

Seacliff Improvement Association

Summer 2023



Meet, Greet and Eat!
at our 2023 Third Quarter Membership Gathering

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



When: Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Where: The Coastlands 280 State Park Drive

Park then follow signs 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, drinks and Marianne's ice cream so RSVP with the number attending at:

info@seacliffimprovement.org



Join the Seacliff merchants and community partners for a day of family friendly fun in downtown Seacliff on Saturday, October 14th, 2023, 11:30 am - 4:00 pm.

Stroll or cycle over to Broadway and visit with your neighbors and friends while you enjoy some tasty food from local Seacliff restaurants and food trucks, live music, chalk drawing, a strolling magician, face painting, and local crafts. Invite your people by sending this link to our website:

<http://seacliffimprovement.org/>



Soquel Drive Corridor and Highway Work Underway - and Update on Seacliff

Work is beginning on the largest investment in improvements on Soquel Drive in decades. The Soquel Drive Buffered Bike Lane and Congestion Mitigation Project began this month and will continue until next winter. The project is part of a larger set of traffic and transportation improvements planned along Highway 1 and the

Soquel Drive corridor between State Park Drive and La Fonda Avenue with major investments for mid and south county. The funding comes from an over \$100 million grant from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for multi-modal improvements to our local transportation network. The funding was awarded from a grant application from the local Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) and is a result of funding from Senate Bill 1: the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program and Local Partnership Competitive Program. Our county's competitiveness for these programs was due in large part to our passage of Measure D in 2016, which provides a local match for these major transportation projects.

The funding works to address a number of issues that are particularly acute in the mid and south county areas. First, Highway 1 congestion. Congestion on the highway impacts everyone including those simply trying to get to work or return home, emergency vehicles, buses and delivery vehicles. The second issue is cut-through traffic. As a result of the highway congestion, many vehicles exit the highway and create safety issues on local side streets. The third issue is bike and pedestrian safety. Our area is the fifth worst in the state for bike collisions so there is a need for better bike and pedestrian safety facilities, and the increased vehicle usage of Soquel Drive and other side streets is a contributing factor to these increased collisions.

Significant improvements on Soquel Drive, include 5 miles of buffered, protected bicycle lanes, 46 green bike boxes for left turn movements, new sidewalks that connect to existing sidewalk facilities, ADA improvements, 96 crosswalk upgrades, crosswalk warning devices at 10-mid block locations. Installation of adaptive traffic signal control with transit prioritization at 23 intersections will improve bus transit time.

Many of these were requested by the community to improve access to local schools and major job centers. For example, near Mar Vista Elementary and Cabrillo College, new buffered bike lanes and sidewalks are planned that will connect to existing sidewalks and improve pedestrian access to schools. The project will also improve drainage and add retaining walls and/or hardscape where required to improve safety in the area.

The Soquel Drive project will require some lane closures between 8:30 am-4:30 pm in the specific area the crews are



Bicycle Green Box Design Example



Roadway on Soquel Drive to receive connected sidewalks

working at that time. While this will create some delays in the specific construction areas, the improvements will be significant for our community once completed. For information on the Soquel Drive corridor project, visit: <https://www.soqueldrivebufferedproject.com> .

This project will harmonize with work currently underway on Highway 1 that will bring three new sets of auxiliary lanes between Soquel Drive and State Park Drive. The first phase of that work, between Soquel and 41st Avenue, is currently underway. This will create the first 5.75-miles of a 7.5-mile hybrid bus-on-shoulder/auxiliary lane facility so transit buses can travel in the auxiliary lane between intersections and on the shoulders at intersections to bypass traffic improving transit travel times.



Bus on Shoulder Lane Rendering

Two new Highway 1 bicycle/pedestrian overcrossings at Chanticleer Avenue and the long-awaited Mar Vista Drive project, are also part of the on-going work with Chanticleer's bridge part of this first phase. The timeline for the highway project, and more information, can be found on the RTC's website at: <https://sccrtc.org/projects/streets-highways/hwy1corridor/> where you will see the Highway 1 Corridor Investment program with information about the highway project. Additional information on the Highway project can also be found at <https://cruz511.org/>



Mar Vista Bridge Design

Measure D Update

As you may have noticed, a number of roads have been paved in Seacliff this summer as a result of Measure D road funding. In a previous column I mentioned that next year the west side of Mar Vista in Seacliff would be paved. Unfortunately, that work will need to be postponed.

The Santa Cruz County Sanitation District discovered some pipes that need replacing on some of the same streets where Measure D work was planned for next summer. As a result, sanitation work will be performed and, after the pipes are replaced, Measure D road work will be scheduled. It is currently anticipated that pipe work will occur in 2024 and the Measure D road work will occur in 2025, one year later than is scheduled.

As always, I appreciate any feedback you may have on this or any other County issue. I maintain regular updates on social media at www.facebook.com/supervisorfriend and you can always call me at 454-2200.

2023 Beautification Awards

Brent Lay

The Beautification Committee is pleased to announce our 2023 Seacliff Beautification award winners. Between the twelve members of the committee, and public submissions, there were 19 nominees this year. All four of our winners each received a \$50 gift certificate to Dig Gardens and an award winner sign to display in their yard. Our winners, in no particular order, are:



312 Park Avenue

The yard in front of Jeff and Susan Hartman's home was almost completely covered in concrete when they purchased it in 2020. A full makeover of the front yard was undertaken to retain the driveway, remove the paving, and create a beautiful mosaic of river pebbles with an inviting seating area surrounded by an impressive variety of plants.

Susan likes the highly dense English Cottage style garden and experiments with different plants to render a layered, lived in feel.

They worked with Black Diamond for their hardscaping, and Dig Gardens, Sierra Azul and Far West to select a variety of different plants. In addition to the visual appeal, Susan said she wanted a garden that would attract birds and bees.

118 Santa Cruz

There are more to the clean modern lines of Jennifer Klein's home than meets the eye. Viewed from the street, her property has been transformed from a traditional ranch house with a front yard filled with crushed lava rock to a beautifully updated home with an attractive garden, a new deck and pathway. Collaborating with her on the redesign was Greg Stephen of 180 Builders and Darryl Kool of Kool Landscaping. Jennifer worked with Dig Gardens to complete her landscape vision for this home.

Jennifer is an artist and the garden sculpture in front is only a hint of the artistic flare throughout her home. She purchased the property 2 years ago and splits her time between Napa and Seacliff. She developed her love of gardening through her mother's garden and working with her grandmother in her orchards in Almaden.



113 Loma Place

Patricia and Jorge Galazzo have accomplished a lot in the 4 years they have had their home on Loma Place. Splitting their time between Seacliff and Sunnyvale, they have worked to remodel both the house and their landscape. The house had been divided into multiple rental units and they restored it to its original single family home. Their new front garden has grown gradually and Patricia has tried to use mostly drought tolerant plants. She loves succulents and says, despite the great variety of them in their garden, she has received all of them from cuttings that neighbors have given her or left curbside. Patricia is a teacher and many plants also have arrived as gifts from her students.

In addition to the ground level garden, they have had fun with a colorful array of pots on the second level which nicely compliment the Spanish style of the home.



Jorge and Patricia said they have received great feedback and have had a chance to meet lots of people in the neighborhood while working in their garden.



312 Seacliff Drive

This year's winner at 312 Seacliff Drive has achieved a remarkable transformation in 2 years. The corner lot was surrounded by metal chain link fence, so overgrown with ivy no one could tell what was even in there. Now it is an attractive outdoor oasis for owner Ronie Clark. From the beginning it was clear the new owner was someone who loved plants. This makes sense since Ronie is a retired botanist, having worked for both the National and State Park systems in places like Point Reyes and the Channel Islands.

The landscape design was her own, consisting primarily of native plants and large field stone boulders with salvaged architectural elements such as her vintage gates from Mexico City. Ronie worked with Jay Welty for the hardscape and new wood fencing, and Jeff at Sierra Azul Nursery helped source plants.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners. Next spring our committee members will be canvassing the neighborhood for nominees for the 2024 awards. It could be you!

Welcome Karen to our SIA Board!

The Seacliff Improvement Association is pleased to announce our newest board director, Karen Grellas, joining us this month. Karen has lived full time in Seacliff since 2007 and is very active in our community. She cofounded three businesses in the bay area and has been a volunteer business mentor for Central Coast SCORE for 11 years. She is also a business mentor for Bronco Venture Accelerator, at Santa Clara University.



Karen Grellas

Karen enjoys travel, gardening, edible plants, and participates in a local book club. Karen loves helping her community and we are fortunate for her board participation. Welcome, Karen!

Seacliff State Beach News

Rebecca Downing

Members of our board of directors met in August with the two primary organizations responsible for managing both operations and the design and installation of the new visitor amenities at the beach to address future sea level rise and climate resiliency.

Our meeting with Scott Rohlf, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist for California State Parks' Santa Cruz District, included a discussion about the timeline, design review and public participation for the climate resilient infrastructure and features planned for the areas damaged and destroyed in the winter storms. Our board members described how important it will be for local residents to participate in the rebuilding and were assured that public outreach will be robust and inclusive. In addition to climate resiliency, construction of public areas will be updated to include better facilities for those with limited mobility so they may reach the beach with improved accessibility.

Many of the park operations are actually the work of Friends of State Parks, our local non-profit caring for over 34 coastal state parks in both Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties. Over 100 employees work on education and interpretation, school field trips and teacher resources, park operations, accessibility, volunteers, preservation and capital projects, staffing entrance kiosks, managing the gift stores, and funding efforts for all the parks in our district.

As an integral part of the rebuilding of the beach area, Friends will be conducting outreach including an upcoming survey, hosting the Seacliff Recovery Fund, currently at over \$80,000, and providing whatever support is needed by state park staff for this work.

Friends is hosting an "Outdoor Movie Night featuring Muppet Treasure Island!" on Saturday, September 16, 2023, from 6 PM - 10 PM, by the ramada area next to the Seacliff Visitor Center. Before the movie starts, there will be crafts, games and a presentation by AquaSmart Live, an award-winning performance designed to teach children how to stay safe in and around California waterways. And of course, what's a movie night without popcorn and snacks? There will also be a concession stand with all your favorites, so you can munch away on delicious snacks while enjoying the film.

Seacliff Improvement Association 2023 Treasurer's Report

Welcome New Members!

Michael Danner & Ron Ong
Benjamin & Jeanette Gibson

**We thank all 329
member households and
friends for your continued support.**

	YTD
Ending Balance from Dec 2022	\$26,542.02
INCOME:	
Membership Dues	\$1,780.00
General Donations	\$1,120.48
Wells Fargo Account Interest	\$7.79
TOTAL INCOME:	\$2,908.27
EXPENSES:	
Insurance	\$514.00
PayPal Transfer Fee	\$2.65
Membership Supplies Mailing	\$615.53
Mini Park	\$4,308.92
Newsletter	\$2,349.46
Seacliff Street Fair	\$348.98
Website	\$245.00
Zoom Annual Subscription	\$149.90
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$8,534.44
ENDING CASH BALANCE:	\$20,915.85
Beachgate Trail YTD Balance:	\$5615.62

To learn more about the association visit:

<http://www.seacliffimprovement.org/>

Our membership meets quarterly, and our board of directors meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Contact us if you wish to attend our meeting: info@seacliffimprovement.org

To report neighborhood concerns visit:

<https://www.dpw.santacruzcounty.us/ReportProblem.aspx#> where you can file a report and download the My Santa Cruz County app.



Thanks for joining SIA for a scoop in the park this June. Local organizations and their representatives presented a wealth of information, materials, and goodies to attendees and their participation was most 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 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: \$ _____

How did you hear about us? Invitation Letter from Us Nextdoor Someone told you about us
 Complimentary Newsletter Membership Renewal Our website

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

