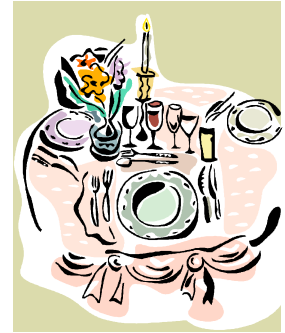


Seacliff Improvement Association

Autumn 2006

The Seacliff Improvement Association
Cordially invites you to
The Annual Membership Dinner & Awards
October 28, 2006, 6:00 p.m.
at Seascope Golf Course, 610 Clubhouse Drive, Aptos



Cocktails (No Host Bar)
Appetizers
Awards Ceremony
Door Prizes

\$25.00 per Dinner - Tri tip, Chicken, or Pasta (Includes salad, potato, vegetables, dessert, coffee, or tea)

Guitar Music by Ken Constable

Please make reservations by October 14, 2006 using the form on page 5
Carpooling happily provided by calling: 685-3406

President's Letter

By Terry Winston

The Seacliff Improvement Association Annual Membership Dinner is coming this October 28, 2006! Make your reservation soon! The dinner will be held at the Seascope Golf Course. Starting at 6:00 p.m. there will be appetizers, followed by comments from Kirk Lingenfelter, Section Superintendent of California State Parks and the Awards Ceremony. Ken Constable will entertain us during dinner with classical and jazz guitar music. To finish we'll have dessert and raffle ticket prizes!

A recent State Superior Court ruling mandates that Santa Cruz County rezone 22 acres as affordable housing. The Par 3 property is on the list to be rezoned for affordable housing. County Supervisor, Ellen Pirie, will recommend to the Board of Supervisors in an upcoming meeting that this property remain zoned recreational. A bond measure would probably need to be passed in order to pay for land and develop a park. If you would like to be informed about the upcoming

Board of Supervisor's meeting where this issue will be addressed, call Ellen's office at 454-2200 or e-mail her at BDS020@co.santa-cruz.ca.us.

Rebecca Downing and Johanna Lighthill are the new co-chairs of the Mini Park and we welcome their competent leadership in this position. They recently lead the project to re-gravel the paths at the Mini Park, which now has an improved appearance and will help suppress weeds. No more muddy puddles!

One of our goals for 2007 will be to investigate the costs for placing the unsightly above ground utilities in our neighborhood underground. We have started a new committee for this endeavor and are looking for a few more committee members. If this project interests you please give me a call at 685-3406 or e-mail me at terrylyn57@hotmail.com.

Please be sure to renew your membership if your expiration date shows 2006. You may use the form printed inside the newsletter.

Let me be the first to wish you all a terrific holiday season!

Mar Vista Gardening Angels

By Rebecca Downing

The association board of directors recently approved \$300 to be given to the Seacliff residents who created and maintain the beautiful garden along the railroad line at the Mar Vista crossing.

It is lovingly maintained by Seacliff residents Mary Chickis, Margaret Kotsi and Elena Longsworth. Jim and Flavia McPhail cheerfully supply the water. Over the years Hidden Gardens has donated plants and the beautiful Cedar Tree in the center of the garden.



Gathered in the Mar Vista Garden to receive the donation are (left to right) Mary Chickis, Elena Longsworth, SIA President Terry Winston, SIA Vice President Ramona Daniels, Margaret Kotsi, SIA Board Member Bill Eaton and Lucky the Dog.

Welcome Dianne!

The Board of Directors welcomes its newest member, Dianne Pereira, elected by the Board to complete Rebecca Downing's term. Rebecca recently resigned due to other obligations. Dianne is an 8-year resident of Seacliff, working as a realtor for Bailey Properties. She and her husband, Stephen, beautifully maintain the Beachgate trail access to Seacliff Beach. They are both interested in keeping the neighborhood graffiti and crime free. Dianne will also work in the new position of Events Coordinator for Seacliff Improvement Association and plan a couple of fun events for us to attend in 2007. You may have met Dianne on her early morning walks with Labrador Retrievers, Annabelle and Boots.

SNAP (Seacliff Needs A Park) Update

By Rick Stoker

The County of Santa Cruz is close to finalizing the purchase of 1.25 acres for Seacliff Park.



The parcel is at the corner of Sea Ridge Road and McGregor Road where it will have an ocean view. Supervisor Pirie and 1st District Supervisor Beautz used Prop 40 funds to purchase the land. We extend a big "thank you" to both Supervisors!

I, along with Niki Derby and Rebecca Downing, met with Supervisor Pirie and the Parks Director Barry Samuel in August. We were told, as of now, the County does not have enough money to create a park. After the purchase, there may be a bit over \$100,000 left. Unfortunately, the County will need a \$1 million or more to provide a full recreational park. As you can see, they are well short.

Director Samuel showed us design ideas that would fit this parcel. This was helpful when we discussed the money required to build Seacliff Park. As you can imagine, we were surprised at the cost. The Director stressed that you, the community, will ultimately decide what the park design will be through a process of public workshops scheduled for next year. The Parks Director is going to provide SNAP with a park facilities cost breakdown. At the community meetings, this will help all of us to decide what basic amenities we need in the initial phase and what can be planned for future phases. Supervisor Pirie promised to look for alternative funding sources.

Yes, progress is slow, but we are grateful that the children will some day have Seacliff Park where they can run and play, seniors can walk and visit, and all of us enjoy. We encourage you to contact Ellen Pirie to thank her for her effort in acquiring this parcel and to continue in her effort to find the necessary funding.

Upper Bluff Restoration Beginning this Fall/Winter With Test Plot

By Terry Winston

Seacliff State Beach Upper Bluff restoration to native grasses, perennials, and wildflowers will begin with the start of the rainy season. This project has just been given a tremendous boost with the grant award of \$3,000 from the Monterey Bay Aquarium 2006 Conservation Action Fund. This grant was applied for in April 2006 and the award came as a happy surprise. Thanks to the Monterey Bay Aquarium for their generous grant which will help guarantee the success of this project.

Thanks for this award should also be given to those who started the plan by hiring Joshua Fodor of Central Coast Wilds. Two years ago, past presidents Glenn Larson and Harry Vaughn helped get the ball rolling with the encouragement and support of the members of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce Community Enhancement Committee, who include Gary Smith, Dave Vincent, John and Karen Hibble and Ellen Pirie. The Upper Bluff Committee is now lead by Dave Boggini and Adele Eberhart. Other active committee members include Steve Gibbs, Mary Gibbs, Bill Eaton, Sally Boggini, Patti Camarillo, Ramona Daniels, and myself

The Upper Bluff area of Seacliff State Beach is approximately 3 – 5 acres. The plan is to restore this area, over a number of years, to native grasses, perennials, and wildflowers. Currently, 90% of this bluff area consists of invasive plants. The State Parks, lead by Kirk Lingenfelter and assisted by Sarah Godfrey (who managed a similar restoration project at the Wilder Ranch State Park), will help guide the Seacliff Improvement Association in the native plant choices and the placement of the test plot.

We'll begin this season with a one-fourth to one-half acre test plot located (as you face the ocean) at the far left corner closest to the ocean. As soon as the rainy season begins the plot will be plowed and hand weeded using the assistance of the California Conservation Corps and hand weeded again about a month later. In late December, the

wildflower seeds will be strewn, and in late January the new grass plugs and perennials will be planted. Be sure and stop by to check out the various stages of progress. If you'd like to help, please contact me at 685-3406 or e-mail me at terrylyn57@hotmail.com.

A Great Year at the Mini Park

By Rebecca Downing and Johanna Lighthill

One of our favorite places to enjoy sunsets and ocean views is the mini park that the association maintains on state park land along a one-block section of Seacliff Drive overlooking Seacliff State Beach. There are four benches where visitors often stop for a time to have a chat, meditate or play the guitar. Those of us who volunteer here always receive compliments about the garden and how lovely and appreciated it is.

We would like to thank everyone who has weeded, watered, pruned and poured gravel this year. First we thank Niki Derby

who has tended and loved this garden since she moved to Seacliff and is passing her gardening thumb to us. We also offer our gratitude to Casey Dawes, Ron Derby, Ramona Daniels, Steve and Mary Gibbs, Sharon

McGuire, Harry Vaughn, Larry Williams and Terry Winston. Many thanks go to all of you who pick up litter as you pass through, keeping it look fresh and ready for the next person. Look for some weekly assistance from State Parks regarding trash pick-up soon.



Mary and Steve Gibbs are always ready to weed!



Sharon Mc Guire smoothes the park pathways.

Summer Beautification Awards

by Niki Derby and Deb Murray

The beautification committee selected the second round of winners in August. By the time you get this newsletter, the summer color may be dwindling, but the photos show what these lovely homes looked like at their peak!



214 El Camino Del Mar

Kim Sprague and Cole Day, with children Dallas and Austin, moved in last summer. In the last year, they removed all the overgrown bushes and planted a blaze of color in their small front yard. In August, the dahlias were beautiful, plus a huge mix of other flowering plants added to the colorful display.



517 Cedar

Elena and John Longworth have lived in their home for eight years. Just a few doors down from the Mar Vista garden; not only does Elena maintain her own garden, but also helps maintain the community Mar Vista garden. Purple is Elena's favorite color, but she mixes it with many other colors for a cute, cottage garden. Their larger back garden is just as lovely as the front.



522 Cedar Street

Suzie Yeager and Candice Bradfield have lived in this home for 11 years; and have lived in 3 homes (on the same street) in Seacliff since 1990. They are both realtors. They have totally renovated their home (inside and out) and it is beautiful. As with most beach homes, the front yard is small, but the space is used to its best. It is decorated with stepping stones, a bird bath and a charming white picket fence. It is manicured meticulously. The backyard was a big surprise as it is quite large and wraps around their home. It is absolutely breathtaking!



517 Margaret

Lynn & Harry Rhodes have lived in Seacliff since 1998. Their home has been totally renovated (inside and out), and is simply beautiful. Appropriately so, Lynn is the Chief of Northern California State Parks! She began her career with the CA State Parks in 1976 as a maintenance worker at our very own Seacliff Beach. Harry is a Civilian Police Administrator, and is serving his second tour in Iraq. Their garden is a "water-wise" space filled with drought tolerant lavenders, rock roses and decomposed granite areas – a lovely design.

Please mail this Dinner Reservation form by October 14, 2006!

Make check payable and mail to:

Seacliff Improvement Association

P.O. Box 533, Aptos, CA 95001

Membership Renewal Form and Annual Dinner Reservation Form

Name(s): _____

Seacliff Address: _____

Mailing Address if different: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address

(for official business use only: _____)

Check here if you would like to receive your Newsletter via email.

SIA does not give out membership lists or phone numbers except to a fellow member for a valid membership purpose agreed upon by the SIA Board. However, we respect your privacy. Your decision, as checked below will be respected.

- Do not give out my address or phone # to any SIA member.*
- Consult me before giving out address or phone # to any SIA member.*

Membership Expires: December 31, 2006

(If your membership expiration date on your mailing label shows Comp, 2007, 2008, 2009, you do not owe any amount for membership.)

Annual Membership.....\$15.00

Additional Donation....._____

Annual Dinner \$25.00 per person. **Please check dinner choice and specify number of persons (guests are welcome) who will attend.**

Tri-tip...._____person(s) x \$25.00 = _____

Chicken.._____person(s) x \$25.00 = _____

Pasta....._____person(s) x \$25.00 = _____

Total payment = _____

Seacliff Community Bulletin Board

With this issue we introduce a new column for members of the Seacliff community to share upcoming or ongoing events. Please send your information to seacliffimprovement@yahoo.com for inclusion. Our next deadline for the Winter 2007 newsletter is January 10th.

Grey Bears is a Great Organization

By Tony Loiacono

If you are 55 or older you may want to join the Grey Bears. The Grey Bears is a grassroots, nonprofit organization of seniors over 55. One of its best-known programs is "Operation Brown Bag," where fresh and packaged food is donated to over 2,200 members a week. Grey Bears hosts regular Potlucks and publishes a bi-monthly newsletter. They have an Arts & Crafts group that specializes in hand-made, one-of-a kind gifts. This group meets twice a month. The newest activity is Computer Refurbishing. This group converts donated equipment into working units and provides seniors with technical support to use these computers. They also run two full service-recycling facilities where they accept donations of food, money, recycling, volunteer time, clean clothing, small household items, and any recyclables taken at curbside.

Welcome New Members!

Peggy Cockerill and Jeff Davis

Linda Contreras

Kevin Dunn

Ralph and Maureen Porras

Joe and Mary Ann Ramirez

Marile Robinson and Amy Love

Gerald and Mary Ann Rodriguez

Mark and Lana Stull

Michael and Jeanne Williams

Membership

If you have not yet joined this wonderful organization, we invite you to do so today. Help support your community while being informed

about happenings and issues in our neighborhood by receiving your copy of this informative newsletter published quarterly. Membership dues are only \$15.00 annually.

Electronic Newsletter Saves Trees and Association Resources!

If you would like to receive your Seacliff Improvement Association newsletter via emailed pdf file, send an email to seacliffimprovement@yahoo.com. We have saved on printing and postage costs thanks to those of you who requested yours be sent electronically.

Treasurer's Report for the Third Quarter of 2006

By Lou Wolfe

Opening Checking Account Balance \$4,896.83

INCOME:

Membership Dues 645.00

Interest earned 2.52

Donations 105.00

Annual Dinner Reservations 275.00

INCOME TOTAL \$1,027.52

TOTAL \$5,924.35

EXPENSES:

Newsletter printing 370.70

Beach Picnic 367.38

Non-profit bi-annual State Registration 20.00

Mar Vista Garden grant 300.00

Mailing & printing of annual dinner invitations, Board Nominations form & membership dues 220.63

Garden Supplies 75.60

Beautification Awards 100.00

Mini Park Sprinklers 350.00

EXPENSES TOTAL \$1,804.31

Closing Checking Account Balance \$4,120.04

Savings Account Balance \$13,144.71

NET TOTAL \$17,264.75

Meetings

Our next SIA Board meeting will be held at the Aptos Fire Station on November 8th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

You can meet with Supervisor Pirie most weeks on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at the Aptos Sheriff's Substation at the Rancho Del Mar Shopping Center, near the Safeway supermarket.

Seacliff Improvement Association Board of Directors Ballot

It's election time for four positions on our board of directors. Following is the section of our bylaws pertaining to elections and the ballot.

ARTICLE V DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. Authority of Directors. Subject to limitations by law, the Articles of Incorporation, or the By-Laws of the Association, association responsibilities shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Board of Directors consisting of nine directors. Directors' terms shall be two years. Five directors shall be elected on odd numbered years, and four on even numbered years.

SECTION 2. Limitations of Directors. Individual Directors are not empowered to take public stands on community issues proclaiming representation of the Association's Board of Directors unless prior concurrence has been agreed upon by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Before the expenditure of corporate funds or the incurring of any obligation in excess of \$1,000.00 in any single transaction shall be valid, such action of the Board must be approved by a majority vote at a general membership meeting.

SECTION 3. Qualifications of Directors. Only members in good standing shall be eligible to be elected as directors, and loss of good standing shall automatically declare the office of Director held by such person to be vacant. Candidates must have been a member of this Association for a minimum of one (1) year.

Clip the ballot below, vote for four nominees and mail by October 23rd. Thank You!

✂-----✂

Seacliff Improvement Association Board of Directors Ballot

- Steven Gibbs: Current Board Member of Seacliff Improvement Association, member of Seacliff Neighborhood Utilities Undergrounding Committee and Upper Bluff Restoration Committee. Co-Chair of this year's Flea Market. Active in maintaining the Mini Park and Upper Bluff perimeter. Lives in Seacliff with wife Mary and Yorkie "Burt."
- Katherine Minot: Is a 3rd generation Seacliff resident! She's a long-time Seacliff Improvement Association member who was most recently active in the effort to acquire the 1 1/4 acre County Park at the corner of MacGregor and Searidge. Kate has a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and works as a Santa Cruz County Parks Commissioner.
- Terry Winston: Current President and Board Member of Seacliff Improvement Association, chair of the Seacliff Neighborhood Utilities Undergrounding Committee, member of Upper Bluff Restoration Committee, Aptos Chamber of Commerce Community Enhancement Committee, and Santa Cruz County Transportation Funding Task Force. Lives in Seacliff with husband, Dan, and terrier, Ariel. Works as attorney in property and contract litigation.
- Lou Wolfe. Current Treasurer and Board Member of Seacliff Improvement Association. Lifetime volunteer and volunteer organizer for schools, churches and other organizations.

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