

Seacliff Improvement Association

Fall Newsletter 2011



Remember the Seacliff Village Plan?

Will Roblin

This fall, the Seacliff Village Plan Committee (SVPC) was formed to review the now-eight-year-old Village Plan and to identify areas of common interest and concern. At the first meetings, we analyzed the opening chapters of the Village Plan and the committee identified a shortage of parking as the biggest challenge to development in the village core. Various concepts for addressing this situation are now being explored.

For a ground level review, the group met on a recent Saturday morning in the village to survey the current conditions. Street, sidewalk, curb, gutter and lighting conditions were noted as needing restoration or upgrade. Also suggested to bring shoppers downtown was the idea of a farmer's market type fair to take place on the week-ends in the summer on the south side of Santa Cruz Ave.

The committee is encouraged by the participation of some local merchants and looks forward to further input from association members and the business community. Please contact Will Roblin, committee chair, at roblinbuildingco@comcast.net with your questions or comments.

Repair Finally In Sight

Rebecca Downing

Almost twelve months after a winter deluge knocked out the storm drain tube under the bridge at the mini park, the county department of Public Works has finally scheduled a repair.

If you are a beach walker you may have seen the side of the cliff eroding over the past year as State Parks and the county determined who was responsible for the repair. The storm drain is located on a county road but drains onto Seacliff State Beach.

Budget cuts and extensive county storm damage have also delayed the work which now requires engineering. Concern about the safety of the bridge at the top of the cliff was expressed by the association to Supervisor Ellen Pirie who worked to prioritize the repair.



*Storm Drain Damage in February 2010
The cliff is still relatively intact with the tube resting on top of the slide.*



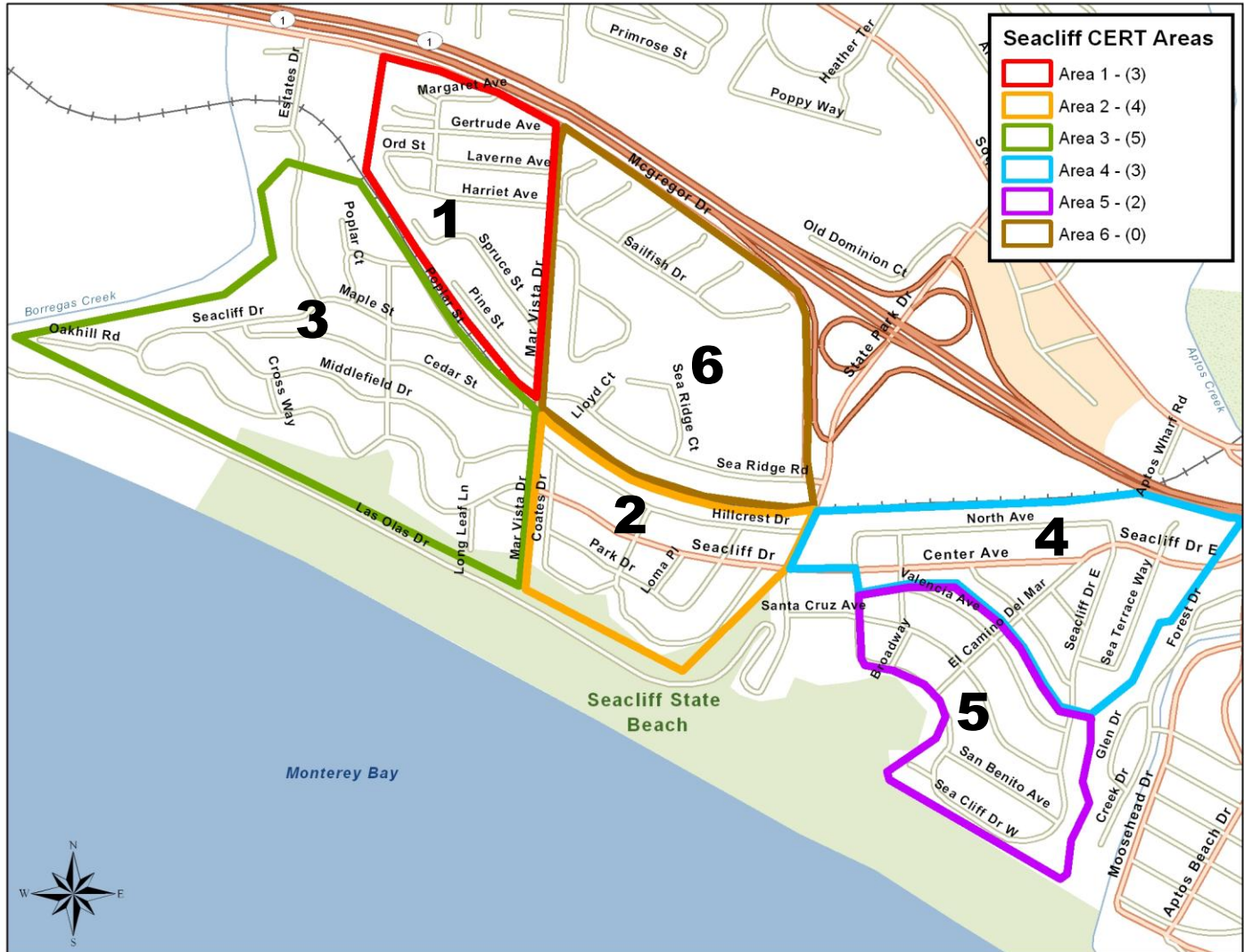
*Storm Drain Damage in November 2011
The tube is now buried under eroded cliff face that has been scoured out from 2011 rains.*

Is Your Street Ready for Disaster?

Mary Edmund

Seacliff CERT is closer to its goal of providing emergency communication to the Seacliff area thanks to the Seacliff Improvement Association funding of 12 walkie talkies. Emergency information may now be communicated from the Fire Departments to Seacliff through our ham radio operator resident, Greig Rose, and the squad members maintaining the walkie talkies. This is an important link because often telephone and cell phone operations are unavailable in emergency situations.

Based on the map below Seacliff is divided into 6 squads. For full coverage in an emergency there needs to be 6-8 people per squad.



How many CERT members are in your neighborhood? If your area has less than 6-8 CERT members, consider taking the training. You might never need it but having the CERT training means that you are ready to be a help to yourself, your family and your neighborhood in an emergency situation.

You may sign up for the CERT training by emailing me at: medmund4@gmail.com Class schedules in the Santa Cruz area will be emailed to you for your possible attendance. CERT Training is held at fire stations and runs for 6 weeks during one midweek evening for 2-3 hours.

A Bridge to Aptos

Will Roblin



The Seacliff Improvement Association joined half a dozen other stakeholders from around the county to encourage Supervisor Pirie's ongoing support of a proposed Mar Vista Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge. Currently attached to the Highway 1 widening project, the bridge could be detached and fast-tracked, given sufficient community support.

While many walkers and cyclists from the west end of Seacliff would love to be connected to Soquel Drive and Aptos via such a bridge, shifting it to a separate project requires a separate environmental impact report conceivably extending the timeline for separation from the highway project to 2015.

The Santa Cruz Rail Trail Commission also has this bridge on its radar. Cory Caletti and three staffers with SCRTC interviewed me and a representative from the Rio Del Mar Improvement Association in September meeting about community knowledge of particular local issues. Security, maintenance and access were hot topics as the RTC contemplates possible rail trail routes, envisioned to bring a continuous pedestrian/cycle connection around Monterey Bay from the San Mateo County line to Pacific Grove. Please contact Yasmiene Mabrouk at the Regional Transportation Commission for more information at: yasmeinemabrouk@gmail.com.

Board of Supervisors Protects Poor Clares

Rebecca Downing

For those who supported the effort to retain the zoning of the Poor Clares site, current home of The Coastlands Church, there was good news at the November 15th county Board of Supervisor's meeting. All five supervisors voted down a Planning Department proposed change in the language of the general plan that would have relaxed the protections currently in place that restrict use for visitor accommodation. The unanimous vote by the supervisors was a complete reversal of their earlier position to ignore the priority of use designation and rezone four acres of the thirteen acres site for high density housing. The rezoning happened because, according to Supervisor John Leopold, the "state had a gun to our head" in 2009, forcing the county to rezone the land to meet state housing requirements.

The rejected proposal grew out of a direction from the Board of Supervisors last year for planning staff to carry out an assessment of the General Plan to address Priority Land Use policy language with the idea of a possible General Plan and Local Coastal Program Amendment to relax the protections for all land in the Coastal zone. The 2009 rezoning of Poor Clares was rejected by the Coastal Commission who directed the county to amend the General Plan before rezoning the site. The county also recently settled a legal challenge in 2009 by Save Our Seacliff, a group of local residents that was also supported by this association.

The Coastal Commission also recommended that a development be created for the entire site. This is consistent with the Seacliff Village Plan that was approved by the commission in 2003. The site has now been included in a state-funded Soquel Drive Corridor Study whose goals are to identify land for businesses and housing along Soquel Drive between Dominican Hospital and Freedom Boulevard. Any development plans for the site that come from this long-term study will need to be reconciled with the Seacliff Village Plan.

Welcome New Members!

Joe and Susie Kusler

David Strobel

*We thank all 307 members
for your continued support!*

Thank You Neighbors!

Mary Gibbs

A big THANK YOU for all the plant donations received for the Seacliff garden along the Seacliff State Beach fence. I would especially like to thank the following for their contributions: Keith and Laverne Kersey; John and Susan Baird, Niki Derby, Phyllis Stollenwerk, Lois Voss, Adele and Glenn Eberhart, Bill Eaton, Dave and Sally Boggini, and Max and Patti Camarillo.



We are also fortunate that Sydney Broussard, who is only here a few weeks of the year, is caring for the ten feet of the strip garden located directly across from her home. The spot was landscaped by Hidden Gardens Nursery, then Sydney placed a wonderful bench there. This is a popular spot as people walk along Seacliff Drive. Some stop and sit, take pictures and some just enjoy the garden!



Crazy Fun Science Comes to Seacliff

Rebecca Downing

Two months ago, The Mad Molecule moved from its original location in Rancho Del Mar to its new home at 275 Center Avenue (former location of Seacliff Video). Owner Jane Tyler loves the new location and has set up a hands-on store layout with experiment tables with instructions for completing step-by-step actions designed to amaze and fascinate. At other tables there are open boxes of some of their most popular items so that kids (and grown-ups) can find out how to levitate balls just by mental concentration, discover the power of static electricity, build robots and roller coasters, understand the physics of a tornado, and complete dozens of other projects. "There is never any pressure to purchase," said Jane. "We want people to learn and discover. We want to fire up tomorrow's scientists!"



Every Saturday night, from 6-8 P.M. they have a science pizza party called "***Mad Saturday Night Science.***" with two hours of nonstop experiments and science lessons taught by Steve Heuer, a science teacher for the Sunnyvale school district who travels to four schools each week to provide direct instruction in classrooms. Steve has also been an instructor for The Bay Area Tech museum and runs science camps for the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department. He has scores of lessons and brings all materials and supplies so that the kids can complete experiments while staying engaged in the learning and enjoying pizza!

Members Celebrate at the Annual Dinner!

The annual Seacliff Improvement Association event held at the Seascape Golf Course was a big success. Our final membership meeting of the year featured Nanci Adams who shared her love and knowledge of local birds along with a beautiful presentation of photographs taken by local bird enthusiasts. Ken Constable provided our musical entertainment and is requested by members to play for us each year.



What Type of Trail Do You Want?

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) is planning the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network and seeks public input during community workshops beginning in December. The county-wide project merges plans for a bicycle/pedestrian trail along the rail line, often referred to as the “rail trail”, with coastal alignments and neighborhood spur trails. The resulting network will overlap and converge with existing paths to provide convenient route choices. The trail will serve transportation, recreation and interpretive uses for walkers, joggers, bicyclists, wheelchair users, locals and visitors, and will eventually form a ring around the bay to provide increased access to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. A highlight of the Scenic Trail Network is that it will provide more opportunities to get around Santa Cruz County without the use of a car and be away from automobile traffic.

During the workshops, members of the public will hear a presentation about the project and will be able to review detailed maps of preliminary alignments. Other topics may include which destinations and existing paths should the trail connect to, how the trail can be designed to benefit the greatest number of users, how will design and use coordinate with freight and passenger rail service, and how and when will the Scenic Trail Network be built and funded. The final work product will be a Master Plan, a draft of which will be released during the summer of 2012. In addition, an environmental review document will be prepared concurrently to guide the development of the Master Plan. More information, including project history and a brochure for the public workshops in English and Spanish, can be accessed on the RTC’s website: <http://scrtc.org/projects/multi-modal/monterey-bay-sanctuary-scenic-trail/>

All Community Workshops will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the following locations:

Tuesday, December 13th Pacific Elementary School, Davenport, 50 Ocean Street, Davenport, CA 95017

Wednesday, December 14th Simpkins Swim Center, Live Oak, 979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA

Thursday, December 15th Watsonville Civic Building Community Room 275 Main St. 4th Floor, Watsonville, CA, 95076

For information about the RTC’s projects and programs, please log on to www.scrtc.org or call 831-460-3200.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2011

January 1, 2011 thru Oct 31, 2011

BEGINNING CASH BALANCE (1/1/2011)	\$7,838.76
INCOME:	
Donations	935.00
Membership	3,705.20
Legal Fee Refunded(Pr Yr)	13,618.27
Other Income(Human Race net)	1,938.12
TOTAL INCOME	20,196.59
EXPENSES:	
Web Host and Domain	107.40
Newsletter Publishing	914.17
Postage	448.20
Upper Bluff Maintenance	13.86
Mini-Park Maintenance	2,725.22
Park Strip Maintenance	0.00
Insurance Expense	594.00
Annual Dinner (Net)	533.52
Legal Exp	1,000.00
Dog Parade (Net)	333.96
Other Expenses	1,178.27
TOTAL EXPENSES	7,848.60
ENDING CASH BALANCE	\$20,186.75

Save the Date for the Human Race

Deb Murray

The SIA will once again participate in the Human Race, to be held May 12, 2012. The money raised will be used by the association for our activities and expenses including improving the Seacliff gardens that we maintain, our beautification projects and land use issues.

Thanks to all of you for your generous pledges and to the SIA Human Race Team Members for your help in our first participation in the Human Racewe exceeded our goal! This is our biggest fundraiser event and we need your help. You can be a part of the race team or sponsor a team member. If you'd like to participate in 2012, please contact Deb Murray at: dmurray@cruzio.com

Welcome Debbie!



The association is glad to welcome Debbie Doss to the board of directors. Originally from Miami and South Beach, Debbie has lived in several states throughout the US as well as Central America and Canada.

She fell in love with Seacliff while developing a program for a local non-profit organization – something Debbie has done for numerous other organizations throughout her career and training as a sociologist.

Debbie has participated in and organized committees and coalitions and is excited to contribute to her neighborhood and the community that she has come to know and love.



Park Funding Update

Rebecca Downing



According to Supervisor Ellen Pirie, the County has \$800,000 to begin development work for the county park on McGregor Drive. The fully developed park was originally estimated to cost \$1.6 million, so there isn't yet enough for the all features that were drawn from the community meetings.

Supervisor Pirie is pursuing other fundraising but there is still a need for a private fundraising effort to complete the park. The association plans to enhance these efforts in 2012 so the vision the community created for the park is realized.

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 Village Plan Committee

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