

Seacliff

Winter 2023

Improvement

Association

Announcing our First Quarter

Membership Zoom Gathering, Tuesday, March 14th, 2023, at 6:30 pm

The rail trail is heading our way sooner than we anticipated! For the latest overview, we invited the trail planners to zoom in to answer questions from our community about its design, location, features, and construction timeline details.

Our guests are Segment 11 Planner, Rob Tidmore, from the Santa Cruz County Parks Department and

Segment 12 Planner, Sarah Christensen, from the Regional Transportation Commission

RSVP for Zoom details by March 12th at :

info@seacliffimprovement.org



Monterey Bay Scenic Sanctuary Trail through Seacliff



Afterward, we will ask our members to vote to change our association bylaws to increase our one-item board spending limit from \$1,500 to \$2,500. The cost of everything has increased since our current spending limit was approved in 2015 so, please RSVP, attend and vote.

As a community service, the Seacliff Improvement Association sends this newsletter to over 1,000 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
- Improving our Seacliff neighborhood, increasing 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 and *thank you!**



Santa Cruz County Strategic Plan

Zach Friend
Second District Supervisor
County of Santa Cruz

There is no question that the Santa Cruz County of today is different than it was 30 years ago, and we know that some elements will change 30 years from now as well. How do we invest in the current and future needs of the county? Where can the County improve our methods? Where should we focus our efforts?

A few years ago, after significant community input on priorities and goals, the Board of Supervisors adopted a countywide strategic plan to provide a framework to answer these questions. The Board emphasized the importance of having an actionable and measurable document - one that is reviewed, flexible and updateable. One key to this effort is County created measurable objectives with complete transparency about the progress of each objective. All of this information can be found online, and, if you haven't had the opportunity to explore it, there is a wealth of information about our plan at:

<https://www.santacruzcounty.us/VisionSantaCruz.aspx>



Some useful information from the performance metrics section includes:

- A Transparency Portal from the Sheriff's Office that displays crime rate, calls-for-service, use-of-force data and other safety measures.
- A Permit Center Portal from County Planning showing the median building permit review time, the number of permits issued this last year, the number of staff currently assigned to reviewing applications and information about disaster rebuilding.
- Data on the Road to Zero Waste that outlines the amount of local waste is diverted by recycling, yard waste, reuse or ends up in the landfill - with information on the status of the landfill.
- A Budget Transparency Portal that lets you easily view any element of the budget with specific department level budgets to see where the County spends its funds.

The County's Operational Plan shows how we are performing on specific objectives including affordable housing, road repairs, storm damage repairs, natural resources, and conservation and more showing near real time progress achieving those goals. This ensures transparency in our actions and helps inform policy decisions should funds need to be allocated differently in an upcoming budget to improve outcomes in specific sectors. It is an easy to navigate site and, if you have an interest in County operations, or simply want to know where your money is spent, taking a few minutes to review the detailed information here gives you a thorough picture of our county at work.

Working with the community to identify our community's direction, this strategic plan prioritizes the use of limited resources, sets expectations and measurable objectives, helps address environmental uncertainty and change, and provides an objective basis for programmatic and policy evaluation that previously did not fully exist and now provides the community with something tangible to review programs and policies. The County Board of Supervisors created a two-year budget combined with a two-year operational plan to carry out the County's strategic plan goals. This budget and operational plan provides funding alignment to meet specific community objectives.

I appreciate any feedback or questions you may have about the strategic plan 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.

Sign Up for CERT Training this March

Mary Edmund



Santa Cruz County is affectionally known as the Disneyland of Disasters with a National Risk Index for Natural Hazards higher than 95% of all counties in the United States. Recent torrential rains and subsequent flooding and landslides, extreme tides, the CZU fire, and the potential for large earthquakes demonstrate this.

Fortunately, our Seacliff neighborhood has a Community Emergency Response Team Program or CERT. We invite residents to consider enrolling in the Basic Training Course to prepare themselves and their families for disasters affecting our community and to join the Seacliff CERT Team.

The first role in a disaster is individual preparedness. Knowing what to do and what to have to shelter in place or evacuate makes a dramatic difference in your state of mind and your ability to recover. The second role is what the neighborhood and community are facing. Knowing basic medical care, search and rescue, disaster psychology, fire and utility safety, and communications methods establish confidence, direction, and purpose, as well as friendships and connections.

Interested in becoming a volunteer? Visit: <https://santacruzcountycert.org/>. On the frequently asked questions page you can learn more about the local organization, details about the training and CERT certification, and how to sign-up for the course.



The next CERT training is in Live Oak on the following weekend days:

- Saturday, March 18, 9:00 am - 4:45 pm
- Saturday March 25, 9:00 am - 4:45 pm
- Sunday, April 2, 9:0 am - 3:30 pm

The classes are a mixture of lectures and hands-on practice providing participants with comprehensive training. Sign up for CERT and help our community be prepared for the next potential disaster.

Seacliff State Beach Storm Damage Report

Rebecca Downing

By the time this newsletter reaches you, our beloved pier may be gone. We learned last month that the storm destruction was too extensive to save the rest of the structure and engineers determined that it is “in a state of imminent collapse” so plans were made to deconstruct it safely and as soon as possible.



Seacliff Beach pier party and beach clean up

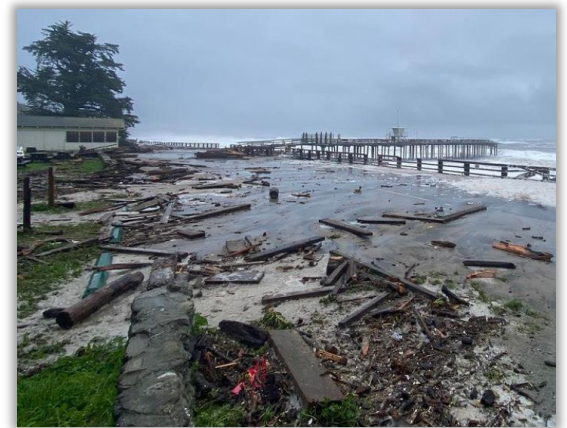
State Parks held a pier “going away” beach clean-up event on February 18th that was attended by more than 400 volunteers who shared fond pier memories with each other as they said goodbyes to one of our community’s icons. Our other local icon, the SS Palo Alto cement ship, still provides habitat for birds and sea life as it slowly continues its own journey to the seabed.



President Biden with his favorite flavor from Marianne’s!

Locals also swarmed to downtown Seacliff to wave at President Biden who visited Capitola Village then Seacliff State Beach on January 19th and offered federal FEMA disaster support for storm clean up and rebuilding. Although we wish it didn’t require a natural disaster for him to come to Seacliff, we were heartened by his words of concern and encouragement, and happy that he, like other visitors to Seacliff, was able to enjoy a scoop of Marianne’s ice cream too.

The storms also destroyed nearly all of the seawall and foundation, and the accompanying underground infrastructure for the campground. Continuing landslides on the inland side of the campground along with hazardous debris, have created safety issues and remains closed except to Las Olas residents. The total loss of facilities will require a public process to determine what amenities are possible and the campground will be closed through the remainder of 2023.



Seacliff State Beach sustained severe damage requiring a park wide design review.

State Parks has reopened a portion of the beach park and many local residents are eager to begin rebuilding and, once the storms abate, our community, along with scientists, and environmental stewards will all contribute to State Park’s rebuilding plan for resilience to sea-level rise and extreme event impacts. Both Beachgate and Moosehead trails will require improvements and our association will pursue repairs with State Park staff. Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks has established the Seacliff State Beach Recovery Fund to provide short-term support, followed by investments in long-term recovery work to ensure public access and environmental protection at Seacliff State Beach. Please consider a donation today!

<https://thatsmypark.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/thatsmypark/donation.jsp?campaign=158>

Seacliff Trails Not Happy This Winter

Moosehead Trail

Dave Somerton

The Moosehead trail sustained significant damage from the recent storms, especially in the center, flat section, of the trail. In the previous year, most of us tried to give others space to pass in the narrow center section of the trail by stepping off down-slope. This started erosion of the outer edge of the trail which was exacerbated by the rain. As you can see from the pictures, the erosion further narrowed the trail and undercut the new staircase. Our approach to solving this issue is to first wait until the rainy season has ended, then engage the State Parks personnel to develop a repair strategy.



Moosehead Trail after the storms.

Beachgate Trail

Dianne Pareira

State Parks wisely closed the Beachgate Trail and the RV camping area in late December as a safety measure for the upcoming storm forecasts. Little did we know the cyclone bombs of 2023 would create such devastation.

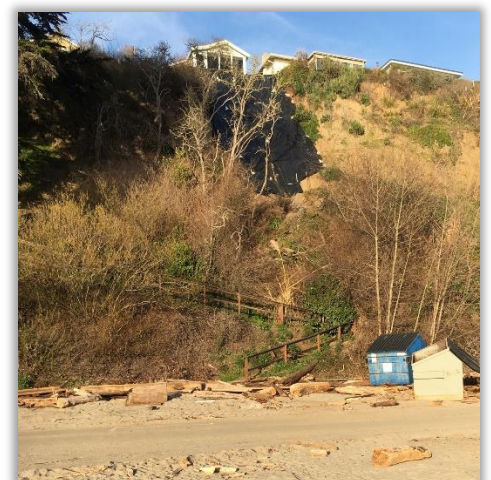
A landslide with trees and vegetation from the cliff above landed on the lower part of the trail at year's end. In January, a mudslide adjacent to the trail and stair landing, took a cypress tree and all the surrounding vegetation completely across the road and campground parking lot. The tree is still impaled on a pier of the retaining wall. On February 21st, an arborist looked at several trees now leaning along and on the trail, below new slides where slopes are saturated and dangerous.

The Beachgate Trail has been our family's neighbor for 24 years, requiring previous slide repairs including the area below the top set of stairs in June 2011 and the installation of a completely new storm drain and trail remodel from a January 2017 slide and sink hole that closed the trail for several months.



Slide with tree damage along the Middle Beachgate Trail.

The cliff is still sliding, and trees are still falling. The end of our storm season may mean the rain has abated but the cliffs will continue to slough off onto the trail and campground. State Parks has blocked off the trail and campground and these will remain closed for the foreseeable future. For your own safety, enjoy the area from the beach.



Lower Beachgate Trail buried in slide debris.

Keep this handy reference list for neighborhood issues

Have a Concern?	Contact	Contact Information
Noise	Santa Cruz County Sheriff	24 hour non-emergency: 471-1121
Abandoned Vehicle Please provide:		https://www.scsheriff.com/Home/SelfHelp/AbandonedVehicles.aspx
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location and Color • Make and model • License plate number and length of abandonment 	Santa Cruz County Sheriff	(831) 454-7602
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car Blocking the street • Parking in a no-parking zone • Non-injury accidents 	California Highway Patrol	796-2160 or visit: https://www.chp.ca.gov/notify-chp
Animal Control/Barking	Santa Cruz Animal Shelter	https://www.scanimalshelter.org/filing-a-complaint/
Code Compliance	Santa Cruz County Planning Department	http://www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/CodeCompliance.aspx



To report the above and other neighborhood concerns, including: potholes, bicycle and pedestrian hazards, encampments, or illegal dumping use the My County App: <https://sccappstore.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/>



Seacliff Community Contacts

Santa Cruz County Representative	2nd District Supervisor, Zach Friend	454-2200
Central Fire District	Jason Nee Fire Chief	479-6842
The Aptos Village Safety Center	Sergeant Kyle Matson	662-0690
Seacliff State Beach	Park Office	685-6442 or 685-6500

Seacliff Improvement Association 2022
Treasurer's Report

Ending Balance from Dec 2021	\$32,536.57
INCOME:	
Membership Dues	\$6,436.49
General Donations	\$4,085.06
Cantine Meeting	\$1,320.00
Beachgate Trail Donations	\$30.00
Wells Fargo Account Interest	\$0.63
Street Fair Booths and Sales	\$493.98
TOTAL INCOME:	\$12,366.16
EXPENSES:	
Beautification Gift Certificates	\$200.00
Cantine Meeting	\$2,811.05
Gardening	\$1,017.88
Insurance	\$642.00
Live Like Coco Foundation	\$1,000.00
Membership Meetings Expenses	\$271.36
Membership Supplies and Mailing	\$47.40
Mini Park Paths	\$7,500.00
Newsletter	\$3,716.26
Nonprofit registration fees	\$20.00
Rock for the Gibbs	\$200.00
Post Box Annual Rental	\$182.00
Website	\$752.76
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$18,360.71
ENDING CASH BALANCE:	\$26,542.02
Beachgate Trail Fund:	\$5,615.62

Welcome New Members!

Amy and Brian Berliner
Ryan Smith
Margie and Rick Versen
Joanne Reith
Robert and Nancy Ley

**We thank all 354
member households and
friends for your continued support.**

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

Seacliff Improvement Association
2023 Officers and Board of Directors

President:	Emily Chorba
Vice President:	Dave Somerton
Secretary:	Open
Treasurer:	Rebecca Downing
Director:	Kelly Dillon
Director:	Adele Eberhart
Director:	Brent Lay

Our association works persistently to make our Seacliff neighborhood such a special place!

Volunteers, including our board of directors, do this because we really love our village, so the more of us who participate, the better and easier it is for all of us to create a wonderful community for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Currently, we have a vacant position on our board: the secretary. The secretary plays a vital role taking minutes at meetings, keeping track of important documents and correspondence, and helping our association run smoothly. If you are looking to become more involved in the community, are organized and detail oriented, we need you!

If you're interested, please write to: info@seacliffimprovement.org and let us know. We are happy to provide more information about the position and answer any questions you may have. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve your neighborhood community.

Seacliff Improvement Association

PO Box 533

Aptos, CA 95001-0533

RSVP to our Rail Trail Zoom Meeting, March 14, 2023. Details on the front page!

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: \$ _____

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

