

Seacliff Improvement Association

Fall Newsletter 2010

County Pulls Request to Rezone Poor Clares

By Rebecca Downing

Last month the California Coastal Commission advised the county to withdraw its request to rezone four acres of the Poor Clares property to high-density residential. The Board of Supervisors voted to do so upon learning that the commission would not approve the rezoning at its upcoming meeting in October.

While this is an important victory for the Seacliff community, the zoning changes and development of Poor Clares is still being pursued. In a letter to the Board of Supervisors, newly appointed county planning director, Kathy Previsich stated "...Such a withdrawal would permit the County to consider changes to the Land Use Plan priority use requirements and would also allow for additional analysis of the types of uses that might be appropriate for the other parts of the Poor Clares site. A desirable outcome would be a Planned Use Development (PUD) or land use plan that would address the entirety of the site rather than just the 4 acres currently under consideration...the property owner (Dominican Hospital) also supports a more comprehensive look at both the applicable policies and a land use program for the entire site."

To accomplish the above, the Board directed staff to "return on December 14, 2010 with a proposed work program for re-filing an amendment to the County's Land Use Plan, as it relates to the existing designation applicable to the Poor Clares site, as well as for considering future land uses for the entirety of the site, as recommended by the Planning Director." Any work program must include the Seacliff Community and will change the Seacliff Village Plan. Our vigilance now is critical. Stay tuned...

Coming Soon: Vacation Home Survey!

Do you live next to a vacation home? Do you own a vacation rental? Is your property value negatively affected by nearby vacation homes? We want to hear from you. The county is currently crafting rules and regulations for vacation homes in the unincorporated areas, including Seacliff. The Association needs your input to let the county know what Seacliff wants for our vacation homes. To help accomplish this, we will send you an online member survey and the results will be sent to the Planning Department and County Board of Supervisors.

Although you may not be experiencing any problems with vacation homes, complaints in Seacliff this year include, blocked driveways and streets, illegal parking, noise, inappropriate supervision of children, littering and intimidation of local residents by vacationers. This behavior ends up being managed by neighbors of these homes and taxes local law enforcement. This is why we need your participation in the upcoming survey.

Until new ordinances are adopted, issues regarding problems with public streets may be directed to the 24-hour California Highway Patrol, non-emergency number: 796-2160. If you are experiencing problems with noise after 10 pm or other disturbances call the County Sheriff at: 471-1121 or 911 for an emergency.

Seacliff Summer Beauties

Niki Derby and Deb Murray

The second set of awards was given to the following well-deserved homeowners in August, 2010. We extend a big thank you to the Beautification Committee members for their thoughtful consideration in picking the eight winners for this award season: Coni Hendry, Esther Maxey, Jivan Dhaliwal, Karen Grellas, Margaret Kotsi, Mary Watson, Pamela Taylor, Pat Emard, Patty Norton, Rebecca Downing, Deb Murray, Sharon Vaughn, Stephanie Corey, Brent Marks, Sydney Broussard, and Teri Handzel.

The committee will start the process again in May 2011.



608 Middlefield: Jan and Bob Hewitt moved into their Seacliff home in December, 2008. Since then, they've been busy remodeling both the inside of their home and their lovely front courtyard. They are interested in architectural design and it shows! Drive by and see some great details such as their new driveway/walkway, the garage door and lots of interesting plants.



334 Park: Victoria and Carl Cull are quite new to Seacliff, having moved into their Park Drive home just eight months ago. After retiring as a school counselor and a CFO, they moved from Southern California to be near their adult children. Victoria has already planted more roses. They are thrilled to be back in the bay area and love Seacliff.



170 Seacliff Drive: April and Mathew Quilter purchased their home a number of years ago when it was a little, one-story, two-bedroom, one-bath bungalow. With their two young children, they decided a little more room was necessary, and now it is a lovely three-bedroom, three bath, reverse floor plan home directly across the street from the Mini Park. April and Mathew enlisted the help of a Santa Cruz garden designer, Bill Pollock, who managed to pack in lots of succulents and a whole lot of color.



512 Cedar: A recently retired teacher, Janice Diciuccio, is approaching her ten-year anniversary as a resident of Seacliff. She describes her style of home as "Ranch" ---- given a modern touch with sage green paint and a purple front door. The decorative elements, plants, and flowers complement her home nicely, and look wonderful with her newly installed stainless steel fencing capped with rust & green toned slate. She carries on the theme with matching slate steps leading up to her entry way. Now that she is retired, she's looking forward to spending time planting and enjoying her loyal dog, Maxine. Janice attributes her yard (fence design, curtain drain, and sump pump) to her next door neighbor, Jeremy Nama, a professional landscaper and owner of Nature First.

Prepare for Disaster Now

Sign-up for CERT Training – January 2011

Mary Edmund

We have started the groundwork to form Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) but we need your help! Following a major disaster, people who provide fire and medical services may not be available. Factors as number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect. People will have to rely on one another for help. CERT is designed to help neighborhoods prepare for effective disaster/emergency response through training and pre-planning.



Greig Rose (center) trains Coni Hendry and John Horvath how to use the new walkie talkies.

The training covers basic skills that are important to know when emergency services may not be immediately available. Program material covers earthquakes, fires, floods, hazardous incidents and other general life-threatening situations. Training lasts about 20 hours, divided over 6 evenings. The training increases your ability to safely help yourself, your family and neighbors.

Now here is where you may help. We need an additional 41 individuals to support our community by becoming CERT qualified. Following a Holiday break CERT training will resume in January. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Mary Edmund, phone: 475-2633 or email: medmund4@yahoo.com.

New Year to Bring New Neighbors and Park Improvements

Kate Minott

The presence of a new round of big earth moving vehicles on the empty lot at the corner of Searidge and Canterbury Roads is a good indication that South County Housing's building team is that much closer to breaking ground on its parcel. The South County Housing plan is to sub-divide the parcel into an approximate two-acre parcel for housing and 1.25-acres for our long-awaited county park.

According to Mr. Kempke, South County Housing's Project Manager, South County Housing has submitted a full Development Permit Application with the appropriate fees and construction drawings for its housing project. South County Housing has also completed all Planning Department approvals up to the Final Subdivision Map and anticipates approval of the final map from the Board of Supervisors in November.

South County Housing will be using the vacant park site as a staging area for materials and heavy equipment during construction. An easement for a utilities trench-line to the future housing project will be cut to run underneath the park. As a component of a good faith agreement with SC County Parks, it is expected South County Housing will contribute improvements to the bare park site: sidewalks, gutters and stubbing plumbing lines for the toilet. The County Parks Commission may request when South County Housing is grading its parcel, that South County Housing be kindly asked to also grade the park site.

The Soquel Creek Water District has an aggressive water savings program that requires developers to purchase Water Demand Offset (WDO) credits from the water district. The WDO credits for South County's project is \$82,080. The Santa Cruz County Redevelopment Agency has agreed to loan the funds to South County to pay for the WDO credits.

Mr. Kempke assures Seacliff neighbors he will do his best to keep us updated on the progress of the housing project. Mr. Kempke also encourages Seacliff residents with further questions to contact him at (831) 334-7417.

Welcome New Members!

Angela and Chris Allaman
Cheryl and Robert Bartee
Sylvia Ferronyalka
and Tim Genske

*We thank all 303 members
for your continued support!*

Putting the FUN in Fundraising

Deb Murray

Although our annual flea market has been very profitable over the years, it's also a lot of work, so we plan to replace it with something profitable AND fun. SIA is currently looking into fundraiser ideas for a new annual event for the community of Seacliff. We will be starting the SIA Fundraiser Committee in January 2011. Please ask your family, friends and colleagues what works for them in their communities. The more ideas we get the more chance we have of success. If you have any ideas to share or would like to be involved as a committee member, please contact Deb Murray (dmurray@surfnetusa.com). Thank you!

Beauty on Both Sides of the Fence

Mary Gibbs

Now that the rains have returned, our two areas of native restoration on the bluff at Seacliff State Beach have seeded and are ready to grow. In the first plot the natives are thriving. In the second, which is the larger area on the other side of the path, the plants have a great start and will be mowed in early spring. The natives will then be identified with blue flags and weeding will follow.

The larger plants in both plots are easily identifiable. The Coyote shrubs are almost two feet high. The glossy green leaves of the Coyote plants will add to the beauty of the blooming Yarrow, Lupine, and Poppies come spring. Both plots should be very colorful and attractive when in bloom.



The initial plantings in Plot #1 are thriving after 5 years!

Outside the fence, the strip along Seacliff Drive is almost complete thanks to member donations of dollars and plants. Thanks to all of you who contributed to this project. The association is also working with State Parks to add gravel and grade the area just outside the fence where many walkers park their cars.

If you are out walking to the beach, swing by this area to see our work first hand. When blooming, the natives are very colorful, a visual reminder of what makes this project worthwhile. We are hoping for an improved turnout for the next weeding party. Your support is vital for the success of this challenging and ambitious project. If you have not been contacted to work the Bluff Project and would like to do so, please contact me at 831-662-3495. Volunteers are needed in order to ensure these projects remain successful and continue to improve the beauty of Seacliff.

Tasty Times at the Annual Dinner!

What's more fun than watching the Giants win the pennant? Celebrating it at the annual dinner at the Seascape Golf Course! Everyone enjoyed the game AND delicious buffet then heard speaker Brian Liddicoat regale us with tales of the logging rail lines of Nisene Marks.

Many thanks to the Local merchants and SIA members who were very generous with door prizes this year so almost everyone went home a winner, including the Giants!



Call for Volunteers... *That's You!*

Seacliff residents have amazing talents and skills that can help our community shine. Our recent survey showed the members value this group's work. It only happens with your help. If you want to make things happen here, you can do two things:

1- Join our board of directors 2- Volunteer

Send us an email to tell us how you can help this organization thrive. Thank you!

Contact us at: info@seacliffimprovement.org

Pipes and Plans at Seacliff State Beach

Auggie Ceballos, California State Parks

The current sewer line replacement comes with an upgrade for all the pipes leading to the main line in the day-use section of the beach. New pipes and valves are being installed for each spigot and bathroom to hook up with the new line. Bathrooms will be closed during this upgrade so plan ahead.

The sewer line installation project will return to the park from up the slope at the hairpin turn on the drive from the entrance kiosk. This work will begin once the traffic control plan is approved by State Parks and is expected to be complete before Memorial Day, weather permitting.

Because Proposition 21 did not pass, and State Parks has been working without a budget since July, only critical work will be conducted. The Ramada construction, however will not suffer as the crew upgrading the plumbing will turn their attention to completing the Ramada by spring.

Welcome New Board Members

The association welcomes two new board members in 2011, Stacy Patyk and Will Roblin.

Stacy Patyk was born and raised in San Jose and has lived in Seacliff for 13 years. She has been in High-Tech for 30 years and is a Business Operations Manager. Mother of an 8-year old daughter and a variety of pets, her interest in serving on the board relates to community safety as well as County involvement since Seacliff is an unincorporated area.

Will Roblin has lived in Seacliff since 1997 with his wife Cher and the two have spent a lot of that time remodeling their home. With a background in construction, first as a carpenter and then as a commercial project manager, Will's career and hobby is building and he and Cher are currently completing a second floor addition. He hopes to help the association with infrastructure issues and fundraising. Will is also a docent at Seacliff State Beach.

We still seek two more members for the board. If you are interested, please call Rebecca Downing at: 688-4142.

Community Contacts

Sheriff's Sub-Station Rancho Del Mar Center	Sergeant Robin Mitchell	662-0690
Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Desk	(need location, color, make, model & license plate)	454-3139
California Highway Patrol	24 Hour Non-emergency - for cars blocking the road	796-2160
Aptos/LaSelva Fire District	Fire Chief, Tom Crosser	685-6690
Santa Cruz County Offices 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, 95060	2nd District Supervisor, Ellen Pirie	454-2200
	Sector Superintendent, Pajaro Coast Sector - Kirk Lingenfelter	429-2881
California State Parks	Seacliff Supervising Ranger - Kevin Best (dogs off-leash, dead animals, etc.)	685-6442
	Seacliff Park Maintenance Supervisor - Jeffrey Long	475-0164
Aptos Chamber of Commerce	Executive Director, John Hibble Executive Director, Karen Hibble	688-1467

SEACLIFF IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2010

January 1, 2010 - September 30, 2010

BEGINNING CASH BALANCE (1/1/2010) \$6,621.21

INCOME:

Interest earned	1.00
Donations	453.28
Membership	3,085.00
Advertising	320.00
Flea Market	2,416.79
Other Income	20.00
TOTAL INCOME	6,296.07

EXPENSES:

Web Host and Domain	107.40
Newsletter Printing	484.44
Newsletter Publishing	200.00
Postage	262.00
Upper Bluff Maintenance	77.18
Mini-Park Maintenance	153.58
Park Strip Maintenance	250.00
Flea Market Expenses	699.59
Insurance Expense	1,232.50
Annual Dinner Net Exp	-369.40
Legal Exp	1,000.00
Other Expenses	512.64
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,609.93

ENDING CASH BALANCE 8,307.35

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Questions? Comments?
Write to us at:
info@seacliffimprovement.org

Seacliff Improvement Association
PO Box 533
Aptos, CA 95001-0533

Seacliff Improvement Association



Membership Application/Renewal

Annual Dues are \$20.00 beginning 2011 (January—December)

Name(s): _____

Seacliff Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

Telephone Number: (_____) _____

E-mail Address (for SIA alerts & notification): _____

Please send my Quarterly Newsletter by E-mail: (check here)

The SIA does not give out membership lists or phone numbers except to a fellow member for valid membership purposes. If this policy does not provide sufficient privacy, please check either of the two choices following:

Consult me before giving out my address or phone number to any SIA member

Do not give out my address or phone number to any SIA member

Please sign me up to volunteer for:

Annual Fundraiser

Community Emergency Response Team

Maintaining Gardens

Seacliff Beach Upper Bluff Restoration

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