

**Summer
2020**

Seacliff Improvement Association

Announcing our Third Quarter

SIA Membership Zoom Gathering
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 - 6:30 pm

Join the SIA Board as we discuss Seacliff Issues and association plans and activities. Agenda will include Seacliff Gardens and Trails, Pedestrian Safety, 4th Quarter Membership Meeting and Seacliff Village Park

RSVP by September 7th for Zoom meeting details: info@seacliffimprovement.org



Mary and Steve Gibbs, along with other Seacliff Drive neighbors have created and expanded gardens along the outer fence of Seacliff State Beach. Recent weed whacking by Cheri and Richard Nilsson has opened up the view and a new path just inside the fence.

Cheri and Richard Nilsson took charge of the weed patch along Broadway in front of the State Park utility yard. After removing all the weeds, they installed new plants and mulch.



Elena Longworth continues her creative gardening work at the Mar Vista Crossing Garden. It's a favorite spot for locals to take a moment, add a treasure and enjoy the blooms.

How Our Gardens Do Grow!

Sheltering in place means blooming in place for many Seacliff residents. While most of us were sprucing up our own yards, some continued personal missions to beautify our public spaces. Our neighborhood is a richer and happier place thanks to their efforts.



COVID and Fire Resources

Zach Friend
Second District Supervisor
County of Santa Cruz

There are many ways we can help our neighbors during this incredibly challenging time. Following is a list of some of the local resources available to help our community heal and persevere. Please do what you can safely and contact my office if you have questions or concerns at 831-454-2200 or email: zach.friend@santacruzcounty.us

COVID

Community Foundation Santa Cruz County Response Fund

<https://www.cfsc.org/funds/covid-19-local-response-fund>

Sign Up for weekly grocery delivery from Grey Bears

<https://www.greybears.org/groceries/>

Salud Para la Gente

<https://splg.org/donate/>

Second Harvest Food Bank

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

Santa Cruz Volunteer Center COVID 19 Information

<https://scvolunteercenter.org/about-us/covid-19-safety-and-opening-schedule/>

Fire

Community Foundation Fire Response Fund

<https://www.cfsc.org/updates/fire-response-fund>

Community Action Board

<https://cabinc.org/2020/04/17/cab-covid-19-fire-emergency-response-needs-funds/>

Grey Bears Fire Program

<https://www.greybears.org/grey-bears-news/>

Second Harvest Food Bank

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

Register to Volunteer for Fire Response

<https://scvolunteercenter.org/events-2/register-volunteer-fire-response/>

Donate to Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County

<https://scvolunteercenter.org/sustain-our-efforts/>

Have family/friends that need access to fire resources?

<http://santacruzcounty.us/FireResources.aspx>

Want to prepare your own home? <https://www.readyforwildfire.org>

Seacliff Businesses Adapt to a New Normal

Rebecca Downing



Seacliff has some extremely popular eateries and, after the initial shelter order was lifted, these local favorites found different ways to navigate our new normal. I spoke with Mike Colombani, owner of Pizza1 as he was cycling to work to make fresh dough for the day. He said business was brisk before sheltering and is REALLY busy now. The usual lunch and dinner rush has turned into the all-day event as locals and now visitors stock up on their favorites.

From Charlie Wilcox of Marianne's..."We have been very thankful for the loyal support of the community as we figured out how to do window service as we work to keep the lines moving and safe. We very much appreciate people being mindful of wearing masks and supporting our staff. We look forward to making sundaes, hosting coffee klatches, and getting to serve people face to face.

Our hearts are with the people who are dealing with the horrible fires in the mountains and we are looking to support them in the long haul of recovery. Many thanks for all the expressions of support and coming to enjoy our ice creams."



And from Patricia Santana at Manuel's... "As most locals know by now, we have opened our Dahlia garden as a patio for outdoor dining. It helps a bit, but most of all, it creates a sense of normalcy. Our



approach as we entered into this shadowland of the pandemic was to figure out new rules and apply them in the safest manner for both our crew and our guests. Because of the close quarters of our restaurant, we know that safety is paramount, and we see it as a necessity rather than an inconvenience. Apart from the rules imposed by the CDC, and the local health department, we also take our staffs' temperature and complete a health checklist before shift. In the event a case is tracked to our business, we also note all dine in guests phone numbers, where and when they are seated along with some health information.

How you all can help: Wear your mask in and around our restaurant. The fewer guests our crew need to remind, the smoother the day goes and the better spirits everyone has. Please keep ordering takeout and consider ordering earlier or later to shorten wait time. Try "la comida", a bigger late lunch which helps making dinner, or "cena" like in Mexican culture a later, lighter meal.

Dahlia season is unfortunately shorter than the pandemic, so enjoy it while it lasts as we operate under the loosened restrictions by the Alcoholic Beverage Control, until the pandemic is over. Thank you for your support. We love serving our Seacliff locals!"

Seacliff 2020 Beautification Awards

Brent Lay

On behalf of the Beautification Committee I am pleased to announce this year's winners, our 21st year of giving awards to deserving Seacliff homes.

We almost didn't have awards this year. The committee members typically meet in spring to discuss and review nomination criteria and voting but we were in lockdown, and I thought, with many of our members being of retirement age and all the complications, it just was not going to happen. Fortunately, several of our very motivated members contacted me and said we could and should do it, volunteering to take duties for members who were out of the area or unable to participate. So here we are, I am glad to be able to present awards this year. In addition to our winners, it has been heartwarming to see all the love and effort people have been putting into their yards and starting gardens. *GO SEACLIFF!*

403 Coates

One can't help but notice the handsome home at 403 Coates overlooking the Beachgate Trail with its garden just to the right of the brick entrance pillars. Steve and Dianne Pereira acquired the original cottage in 1999. The home was built as a getaway by the original owners in the 1920's. They lived in San Jose and would come work on it bit by bit on the weekends. As a consequence of its age and the rustic construction, the house required a complete rebuild.



They kept the original footprint and restored and re-used much of the original hardware. Since then they have enlarged the detached one car garage to include a home office in the same coastal shingle style. In addition, over the years they have put a lot of time and personal resources into caretaking the Beachgate Trail. When they moved in, the trail was overgrown and in need of maintenance. Steve cleared brush and dirt that had washed down from the banks, exposing the trail's brickwork, and installed lighting so neighbors felt safe using the trail in the evenings. He put a lot of effort into soil stabilization measures and is happy with the recent drainage work and the work the SIA Trail crew just completed. He continues to paint over graffiti tags and maintains the decorative plantings he placed along the trail. I feel all of us who use the trail owe them a debt of gratitude.



628 Middlefield

The beautifully presented home at 628 Middlefield belongs to Sharon Abrahamson. Sharon and her late husband, Dick, purchased the home 21 years ago. Originally it was a getaway from their home in San Carlos where Sharon taught, and Dick worked in San Francisco at the Pacific Stock Exchange. Eventually when they retired the small home was demolished, making way the new more spacious one. Sharon developed her love of gardening growing up in Willow Glen surrounded by orchards. She said it was always a form of relaxation from teaching. Despite being retired, Sharon is still in touch with former students, some who have kids of their own now. Sharon was touched to receive the award on behalf of herself and Dick. Her pride of the home and gardening shows throughout her yard.

250 North

The striking home at 250 North Ave features a two story glass atrium and a handsome succulent garden. The impressive variety of plants makes more sense when you find out the gardener responsible, Martin Quigley, is the Director of the UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden. The home went through an extensive remodel in 2019 when the original open courtyard was transformed into a greenhouse style atrium designed by Martin. The garden now flows from the front yard through the house via the atrium connecting it to the backyard. Martin's enthusiasm for rare and unusual plants, especially succulents, is on full display and, despite a collection of plants from around the world he maintains a friendly low key manner and takes pleasure in sharing his knowledge and cuttings with neighbors.

(continue on page 6)



Beautification (cont.)

215 Poplar

The tidy 1920's California Bungalow at 215 Poplar is owned by Kathleen and Livia. When the home was purchased in 1997 it was rampant with ivy and an overgrown pine tree. It is nicknamed "The Smuggler's House" because of a tunnel that crosses under Poplar Street connecting their basement to the railroad tracks for prohibition era transactions.



The tunnel is now blocked but recognizing the historic significance of the home Kathleen and Livia installed landscaping to match its original character. They removed the ivy and the pine tree and planted Maple trees and flower beds with many native flowers and bulbs donated by their neighbors. The finishing touch was a new redwood fence by Pacific Fence to provide more privacy for the corner lot's backyard.



A smaller excavator still requires skill and steady steering to clear space for the new restroom adjacent to the recently installed skatepark.



Restroom Installation at Seacliff Village Park

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

A construction crew has broken ground for the new, permanent restroom at Seacliff Village County Park! Replacing the portable one represents a valuable investment because parks that feature permanent facilities are visited by more community residents including seniors, wheelchair users, families and groups hosting events.

Once in place, local artist Anastasiya Bachmanova will be able to wield her brushes and get to work on her design for the public art Seacliff Beach-themed mural that will grace its exterior walls.

Seacliff Improvement Association
Treasurer's Report for 2020

	YTD
Ending Balance from Dec 2019	\$27,234.32
INCOME:	
General Donations	\$627.61
Membership Dues	\$2,298.27
Street Fair Booth Fees	\$250.00
Beachgate Trail Donations	\$1,372.45
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,548.33
EXPENSES:	
Website Hosting /Administration	\$1,428.56
Newsletter	\$2,307.09
Insurance	\$290.00
Checks from Wells Fargo	\$36.91
Seacliff Fair Booth	
Reimbursement	\$200.00
Non-profit registration fees	\$20.00
Membership Supplies	\$23.33
Beachgate Trail Expenses	\$2,035.24
Gardening	\$805.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$7,146.13
ENDING CASH BALANCE	\$24,636.52
Beachgate Trail Total Funds	\$5,585.62

Welcome New Members!

Barbara Bannan
Scott Flake
Jenna Graham
Jeff and Susan Hartman
Brian H Kirk
Taylor and Kourtney Martin
Keith and Justine Olsen
Glenn and Sandra Spitzer

We thank all 348 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/>

Learn more or join the association: <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.

CERT Team News

Doreen O'Donovan



The Aptos La Selva CERT team has been working at fire evacuation sites for those displaced by the CZU lightning fire and hopes to be able to start training new members virtually soon. In the meantime, we would like to increase the number of Seacliff folks who participate in "Map Your Neighborhood".

The Map Your Neighborhood program guides you and your neighbors through simple steps to help enhance your preparedness for an emergency. These steps will help you to quickly and safely take actions that can minimize damage and protect lives. Seacliff has a strong CERT team but if each block has their own plan, CERT can assist others in an emergency. The program offers easy-to-follow instructions to create a plan with steps to follow immediately after a disaster, a skill and inventory list, maps that include utility location, and more. There is a 90-minute instruction video to get you started while physically distancing. If you are interested in learning more, please let me know. Doreen O'Donovan, Team Leader aptoslaselvacert@gmail.com

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/>