

# Public Works and Pizza!

Join us for a special  
September 2019  
Board Meeting



You may have heard about some of the Seacliff and Aptos transportation projects in our newsletter, at previous membership meetings and at our recent Stroll to Aptos Village. Want to learn more of the long term plans? We have invited Matt Machado, Deputy CAO and Public Works Director, to share some of the future plans and ideas to address the Aptos traffic bottleneck.

**When: September 10, 2019 - 6:30 pm**

**Where: The Terrace at the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz  
7807 Soquel Drive, Aptos**

We're serving Pizza and Bevvies so send your RSVP to: [info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org) with the number attending by September 7<sup>th</sup> so we may order enough pizza for everyone. Parking is limited so please carpool.

**Save the Date: October 26, 2019!**

**For the Seacliff Improvement Association**

**71<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner - *Seacliff Autumn of Love***

**October 26, 2019, 6 pm - 9 pm**

**Seacliff Inn 7500 Old Dominion Court, Aptos**



**Our speaker this year: *John Laird***

**Former California Secretary for Natural Resources,  
Assembly Member for the 27th District  
and two-term Santa Cruz Mayor**

**Musical Guest: Guitarist, Ken Constable**

**Appetizers, Yummy Buffet, and Door Prizes and You!**

**Check your mailbox soon for your reservation form...**



## **Bike and Pedestrian Safety Updates and New Park Features**

**Zach Friend**  
Second District Supervisor  
County of Santa Cruz

I appreciated the opportunity to participate with so many of you in the recent bike and pedestrian safety event sponsored by Seacliff Improvement Association and want to update you on some of the proposed improvements in the greater Seacliff area. While some of

these proposed improvements aren't directly in Seacliff, they are within the path of travel for many Seacliff residents heading to Rancho Del Mar, the new Aptos Village or the Cabrillo College area. I am acutely aware that there are limited bike and pedestrian options to safely travel to the north side of the highway and even throughout the village toward the state park and work is being done to address some of these issues. Here is an overview of some of the County, Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) and Caltrans are projects; some of these proposals are intended for the coming year and some are still in the planning stages. All are part of circulation improvements for our neighborhood.

**Mar Vista Bike and Pedestrian Bridge** - The proposed bridge will provide long-promised connectivity from the western side of Seacliff to the northern side of the highway for students of Mar Vista Elementary and Cabrillo College and provide pedestrian access to the sidewalk network on Soquel Drive. Initial community meetings were held to discuss preliminary design and other considerations. The bridge is now closer to reality with a funding stream from Measure D.

**Spreckels Sidewalk** - There is no question that a sidewalk up Spreckels Drive that connects Rio Del Mar and the base of Seacliff to the Aptos Village would go a long way toward safely reaching communities and services. It will be an expensive endeavor with the steep slope possibly requiring ADA turnouts. County Public Works is taking the lead on this and has already started the initial design and research. Though not currently funded, we are looking at Measure D options for this project.

**State Park Drive Pedestrian Crosswalks** - Anyone that has walked on State Park from Seacliff toward Soquel knows it's not particularly comfortable to use the two crosswalks that traverse the freeway onramps. I've written a letter to Caltrans to explore adding additional visibility measures to these crosswalks that include flashing lights. At a minimum the crosswalks need improved signage and improved visibility measures. I will work with SIA board to have your voices amplify this request.

**Soquel Drive at the Rancho Del Mar Burger. Aptos Crossing** - The crosswalk on Soquel Drive near Rancho Del Mar and Burger. Aptos has visibility issues, especially in winter. I've been working with Public Works on grant funding to make this crosswalk one with flashing lights to ensure crossing Soquel Drive here is safer. This would also improve the way for people walking from Seacliff to cross over to the sidewalk that you need to reach Aptos Village.

**Measure D Road Work** - Rio Del Mar received Measure D road work this year and Seacliff will receive the work in the coming year. Anytime we can improve the condition of the road surfaces we can improve the safety for bikes and pedestrians.

**Seacliff Village Park Improvements** - Many of you fought hard for the County park we now have in Seacliff. We were able to open with the first phase a few years ago and I've been working closely with the Parks Department and our great Parks Commissioner, and Seacliff resident, Kate Minott on the next phases. Through an important local partnership including private donors, the Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks and others we are hoping to break ground on the skate park features that were part of the master plan. This low impact skate feature will attract beginners of all ages. Additionally, we have secured some funds in this year's budget toward permanent restrooms at the park. We haven't finalized all funding for the restrooms yet, but we are getting close! Both of these features are exciting additions to a park that has already become an important part of the fabric of Seacliff.

As always, I appreciate your feedback. Feel free to call me at 454-2200 or stop by my office in the Aptos Village across the parking lot from New Leaf Market.

**So many SIA events this Summer...  
Street Fair, Ice Cream Social, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and the Stroll!**



# 2019 Beautification Award Winners

Brent Lay

We are pleased to announce the 2019 winners of the Seacliff Beautification Awards. Winners were nominated then voted on by the twelve members of the Beautification Committee and each received a \$50 gift certificate to Dig Gardens in addition to displaying the award sign in their yard. This is the 21st year for the awards here in Seacliff. Below is a brief profile of our four winners:



**Dennis and Claudia Silva-Doo** bought their home at 605 Middlefield a little over three years ago. They are transplants from the Turlock area where Dennis worked in commercial real estate and farmed almonds.

After many camping trips to New Brighton Beach and visits to friends with homes in the area, they decided to relocate to Seacliff. Initially, they undertook a comprehensive remodel of the house which took about a year, and then moved in during the Summer of 2017.

After the house was finished, they completely recreated the yard with Claudia designing the planting and landscapes. It features many different textures with good use of succulents that reflect the colorful, clean, modern look of the home.

**Walt and Lisa Eismann's** home at 622 Seacliff is known to many neighbors as "the Halloween House". They have lived there for 22 years, and for 21 of those the front of the house has transformed into different forms of a Haunted House for Halloween.

What earned them the award was their front yard which was completely redesigned to replace a large gopher riddled lawn with a water saving hardscape patio with strategic plantings.



Walt built the patio, and their neighbor, John Gustafson, helped build the rock wall. Lisa took care of the plants; she said she loves to experiment with what works in our area. Walt used to work at the Elkhorn Native Plant Nursery and would bring home things to try. Their son, who works in landscaping, also helped with the project.



**Patricia Suppes** bought her home at 336 Coates about 2 1/2 years ago. She has musician friends who play gigs in the Aptos area and that's how she was introduced to Seacliff. Patricia enjoys the tranquility of the neighborhood and feels lucky to live here.

The home had existing succulent plantings, and she has enjoyed introducing some of her favorite flowers to the palette. The peacefulness of Seacliff is a good balance to her work as a clinical researcher at Stanford University.

**John and Nancy Weitzel** at 519 Pine have lived in Seacliff 26 years. They have an eclectic, creative garden which features many things John has repurposed.

John was helped and inspired early on by Charlie and Maria and the staff at the Garden Company. He loves to plant things which support pollinators and are bird friendly. He has a number of bird houses throughout his yard.

John is currently the distributor for Whey to Grow plant supplement, after coaching freshman football at Aptos High for 20 years and working 11 years for Soquel Creek Water District. John credits working in his garden and the peacefulness and satisfaction in being instrumental to his recovery from a workplace injury.



John has begun another neighborhood beautification project of plantings in front of and around the 76 station at the corner of State Park Drive and Searidge Road. Take a closer look next time you visit!

Many thanks to our great 2019 committee: Linda Campopiano, Diana Hayden, Coni Hendry, Martha Johnson, Jackie Johnston, Brent Lay, Essie Maxey, Phyllis Mayer, Deb Murray, Patty Norton, Nannette O'Connor and Claudia Silvia-Doo.

***We look forward to seeing what you plant in your garden in 2020!***

# Seacliff Trails Report

Dennis Doo

On August 5, 2019 the newly formed Seacliff Trails Committee met with Auggie Ceballos, the Park Maintenance Chief for the State of California Santa Cruz District / Pajaro Coast Sector. We reviewed our concerns about maintenance and repairs on the Beachgate and Moosehead trails and Auggie gave us permission to form a small team of volunteers to trim overgrown plants and shrubs along the Moosehead Trail that leads to the Aptos Creek Bridge, from Seacliff Drive near the Mini Park.



SIA volunteer, Peter Smithey repairs the Moosehead Trail.

The following day, Trail Committee Co-chairperson Dave Somerton and committee member Peter Smiley cleaned up the Moosehead Trail by clearing overgrown shrubs and poison oak away from the path. They also identified areas where wooden steps needed to be replaced or installed. State Park has agreed to furnish us with the railroad ties to complete this task along with the assistance of State Park employees.



Using materials purchased with SIA funds, State Park staff replaced railings on a section of the Beachgate Trail.

The Beachgate trail needs more attention. The guardrails along the trail are deteriorating and need major repair. Auggie inspected the trail and is putting together a plan to rebuild and replace the missing and damaged rails even though funds and manpower from the State Park are very limited. The railing is already being repaired by State Park Staff and our association has committed to help fund and direct this work and paid for the recent railing materials. Through previous donations and fundraising we have approximately \$7000 dedicated for repairs for the Beachgate Trail. Once the plan is determined and the cost estimate is established, we will report if more money is needed in donations to complete the project.

## *Seacliff Safety Poetry Signs Stolen!*

Alas, before we even had a chance to photograph all the winning signs, they were stolen. We still wish to acknowledge the creativity of the winning poets and everyone who participated in the contest this year:

Welcome all to Seacliff  
With our Ship and Shore and Bay  
Drive safely through our little town  
So you'll all enjoy your day!

Charlie Hill

Naked Surfers  
May be in Town  
For a chance to see one  
You must SLOW down

Cathy Patton

Stop and Look  
Give right of way  
kids and pets  
are out to play

Bruce Hartman

Hey You!  
Who Me?  
Yes You ...  
Slow Down!

Gregory Peinado



## Seacliff Improvement Association Treasurer's Report 2019

	May	June	July	YTD
Ending Balance from Dec 2018: \$30,987.89				\$30,987.89
<b>INCOME:</b>				
General Donations	\$42.70	\$110.00		\$292.70
Membership Dues		\$146.67	\$100.00	\$1,817.47
Return Check fee reimbursement				\$15.00
Beachgate Trail Donations	\$23.97	\$0.00		\$313.97
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$66.67</b>	<b>\$256.67</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$2,439.14</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
Website Hosting and Admin		\$70.00		\$435.88
Newsletter (edit, post, print)		\$631.50		\$2,082.38
Annual Dinner Deposit		\$395.00		\$395.00
Postage, shipping, FedEx, etc.		\$22.00		\$182.05
Insurance		\$563.00		\$563.00
Return Check and fee				\$32.00
Membership Meeting items	\$399.00			\$399.00
Seacliff Beach Street Fair (SBP)		\$500.00		\$500.00
Sign Contest: Drive Slow in Seacliff		\$393.30		\$393.30
Aptos Chamber of Commerce			\$20.00	\$20.00
Gardening	\$417.47	\$712.00		\$2,801.47
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$816.47</b>	<b>\$3,286.80</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$7,804.08</b>
<b>ENDING CASH BALANCE</b>	<b>\$28,573.08</b>	<b>\$25,542.95</b>	<b>\$25,622.95</b>	<b>\$25,622.95</b>
Designated \$\$ for Beachgate Trail:	\$7,473.56	\$7,473.56	\$7,473.56	\$7,473.56

### New Members!

Richard and Lucy Amico  
Sandra D. Brisbane  
Kevin and Belinda Holm  
Cameron Jackson  
Mike and Sharon Linnik  
Jean Morrison  
Roger and Dorothea Nolan  
Mike and Christina Sandoval  
Marlene Wells

**We thank all 349 member households  
and friends for your continued support.**

If you have a suggestion or a Seacliff neighborhood question write to 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.  
Contact us to confirm the location.

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)

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/>