *and* pedestrians all share the responsibility to ensure the safety of one another. Be aware and vigilant while traveling on California's roadways.

### **8 Safety Tips for Pedestrians**

1. Practice defensive walking and think ahead about potential risks and dangers associated with being a pedestrian. Take steps to ensure your safety as a pedestrian.
2. Pay attention. Always be aware of your surroundings and watch for vehicles when crossing a street or stepping off a curb.
3. Use crosswalks and follow traffic signals when crossing at streetlights.
4. Before stepping in front of a car, make eye contact with the driver. Make sure they see you; they plan on stopping, and they have time to stop.
5. Be careful crossing multiple lanes of traffic. Make sure each lane of traffic is clear before you cross.
6. It is safest to walk on a sidewalk, but if you must walk in the street, walk facing traffic.
7. Increase your visibility at night by carrying a flashlight and wear light-colored or reflective clothing.
8. Keep your eyes up and off your phone. Do not talk or text on a cell phone or listen to music when walking.

### **6 Safety Tips for Motorists**

1. Watch for pedestrians.
2. Obey all speed limits and avoid distractions. Slowdown in areas where you are likely to find pedestrians, such as near bus stops, schools, parks, playgrounds, and residential neighborhoods.
3. Be prepared to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, marked or unmarked.
4. Never pass a vehicle that is stopped for pedestrians.
5. Before making a turn, be sure the path is clear of any pedestrians.
6. Look carefully behind your vehicle for approaching pedestrians before backing up.

True or False? Pedestrians always have the right of way. FALSE! In California pedestrians are at fault 38% of the time. From January 1, 2020 to May 18, 2020 there were twenty-one traffic collisions involving pedestrians. Two of these collisions were non-injury, eighteen were injury collisions, and one was a fatal collision: Statistics for Pedestrian Crashes within CHP Santa Cruz Jurisdiction

***Remember, put any distractions away and be a vigilant pedestrian and driver.  
Be courteous to one another and share the road.***

# Seacliff Village Park Improvement Proceeds

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



Although the public safety measures against the coronavirus has led to vacated play equipment and closure of the skate park at our local Seacliff Village Neighborhood Park, Supervisor Zach Friend has been working closely with the Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services to ensure the Park's Phase 2 building proceeds on schedule.

The department selection panel, that included Seacliff Improvement Association members Rebecca Downing, Hollis Hansen, and Kate Minott chose local artist Anastasiya Bachmanova to design and paint the public art mural at the Seacliff Village Neighborhood Park restroom. The panel met twice to review applicant proposals, and, after the selection, the final design was approved by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors.

Raised in St. Petersburg, Russia and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Anastasiya settled in Santa Cruz and in 2013 successfully obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from the California State University of Monterey Bay (CSUMB). At CSUMB, Anastasiya was inspired to integrate fine arts with environmental science as a means to celebrate her love of nature.



Anastasiya Bachmanova in her studio



3D rendition of Anastasiya's Seacliff Village Park mural that wraps around three sides of the restroom.

The colorful mural complements the park's existing nautical theme with vibrant acrylic paintings of the local sea creatures that live in and around the cement ship, the pier and along our coast. And, yes, the mural does include our increasingly familiar summer-time visitor, the Great White Shark!

Depending on future Covid-19 directives from the Santa Cruz County Health Department and weather permitting, Anastasiya could start work on the mural as early as this Fall. Bids are currently being considered for a summertime installation of the Park's permanent restroom that will provide the canvas for her colorful depiction of the Monterey Bay in Seacliff.



# Helping the Seacliff Mini Park Flourish

Rebecca Downing



When the State Beaches were closed last month, the Seacliff Mini Park became even more popular! The usual flocking to the cliff to catch the sunset grew into daylong visitor stops, social distancing visits and, of course, the usual contingent of Seacliff walkers. A standing ovation goes to those who grab trash on their daily walks so the park stays tidy for everyone. Our association maintains the paths, benches, and plants but we are counting on everyone to do their part to keep it clean. Thank you for your help!

The association relies on volunteers to clean, weed and prune this well-loved and picturesque spot. We also plant native, drought-tolerant perennials to beautify the garden and keep the curious from the edge of the dangerous cliff. Most plants are thriving, including the ceanothus planted in 2018. The late spring rains helped existing natives spread further into more empty areas. This is good because this past winter was mostly drier than previous years.



Marathon Landscaping staff trimming along the sidewalk.



When a job is bigger than our volunteer pool, the association hires Marathon Landscaping to give the Fortnight Lilies a crew cut, pull a LOT of weeds, spread more mulch, and add decomposed granite to the paths. Their staff also trimmed the ice plant away from the sidewalk along Seacliff Drive to give pedestrians more room to walk. Your dues help maintain this little slice of heaven for everyone to enjoy.

## ***2020 MEASURE D RESURFACING PROJECT BEGINS***

The County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works has announced that work on the 2020 Resurfacing Project and the 2020 Measure D Resurfacing Project will continue through September 30, 2020, weather permitting. Project roadways will be subject to traffic delays with potential lane and road closures between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

In Seacliff this includes:

- Seacliff Drive from Santa Clara Avenue to Broadway
- Santa Cruz Avenue from Broadway to Seacliff Drive
- San Benito Avenue between Seacliff Drive
- East Street from Santa Cruz Avenue to Center Avenue
- Valencia Avenue from East Street to Seacliff Drive
- Santa Clara Avenue from Seacliff Drive to Center Avenue
- El Camino Del Mar from Seacliff Drive to Center Avenue

For more information  
visit the project  
website:

[https://santacruzcounty  
resurfacingproject.info/](https://santacruzcountyresurfacingproject.info/)

## Meanwhile, Along the Seacliff Trails...

While most of our local residents and visitors have been quietly sheltering in place, a small group of volunteers made up of Seacliff Improvement Association board and members Peter Smithey, Randy Zar, Dave Somerton, Will Roblin and Dennis Doo were working on the Beachgate Trail. Wearing masks, gloves and observing safe social distancing, they were able to complete the final section of the Beachgate Trail safety railing. Their next project is repair and replacement of some of the steps on the stairway of the Beachgate Trail. Over the years a number of the steps have begun to degrade so the association will use some of the funds generously donated by members, friends, and visitors to purchase the required materials.



New safety railings installed along the Beachgate Trail

The Moosehead Trail that leads to the Aptos Creek Bridge has not been ignored. Dave Somerton and Peter Smithey have adopted this trail and regularly weed and maintain it.



Steve Pereira has been at it again and it looks fabulous!

Steve Pereira, along with his regular weeding of the Beachgate Trail took time during his Shelter-in-Place to plant and landscape a section along the path. Thank you, Steve, for all you do!


### *Spruce Up Your Garden for the Beautification Awards!*

Yes, it is time again to award the owners of four homes for all their hard work at maintaining or improving their property. Neighbors have been planting more these days while sheltering at home, so we wish to acknowledge your efforts. The committee members scour Seacliff to nominate homes for the awards.


Nominate a favorite front yard today: [info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org)

Winners receive a \$50 gift certificate from Hidden Gardens Nursery and a sign in their front yard, designating them as award winners.






TRANSIT CORRIDOR  
ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS



WATSONVILLE/PAJARO  
to  
SANTA CRUZ



### **Notice of Public Hearing**

#### **Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis**

#### **Alternatives Screening Results and Short List of Alternatives**

**Thursday, June 4, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Community TV ZOOM Meeting**  
**WEB: <https://zoom.us/j/83234221839>**  
**Dial-in number (US): +1-669-900-6833**  
**Conference ID: 832 3422 1839**

Share your input on the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (TCAA) Alternatives Screening Results and Short List of Alternatives.

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, in cooperation with METRO, is developing the TCAA to evaluate different public transit options for the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line, narrowing down to one that will best serve and connect our communities.

**Stay Informed**  
RTC and METRO are committed to engaging the public throughout the process. To stay informed and actively participate in future meetings, visit the project website ([sccrtc.org/transitcorridora](http://sccrtc.org/transitcorridora)), or sign up to be added to the project database to receive all project notices via email ([sccrtc.org/about/esubscriptions](mailto:sccrtc.org/about/esubscriptions)).

*RTC, 1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, 95060*  
*[www.sccrtc.org](http://www.sccrtc.org), [info@sccrtc.org](mailto:info@sccrtc.org), (831)460-3200*

Seacliff Improvement Association  
Treasurer's Report for 2020 YTD

	<u>YTD</u>
Ending Balance 2019:	\$27,373.28
<b>INCOME:</b>	
General Donations	\$520.63
Membership Dues	\$2,087.83
Street Fair Booth Fees	\$250.00
Beachgate Trail Donations	<u>\$1,272.45</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$4,130.91</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
Website Hosting and Admin	\$868.56
Newsletter	\$1,673.29
Membership Supplies	\$23.33
Beachgate Trail Expenses	\$1,090.58
Gardening	<u>\$505.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$4,160.76</u></b>
<b>ENDING CASH BALANCE</b>	<b>\$27,343.43</b>
<b>Beachgate Trail YTD Fund Total:</b>	<b>\$6,430.28</b>

**Welcome New Members!**

Doug and Edie Achterman  
 Tim Benson and Tiffany Winslow  
 Joseph and Suzanne Coddington  
 George Dies and Meredith Mills  
 Susan Fink  
 Elizabeth Florence  
 Carole Gibson  
 Cathy Marshall Harris  
 David Jones  
 John Law  
 Patty McGuigan  
 Louise Millman  
 Karolyn Myers  
 Doreen and Kevin O'Donovan  
 Eric Olsen  
 Paul and Beth Russell  
 Sharon Silverglate  
 Jennifer Stone  
 John and Amy Turner  
 Mark and Jami Willaman  
 Guntram Wolski and  
 Jeannine Rodems

We thank all 340 member households and friends for your continued support.



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

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)

Our board of directors meets on the second Tuesday of the via Zoom at 6:30 pm. Contact us if you wish to attend. All are welcome.



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: \_\_\_\_\_



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/>