

# Seacliff Improvement Association

# Winter 2018



*Announcing our First Quarter Membership Gathering:*

## ***Meet and Greet at the Med***

Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:00 pm

Join the Seacliff Improvement Association at The Mediterranean, 265 Center Street.

Zach Friend, our Santa Cruz County Second District Supervisor, and his analyst, Patrick Mulhearn, will give us an update of all things Seacliff, Aptos and beyond.

View the latest Seacliff Downtown Streetscape Beautification Design!

Meet the SIA Officers and Board of Directors for 2018 and learn what the association has planned for our community this year.



Soft Drinks and munchies graciously provided by  
The Mediterranean  
Highway 1 Pizza  
and Marianne's Ice Cream

Parking is very limited so plan to carpool or stroll on over for the evening.  
(Must be 21 to attend)

**We hope to see you there!**

RSVP: [info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org)

As part of our community service, this edition of the Seacliff Improvement Association newsletter is sent to over 1,300 Seacliff Households!

The Association acts on behalf of our neighborhood by:

- Working with local governmental agencies to improve Seacliff
- Publishing informative quarterly newsletters and hosting membership meetings about important Seacliff issues; sending email alerts informing you of local government developments that impact Seacliff
- Improving our Seacliff neighborhood, ultimately helping to increase your property values and making Seacliff an even *greater* place to live

Membership is open to all Seacliff residents, businesses and property owners. We hope you enjoy this issue and consider joining today. See page 8 for our membership application. Thank you!



## The Latest on Aptos Village, Rancho Del Mar, Drainage and Cannabis!

Zach Friend  
Second District Supervisor  
County of Santa Cruz

There has been a lot happening over the last few months. The lack of rain, while not good for our aquifers, has allowed for some drainage improvements along the rail line by the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) to improve drainage for parts of

Seacliff. I encourage you to attend the upcoming drainage meeting I will be hosting with Public Works and our drainage staff on long-term solutions for drainage issues in Seacliff and Rio Del Mar, whose residents face similar challenges. Information on that is on page 4 of this newsletter.

Additionally, the dry weather has allowed for more work to be done at Rancho Del Mar Center, in Aptos Village and completion of storm damage repairs on Valencia and Soquel Drive at the trestle. Rancho Del Mar is being remodeled in phases and it is anticipated that each phase will be under construction for 4-6 months. In Aptos Village, it is expected that New Leaf Market and some other shops and restaurants will open later this fall with some of the housing opening earlier. The major road improvements have been completed, including the new traffic signals, with additional work beginning soon on the new Parade Street in the middle of the Village.

The Board of Supervisors has also been working on completing rules for the cultivation of cannabis. I have focused on ensuring that commercial cultivation occurs in proper areas and not in residential districts or rural residential areas that would be most impacted. This extensive process that includes changes to state law for cultivation and recreational use also adds related complexities. The County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors will have additional hearings for this in late February and in March. If you are interested in this issue, I encourage you to attend one of these upcoming meetings or submit your comments online in advance. Always feel free to call me with any questions about the rules being proposed.

If you are renting in Seacliff and are a first-time homebuyer, you might be interested in the new Aptos Village Measure J units that will be available for purchase. These are deed-restricted affordable homeowner units in the new Aptos Village project available for first-time homebuyers with household earnings at or below 120 percent of the area median income. Ten total units will be available including 1, 2 and 3 bedroom homes. The County is hosting two bilingual workshops for perspective homebuyers. The estimated price of the Aptos Village Measure J homes is \$256,000-\$280,000 for a 1-bedroom, \$296,000-\$322,000 for a 2-bedroom and \$338,000-\$363,000 for a 3-bedroom home. Applications are due May 18th and a drawing will be held on June 1st for qualified applicants.

We expect a significant amount of interest in these units and encourage those interested to attend one of the upcoming workshops to learn more about how to apply and confirm your eligibility. Workshops will be held at the Rio Sands Hotel Conference Room at 116 Aptos Beach Drive in Aptos on February 28th from 6-7 pm (English) and 7:30-8:30 pm (Spanish) and March 24th from 1-2 pm (English) and 2:30-3:30 pm (Spanish). If you have any questions about the Measure J program please visit the County Planning website at <http://sccoplanning.com> , midway down the page, or call 454-2336.

As always, feel free to call me with any questions at 454-2200.

# Beachgate Trail Repair and Fundraising

Rebecca Downing

Have you traveled the Beachgate Trail lately? Except for some missing railings, the trail is open, appears in good shape and looks much better than a year ago at this time.



This is an illusion, however, since the underground drainage pipe installed in 1925 is no longer working properly and has, in some places, disintegrated. Without replacement, this beloved trail could wash down the cliff.

Our members value this important coastal access trail so much that we raised over \$4,300 for its repair last year. We plan to use these funds to pay for the drainage repair design that State Parks has already begun drafting in preparation for a design bid. Once the design is complete, State Parks will apply for a Coastal Development permit and Coastal Commission approval. We will also help raise private and public funds, with the assistance of California State Parks staff, for its repair. One may ask why the Seacliff Improvement Association is doing this and not State Parks since the trail is on State Park land. If you attended our annual dinner last October you might remember our speaker, Chris Spohrer, our local State Parks District Superintendent, shared that the Beachgate Trail is just one of 90 FEMA sites in our district. This list also includes previously damaged roads, sinkholes, and the pier, creating a huge backlog of projects. This means that, even with some FEMA funds, this trail's repair is not the highest priority for State Parks so, unless we help, the drainage pipe won't be repaired until other projects such as the New Brighton Beach parking lot are. If a big storm hits before this repair, the trail could be lost.

Long time Seacliff residents know that this community steps up when required to take care of our village. We rely on this trail to take us to the beach and the association has heard from our members how important it is to maintain for both residents and visitors. Our own bylaws encourage us to act to fix the trail for community betterment and preservation of this neighborhood coastal asset. We are forming a fundraising committee to strategically address the best ways to raise funds for the construction of the drainage pipe and other associated trail infrastructure repairs



View of the damaged Beachgate Trail railing from below.

currently estimated to cost more than \$45,000. This does not mean that we will use our current bank funds to pay for the repair. It does mean that we will create opportunities to donate funds and work with State Parks to seek funds from other agencies specifically for this repair. Our Vice President, Coni Henry and board director, Dennis Doo will co-chair this committee and will need your help. If you value this trail and wish to help us raise money for its repair, please let us know at:

[info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org) . We have some interesting fundraising ideas but we want to hear yours too so write to us today!



# County Parks Strategic Plan Update

Kate Minott, Santa Cruz County Parks & Recreation Commission



Last spring, the Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services initiated extensive community outreach for opinions and advice concerning the first County Park Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is intended to provide an overarching structure and timeline guidance for the Parks Department to maintain safe public use of 1,400-acres of county parkland including our own Seacliff Village County Park, and coastal pathways, and to prioritize current indoor and outdoor recreational and cultural programs throughout our family of 64 county parks.

For example, through last year's five county-wide community workshops and the on-line survey, Aptos residents revealed they would like to have more neighborhood parks and to stop having to travel to playgrounds in other parts of the County. Additionally, Aptosians would like an expansion in the variety of recreational uses at existing parks and the completion of park master plans at undeveloped county parks such as Polo Grounds, Aptos Village and Seacliff Village.




During March 2018, County Parks will present the Draft Strategic Plan at three community meetings to get input from you and other members of the public and on April 2, 2018, the Parks & Recreation Commission will hold a hearing to review and hear additional public comments about the Draft Strategic Plan. The final Draft Strategic Plan is expected to go before the Board of Supervisors in May. Share your opinion about this plan by attending one of three upcoming public meetings held from 6:00 PM to 7:30 this month:

- March 27 (Tuesday): Community Room, Simpkins Family Swim Center, Live Oak;
- March 28 (Wednesday): Highlands Park, Ben Lomond;
- March 29 (Thursday): Civic Plaza Community Room, Watsonville

## Drainage District Information Meeting

**Remember last winter? Did your property flood? Does your street lack storm drains?**

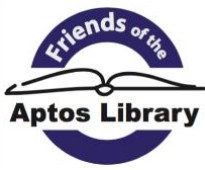
Supervisor Zach Friend is hosting a meeting to discuss drainage problems and solutions with county staff and residents. Issues addressed at the meeting will include:

-  An understanding of the storm water management district's boundaries
-  What the zone's authority is and what work can be done
-  Funding challenges and options

**When: April 3, 2018 from 6:30 - 7:30pm**

**Where: Rio Sands Hotel 116 Aptos Beach Drive, Aptos**






**RSVP: [info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org)**



## Support Aptos Library - Buy a Book!

Buying and donating books is a fun way to support your local Aptos Library.

Upcoming Saturday Book Sales are March 17<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup> and June 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and proceeds fund our many library projects including:

-  Summer reading programs at the Aptos Library
-  Early Learning Computer for the Children's area of the Library
-  Advocacy for the overall Santa Cruz County Public Library bond measure
-  A sustainable water-wise landscape garden in front of the library.
-  Our Community Reads -- our latest project launched in August 2017.



Proceeds from the book sales funded the convenient drive-in book drop now in the parking lot!

For more information about library projects or to join the friends, visit:

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

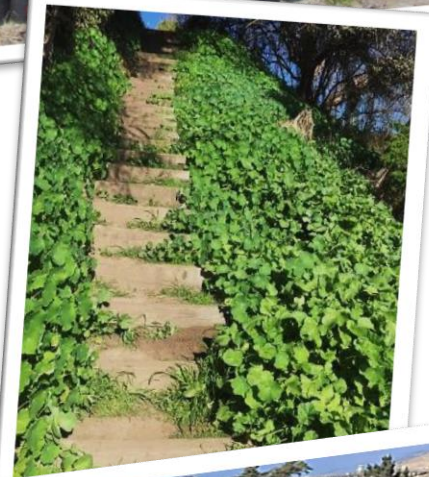
## Seacliff State Beach Beautification and Repairs

Rebecca Downing

The 2016-2017 winter storms caused significant damage to Seacliff State Beach requiring immediate replacement of the storm drain at the entrance. This replacement necessitated removal of the surrounding trees and bushes creating a new view of the ocean from above. To stabilize the cliff and beautify the entrance while maintaining this new vista, State Park staff and volunteers spent one winter morning in December installing native coastal annuals and perennials.

The Moosehead Trail that runs down to Aptos Creek from the overlook near the Mini Park was so damaged that it almost became impassable. The association requested its repair and Chris Pereira, State Parks Roads & Trails Supervisor enlisted the help of the California Conservation Corp to repair and rebuild the trail. Cleared of brush, slides and sporting new steps, the path is now much easier to traverse.

Stop by the Seacliff Mini Park and check out the new Ceanothus plants the SIA installed in February. These low-growing, drought tolerant native perennials will grow to cover the west end of the park, provide food for local pollinators and help stabilize the cliff so we can enjoy the Mini Park for years to come. Please stay on the nearby path so these new plants have a chance to thrive. We are watering them twice a week so they will survive until the rainy season hopefully returns in the fall.



| Have a Concern?  | Contact                               | Contact Information   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| Noise  | Santa Cruz County Sheriff             | 24 hour non-emergency: 471-1121   |
| Abandoned Vehicle<br>Please provide:   |                                       | <a href="http://www.scssheriff.com/Home/AbandonedVehicles.aspx">http://www.scssheriff.com/Home/AbandonedVehicles.aspx</a>               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location and Color</li> <li>• Make and model</li> <li>• License plate number</li> <li>• How long it has been since it was last moved, if known</li> </ul> | Santa Cruz County Sheriff             | 454-3139  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Car Blocking the street</li> <li>• Parking in a no-parking zone</li> <li>• Non-injury accidents</li> </ul>  | California Highway Patrol             | 796-2160  |
| Animal Control/Barking   | Santa Cruz Animal Shelter             | <a href="http://www.scanimalshelter.org/complaint_process">http://www.scanimalshelter.org/complaint_process</a>                         |
| Code Compliance  | Santa Cruz County Planning Department | <a href="http://www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/CodeCompliance.aspx">http://www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/CodeCompliance.aspx</a> |
| Graffiti Removal   | Graffiti Hotline                      | (800) 526-1185  |



To report some of the above and other neighborhood concerns, use the Citizen Connect App: <https://sccappstore.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/>



### Seacliff Community Contacts

|   |  |                      |
|---|--|----------------------|
| Santa Cruz County Offices                   | 2nd District Supervisor, Zach Friend       | 454-2200             |
| Aptos/LaSelva Fire District                 | Interim Fire Chief, Ron Prince             | 685-6690             |
| Sheriff's Sub-Station Rancho Del Mar Center | Sergeant Patrick Dimick                    | 662-0690             |
| Seacliff State Beach                        | Park Office                                | 685-6442 or 685-6500 |
| Aptos Chamber of Commerce                   | Executive Directors: John and Karen Hibble | 688-1467             |

SIA Treasurer's Report 2018

|                            | January            | YTD                |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                            | \$27,201.54        | \$27,201.54        |
| <b>INCOME:</b>             |                    |                    |
| Donations                  | \$30.00            | \$30.00            |
| Membership Dues            | \$681.73           | \$681.73           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>        | <b>\$711.73</b>    | <b>\$711.73</b>    |
| <b>EXPENSES:</b>           |                    |                    |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>      | <b>\$0.00</b>      | <b>\$0.00</b>      |
| <b>ENDING CASH BALANCE</b> | <b>\$27,913.27</b> | <b>\$27,913.27</b> |

Designated Monies - Beachgate Trail: \$4,331.85

## Join Seacliff CERT Today

Mary Edmund



Seacliff's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was formed 8 years ago with members from the SIA Board of Directors and has grown to 31 residents with training in disaster response skills, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT members may assist others in their neighborhood following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. We need more trained individuals for a full CERT response group so make a resolution to support your community this year. Sign up!

### 2018 CERT Basic Course Dates:

- Watsonville - April 4 - 28  
Both classroom and practical work  
Wednesday evenings, one Saturday
- Aptos - Aptos Fire - Sept 5 -29  
Both classroom and practical work  
Wednesday evenings, one Saturday
- Live Oak - Central Fire - Oct 3- 27  
Both classroom and practical work  
Tuesday evenings, one Saturday

For more CERT team information visit: [www.SantaCruzCountyCERT.org](http://www.SantaCruzCountyCERT.org)

## Welcome New Members!

Ben and Jeanette Gibson  
Marcia Healy  
Gregory Peinado  
Jesse and Bonnie Spain  
David and Eileen Vosti  
John and Nancy Weitzel

We thank all 348 member households and friends for your continued support

## Seacliff Improvement Association 2018 Officers and Board of Directors

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| President:      | Rebecca Downing |
| Vice President: | Coni Hendry     |
| Secretary:      | Gregory Peinado |
| Treasurer:      | Emily Chorba    |
| Director:       | Dennis Doo      |
| Director:       | Kelly Dillon    |
| Director:       | Diana Hayden    |
| Director:       | Brent Lay       |
| Director        | Will Roblin     |

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.

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)



**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/>