



**Summer
2022**

**Seacliff
Improvement
Association**

**Announcing our 2022 Third Quarter Membership Gathering
Meet, Greet and Eat!**



Join us for our 3rd Quarter Pizza Party
with Supervisor Zach Friend, and his Analyst, Kieran Kelly and

Sergeant Kyle Matson

From the Santa Cruz County
Sheriff's Aptos Service Center



When: Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Where: The Coastlands 280 State Park Drive

Park then follow signs pointing to the office and through to the lovely courtyard.
There will be lots of room to safely distance in this spacious, outdoor setting. We
are serving pizza and drinks so RSVP with the number attending at:
info@seacliffimprovement.org by September 15th so we may order enough pizza
for everyone.

Save the Date: November 15, 2022!

For the Seacliff Improvement Association's Annual Membership Meeting

Time: 6 - 8 pm

Place: Cantine Winepub

Address: 8050 Soquel Drive, Aptos



Musical Guest: Guitarist, Ken Constable
International appetizers, bevies, and You!

Check your mailbox soon for your reservation and 2023 membership renewal form!



Improving Cell Coverage and High Speed Internet in the County

Zach Friend
Second District Supervisor
County of Santa Cruz

Some high profile incidents these last few years have highlighted the critical need for access to affordable, high-speed internet and improved cell coverage. To support this important infrastructure development, I proposed the Board of Supervisors use \$500,000 of our recovery funding toward broadband expansion.

For Seacliff students participating in remote learning, seniors accessing tele-health programs and workers attempting to do so remotely, high-speed Internet is an essential resource. Yet, many households in our community, and throughout the state, have either limited bandwidth to meet their needs or are priced out of options. Additionally, cell coverage, throughout Seacliff, is spotty at best. According to David Witkowski, a local resident and nationally recognized expert on wireless communications, in the Western United States over 60 percent of households are wireless-only - meaning they rely exclusively on cell service for their phone needs. He notes these rates are even higher for low-income households, renters, and younger community members.

According to an analysis conducted by the California Emerging Technology Fund, 15 percent of households access the Internet exclusively from a smartphone. Over 80 percent of calls to emergency services originate from a cell phone. Yet, coverage and capacity throughout our area is inadequate.

As a result, the County has been working on ways to improve both high-speed Internet access and also cell coverage. Using the \$500,000 in funding, the County awarded a grant to Cruzio Internet for a first phase of broadband expansion in our area. This project



will serve 4,000 homes with high-speed Internet access across all five Supervisorial Districts through the Equal Access Santa Cruz program and provide needed Internet resources to affordable housing projects and school neighborhoods. The goal is to improve service in areas that haven't historically been served. Locations in the Second District have already come online with more on the way - locations at Bradley and Amesti Elementary Schools have moved through the process, and work at Aptos High School is also underway. The Cruzio installation will provide high-speed wireless Internet access for both students and neighbors in the surrounding area and also allow for wireless calling for those with phones that allow wireless-based calling. In addition, AT&T is constructing a cell facility near Highway 1 and Freedom that will serve Aptos High School and the surrounding area.

Additional funding for broadband expansion will be available through state and federal grants in the coming months; this will lead to new options throughout our underserved areas. The latest estimates show that the County is slated to receive \$11 million in new middle mile funding for broadband expansion. As part of the state funding requirements, the County will be working on a new Broadband Master Plan that identifies locations with complete gaps, slow or limited service.

The Master Plan will help the County target areas for this funding that can also be used to apply for additional state and federal grants in the future. While Seacliff has seen some significant improvements in high-speed Internet options, including fiber, in the coming years, this additional funding should increase the number of options for Seacliff and other neighborhoods in our district.

For cell service improvements, the County recently modernized local codes to improve the speed by which new cell facilities can be deployed. Some of these changes were required under state and federal law and others make additional improvements based on our local conditions. California's recent adoption of Assembly Bill 537 (AB 537) that became law earlier this year, codifies into state law the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) time constraints or "shot clocks" under which local governments must review and approve or disapprove an application for a wireless communication facility.



In late 2018, the FCC issued an order to remove certain state and local regulatory barriers that inhibit the deployment of wireless facilities. A key component of this order was the creation of a new shot clock that places time constraints for approval of these proposed facilities. With the passage of AB 537 California codified the shot clocks as set forth in the FCC Order. The shot clocks are as follows:

- Collocation of small wireless facilities: 60 days to act upon to an application.
- Collocation of facilities other than small wireless facilities: 90 days.
- Construction of new small wireless facilities: 90 days.
- Construction of new facilities other than small wireless facilities: 150 days.

Overall, the proposed regulations contain more objective standards while eliminating language that is subject to varying interpretations. The proposed regulations would comply with state and federal regulatory change, such as AB 537, and create a streamlined process for applications. The County is also looking at requiring 72 hours of backup electrical power for all wireless cellular sites, which aligns with recent California Public Utilities Commission requirements and Senate Bill 431. This would help during the repeated power outages we've experienced in our area. Once fully implemented, these changes should improve the number of options for cell coverage in Seacliff and throughout our county.

If you have any questions about the proposed code changes, or any other matters in our district, please don't hesitate to call me at 454-2200. I maintain regular updates on social media as well at www.facebook.com/supervisorfriend .

2022 Beautification Awards

Brent Lay

The Beautification Committee is proud to profile our 2022 winners. The twelve members of the committee came up with a diverse group of nominees this year. Our winners included one local business and, for the first time to my knowledge, two homes directly across the street from each other. Our winners were announced at the SIA Ice Cream Social this June. The four winners received a \$50 gift certificate to Dig Gardens and our sign to display in their yard. Here are our winners in no particular order:



The Wholesale House at **232 Santa Cruz Avenue** has been a family flooring and carpet business in this location since 1981, originally run by Steve and Elise Mills, and now by their son Austin, and Gail Mizuki who has worked there for 20 years. The building had become weathered and in need of a facelift. After years of planning and wading through permits, they worked with Neilson Studios Architect of Santa Cruz to create something modern and appealing. The store was moved downstairs and a two bedroom apartment was created upstairs. In addition to the handsome new metal work on the building, they worked with Lisa Mc Andrews of Madrone Landscape Group in Soquel to produce beautiful, waterwise plantings to compliment the fresh look. Austin says the business continues to thrive due to a loyal base of customers and word of mouth from people who prefer to deal locally here in Santa Cruz County.

Vicki and Carl Cull's home at **334 Park Drive** has a long history in Seacliff. It was originally built in the 1920s. There are old aerial photos that show it as one of only a few homes west of State Park Drive. The previous owner Bob, a one legged veteran who was very popular in the neighborhood, lived in the home for many years and gave it the name "The Sea Rose". The stained glass Sea Rose panel is by the same artist who did the stained glass for Mc Fly's Bar in Cannery Row. The Cull's moved into the home in 2010.



They worked with Testorff Construction and had new hardwood floors installed. On the outside they created a distinctive wall and relandscaped with new plantings, with the exception of some of Bob's beloved rose plants which Vicki and Carl saved.

100 Oakdale Drive has undergone quite a transformation since owners Rich and Bruce bought it in 1985. It was a rental for years and the yard was so overgrown, that, as the bushes were removed, a completely grown over shopping cart was discovered. They completely gutted and remade the interiors before moving into the house. Over the years the yard was redone several times. Rich is a retired commercial landscape architect, working on the Stevens Creek Trail and other well-known trails in Santa Clara County. Bruce is retired from UCSC Natural Sciences Department. For their landscape design, the yard was used as their palette for beautiful and unusual plants that form a rotating display of flowers throughout much of the year. Their most recent additions were new Cedar gates from Pacific Gateworks.



Craig and Stacey Ristrow bought their home at **101 Oakdale** ten years ago from the estate of the original owner, Joy, a master gardener who designed the landscaping herself. After almost 50 years the yard was overgrown and "no longer doing her designs or talent any justice". So last year they decided it was time for a complete overhaul. Working on the lot as a blank canvas, they based the design on features they wanted in their new yard, such as low maintenance, low water, screening from the street with some color. Using a mixture of plants, small trees, and wooden screens the yard was completely transformed.

They enlisted Emerald City Landscaping to complete the job and help bring their designs to life. Craig and Stacey said they could not be happier with the results.

Next spring look our committee members will, once again, canvas the neighborhood for nominees for 2023 awards. It could be you!



Passing the Baton on the County Parks Commission

Rebecca Downing

Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Commissioner Kate Minott is leaving the commission after over 20 years of service to our neighborhood and the 2nd District. Kate was appointed to the commission by Supervisor Ellen Pirie in 2000 and again in 2013 by Supervisor Zach Friend.



Kate has been a long-time Parks and Open Space activist in our community and harbors an enthusiastic zeal for our county parks. She deeply enjoyed collaborating with members of public, Parks Staff, and her fellow Commissioners on every aspect of Parks and Parks recreation programs.

Kate accomplished much during her tenure beyond her work to build and shape our own Seacliff Village County Park. She advocated for the approval of the "No Smoking Ordinance" in all county parks, served on the disc golf course task force at the Pinto Lake County Park, encouraged and promoted safe and legal skateboard and bike jump sites at County Parks, and served as the President of the Board of Directors of Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks.

Our association and the Seacliff community offer a big *THANK YOU, Kate!*

And now we introduce Tricia Wiltshire Potts, our recently appointed Commissioner for the 2nd District. Tricia's interest in county parks began in 2013 when she had a vision for creating a park space for children of all abilities and presented it to the very commission on which she now serves. She developed a successful public-private initiative between county government, the parks department, and community organizations to design, fund, and build LEO's Haven at Chanticleer County Park. This fully inclusive playground opened in the Live Oak neighborhood in 2020. LEO is an acronym for her children: Lauren, Evelyn, and Oliver. She is currently the Project and Program Development Consultant supporting the Santa Cruz County Deputy Sheriff's Association's effort to create a Memorial Tribute to Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller at Willowbrook Park.



Tricia lives in the Aptos Hills with her family, two livestock guardian dogs, and a ridiculous number of chickens.



Our Ice Cream Social this June brought out lots of neighbors to enjoy the afternoon and a scoop from Marianne's!

Seacliff Improvement Association 2022
Treasurer's Report

| | YTD |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Ending Balance from Dec 2021 | \$32,536.57 |
| INCOME: | |
| Membership Dues | \$1,557.56 |
| General Donations | \$802.31 |
| Beachgate Trail Donations | \$30.00 |
| Street Fair Booth Fees | \$198.98 |
| TOTAL INCOME: | \$2,588.85 |
| EXPENSES: | |
| Beautification Gift Certificates | \$200.00 |
| Cantine Meeting Deposit | \$250.00 |
| Gardening | \$1,017.88 |
| Insurance | \$321.00 |
| Live Like Coco Foundation | |
| Library Garden | \$1,000.00 |
| Mini Park Paths | \$7,500.00 |
| Newsletter | \$2,323.74 |
| Non-profit registration fees | \$20.00 |
| Rock for the Gibbs | \$200.00 |
| Website Hosting | \$472.76 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES: | \$13,305.38 |
| ENDING CASH BALANCE: | \$21,820.04 |
| Beachgate Trail Fund : | \$5,615.62 |

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

Our board of directors meets on the second Tuesday of the month. We currently have board seats open and waiting for your participation.



Will Roblin

Will offers his thanks to the board and says "Consider volunteering to serve on the SIA Board. You will understand your village better and can help to sustain its beauty and vitality."

Thank you, Will, for your talents and passion applied to everything you contribute to Seacliff.

We are grateful!

Retiring Board Member Encourages Stepping Up

Will Roblin and Rebecca Downing

When you serve on our board of directors you learn a lot about Seacliff AND you get to help shape and improve our village. In September 2010, Will Roblin joined the board when the Village Sewer Upgrade, Utility Undergrounding and Beautification Projects were all struggling for momentum. Many improvement opportunities for Will to dig into!

He served as Board Secretary, President and Vice President during his tenure and was Chair of Seacliff Village Plan Committee reviewing the Santa Cruz County Seacliff Village Plan to address zoning issues and update the decade old plan. Along the way, the Sewer Upgrade was finished, utility undergrounding - a decades old program was completed, and downtown beautification designs were revised. Funding for this project was assigned to the Aptos Village so its future is unknown.

Highlights of Will's board service include:

- ◆ Doggie Fests of early 2010s
- ◆ Watching the emergence of a younger crew of Directors
- ◆ Helping launch a Seacliff Business Group, sponsors of upcoming village Street fairs
- ◆ Blossoming of Street Murals in the village
- ◆ Getting to know other, involved neighbors
- ◆ Undergrounding the overhead wiring in the village
- ◆ Making a personal contribution to Seacliff

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 Street Address: _____

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

Telephone Number: (_____) _____

E-mail Address (for newsletters and bulletins only):

Email: _____ Email 2: _____

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

