

Seacliff Improvement Association

Fall 2015

Celebrate the Opening of Seacliff Village Park December 10th, 2015 From 1-3 pm!

Kate Minott, Santa Cruz County Parks & Recreation Commissioner, 2nd District

The Seacliff neighborhood and friends throughout the County are invited to join Santa Cruz County Supervisor Zach Friend and Jeff Gaffney, Director of Santa Cruz County's Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services on Thursday, December 10, 2015 - 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, for the ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebration of the official opening of Seacliff Village Park, located at the corner of Sea Ridge Road and McGregor Drive.

Seacliff neighbors are invited to reminisce about the history-making campaign that turned a 1.25-acre lot into a neighborhood park. Over a decade ago, Seacliff residents organized "Seacliff Needs a Park" aka "SNAP" as a grassroots campaign to prevent a commercial strip-mall from being built on the privately-owned property.



Following the disappointing loss of a bond measure that would have raised the money to buy the park property, Santa Cruz County Supervisor Ellen Pirie worked with Santa Cruz County Supervisor Jan Beautz on an inventive and complex financing strategy that enabled the County of Santa Cruz to acquire the "McGregor Park Site" in November 2007.

By Spring, 2008, public "envisioning" workshops were underway and the Master Plan for the new Santa Cruz County park took shape. Mindful of the cost to build the park, Sheryl Bailey, the County's Park Project Manager, worked with SSA Landscape Architects to create a two-part phased building plan.



Phase I includes a lighthouse themed play structure; a small plaza and a picnic area with ADA picnic tables; a drinking fountain; a nifty bike rack; multiple walkways crisscrossing throughout the park with benches to sit and admire the view of Monterey Bay. This phase also includes drought tolerant landscaping with educational signage and a safe, new sidewalk along McGregor Drive.

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Preparing Seacliff for a Wet Winter

Zach Friend
Second District Supervisor
County of Santa Cruz

With current projections calling for a strong El Nino winter I wanted to give an overview of what the County is doing to prepare and what you can do to winterize your home. As we know, Seacliff is prone to flooding and any type of strong rain event will inevitably bring some local challenges.

I worked with the County to create a resource page - www.santacruzcounty.us/elnino - that provides a wealth of information about what to do before, during and after a storm. It includes checklists for what to have on hand at your home, contact numbers and more. Public Works is requesting that you call them at 454-2160 if you know of any culverts that need inspection or repair, or brush clearing, in advance of the rains. Additionally, you can download the County's Citizen Connect mobile app for your phone to help report non-emergency road hazards.

If you believe that a tree has the potential to impact a power line, PG&E is offering to have their arborists inspect trees and perform maintenance if needed. You can call them at 1-800-743-5000. Residents can also sign up for mobile alerts regarding power outages directly from PG&E's website. If a road is impassible, trees or power lines are down or there is any other type of emergency, please call 911.

Local public works, fire and emergency services personnel are encouraging residents to winterize their homes and create supply kits for your car, homes and business should it be necessary. If strong rains and winds occur, it's possible that areas will be without power for multiple days or roads can become impassible. Therefore, one of the best things we can do to help out local emergency responders is to be as self-sufficient as possible so they can dedicate their resources to the most pressing needs.

At my home I created a disaster supply kit with:

- a flashlight
- a first aid kit
- canned food and can opener
- items for my infant (diapers/food)
- batteries
- water
- battery cell phone chargers
- battery powered radio

In addition, I cleared out the drains around my home including all of the rooftop drains. I inspected my roof to make sure everything appeared intact, sealed cracks in areas around windows and doors and installed a French drain system to divert water away from my home. Inside my home, I obtained new power surge protectors to protect my electronic items and checked and cleaned my heating system. Lastly, I've stocked up on bags of soil to use in place of sandbags. Soil can easily be reused around my home after the winter is over. Public Works is also asking that residents (if it's safe) rake and clean storm drains to help prevent flooding. This simple task can significantly improve drainage.

As always, I'd love to hear your thoughts. If you need any additional suggestions, please feel free to reach out to our office at 454-2200.

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Phase I of the park also includes the creation and installation of a public art component by local artist Kathleen Crocetti. Ms. Crocetti has cast 38-stained concrete pylons of varying heights, solidly anchored along the park pathways and topped with Seacliff-theme mosaics designed by kids, teens and parents.

The Seacliff Improvement Association, the Seacliff Village Plan Committee and Seacliff Needs A Park, Inc. have each been instrumental in the acquisition of the parkland and the Seacliff Village Park Master Plan process. As a result of these collective efforts, in collaboration with the SC County Parks Department and Supervisor Zach Friend's office, local residents, children and visitors to Seacliff will now be able to enjoy a safe, well-designed and maintained neighborhood park.

CERT Center Still Needs Preparedness Supplies

Mary Edmund



Being ready will help keep Seacliff safe after a strong El Nino storm, earthquake or other disaster. Having the supplies on hand for CERT team members to respond to a disaster is a big part of this readiness. We have received a generous donation of three sledgehammers and pliers for our supplies. Help Team Seacliff CERT disaster preparedness by donating needed emergency items to be kept in our new storage unit at the Blue Pacific Mobile Home Park. This park's community center is the site for the CERT Command Center. When you are looking around your home and see extra tools or supplies or the next time you stock up at the hardware store, add an extra item to your cart and contribute these helpful CERT items:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlights | <input type="checkbox"/> Pipe Wrench 14" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wrenches | <input type="checkbox"/> Claw Hammers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pliers 10" and 12" | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineer Hammers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic Sheeting or Tarps | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Extinguishers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duct Tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Lights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Storage Tubs | <input type="checkbox"/> D Rings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D Batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Crow Bars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utility Knives and Blades | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Round and Square Point Shovels | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crescent Wrenches 8" and 12" | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension Cords 50-100 feet | |



*We hope to acquire all needed supplies and tools.
You will receive a tax deduction, as well as knowing
you are supporting your community.*

Seacliff Village Undergrounding Project Finally Slated for Early 2016

Will Roblin and Rebecca Downing

For our November Board meeting, the association invited PG&E and AT&T, the two public utilities at the center of the village undergrounding project, along with the county, to update us on the latest developments. 2nd District Supervisor's Analyst Patrick Mulhearn, County Public Works Traffic Engineer Rodolfo Rivas and Kathy Pace, Rule 20A Specialist, Mayra Tostado, Corporate Relations Representative, and Joe Foster government-liaison representative from PG&E were in attendance. AT&T did not send a representative to the meeting, e-mailing an update to the county instead, just prior to the meeting. In that communication, AT&T's representative, Hal De Alvarez, stated that final design items will be complete by November 30th, with a bid deadline of December 15th and planned structural work to be completed by February, 2016. It was the general consensus from meeting attendees that this was a very ambitious schedule, considering the previous bid cycle that included three rounds to finally select a qualified bid, current weather forecasts and Murphy's Law. Because no representatives from AT&T were present, there was no opportunity to either learn how the deadlines were determined or ask about specific details regarding their lead role in the project.

PG&E Rule 20A Specialist Kathy Pace gave a detailed description of how Rule 20A programs work. The complexities of the multiple utilities and municipalities that may be part of a specific project and how long the entire process can last depends upon a multitude of factors including the size, scope and entities involved. The Seacliff project is particularly complicated because not only are there multiple utilities participating but the project area encompasses land controlled by the county, the state and the Regional Transportation District (RTC). Also, undergrounding could not begin until the Pot Belly Sewer line was installed. This added years to the project because the sewer line ran through both county and state park property, and required coordinated planning and documented agreements before its installation.

When work initially began on the Seacliff undergrounding in the Spring of 2014, it was discovered that the site details did not match the design. After the project paused for RTC approval to dig under the rail line (permission was initially granted by Union Pacific before selling the line to the RTC) the design was completely scrapped and redesigned to better match the site. Kathy Pace stated that this is not uncommon because historical records of road construction projects are not always available or do not match the actual work.

Retiring SIA Board member, Kathi Forman, with her background in civil engineering and government infrastructure projects, will take the lead in maintaining lines of communication with AT&T which controls the pace and timing of the undergrounding. Because of increased traffic from popular businesses now present in our downtown, the association and the county will reiterate the urgency to complete the undergrounding. Then the streetscape improvement project, already funded and ready to go and logistically contingent upon the undergrounding (now at least 20 years in the works) can be installed. SIA encourages members to share thoughts or suggestions on this topic via the association's e-mail: info@seacliffimprovement.org or post: P.O. Box 533 Aptos, CA 95001.



Feature-Rich Update of the Citizen Connect App Now Available

Have you used Citizen Connect yet? Much of the business we conduct with the county can now be done on our mobile devices. When you open the app you can see all the choices, including reporting concerns to the corresponding county department. No more sifting through the county website or telephone directory! Once you have the app loaded, take a little time to familiarize yourself with all it can do.



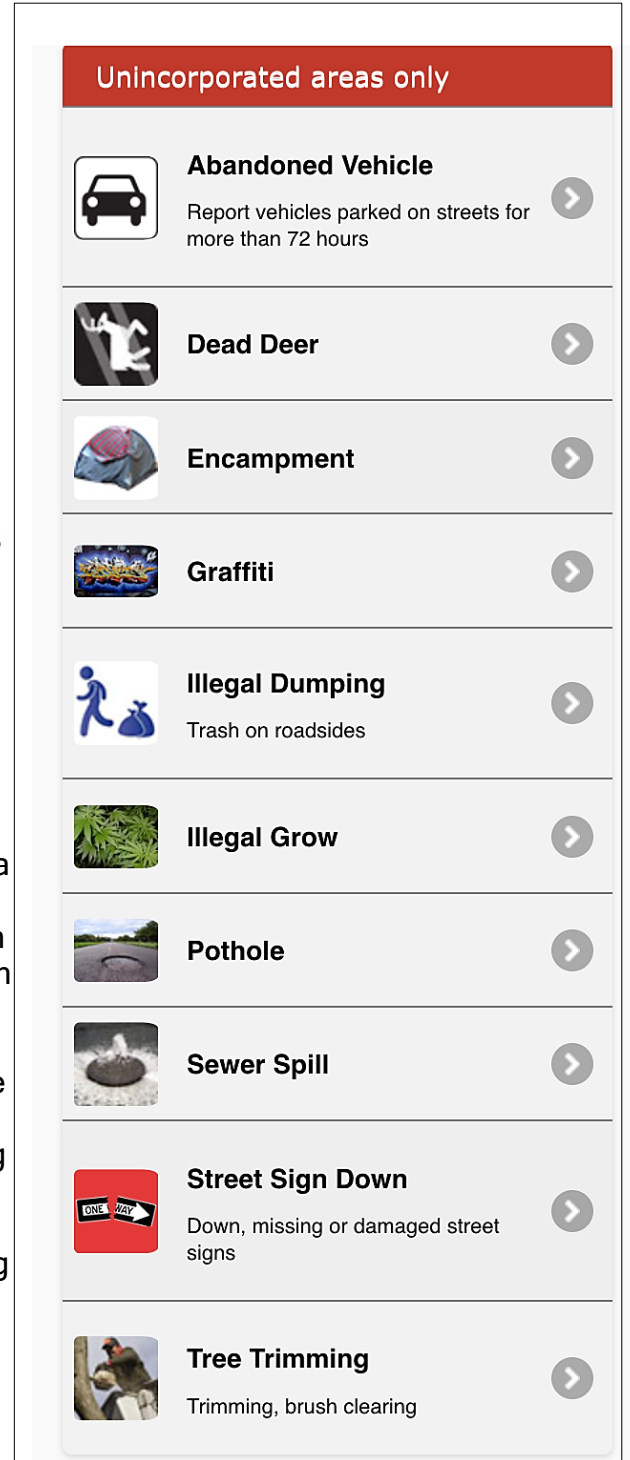
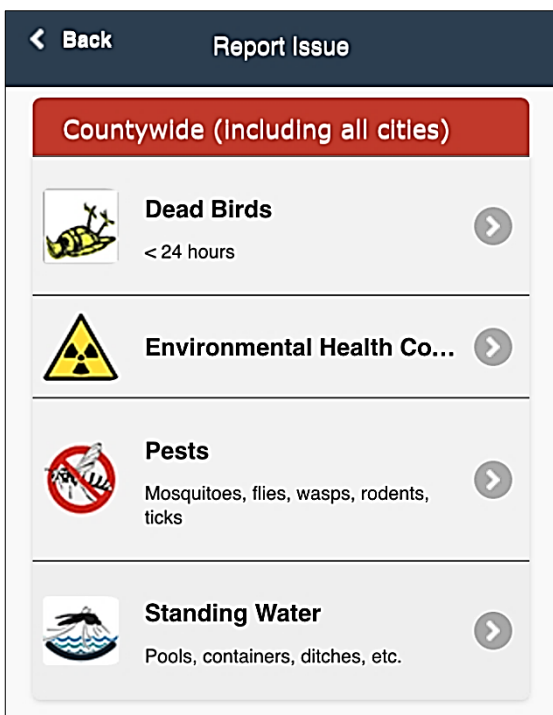
Using the app is super easy and confidential!

Just open the app and select the link you need.

If you report an issue, the app will e-mail you a confirmation and provides updates too. You can also view reported issues to see if it is already being addressed.

Uploading a photo with your report helps responders better view the situation. If you use your phone to snap a picture of the issue when you see it from your car or bike or on your walk, the location information from the picture's file will be communicated along with your report.

Response time using the app is quick with many issues resolving within a week!



To help the county keep Seacliff safe and beautiful visit: <https://sccapstore.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/>



SIA 2015 ANNUAL DINNER

A full house of members and guests attended our gala evening last month at the Seascapes Golf Course Clubhouse. Neighbors visited and appetizers were enjoyed to the live guitar music by Ken Constable. After the tasty buffet and scoops of Marianne's finest, Supervisor Zach Friend provided the latest news of our 2nd District improvements and plans. We were then regaled with stories of bears in our county from Lisa Robison of the San Lorenzo Valley Historical Museum. SIA president Will Roblin shared association news and acknowledgements of all who serve Seacliff.

Then it was door prize time...
See you next year!



Seacliff Improvement Association
Treasurer's Report October 2015

	YTD
Beginning Balance:	\$29,104.94
INCOME:	
Donations	\$1,530.20
Membership Dues	\$6,529.36
Fundraising: Human Race	\$777.42
Fundraising: Human Race Profit	\$1,771.82
Mural Donations	\$7,450.00
PayPal Reconciliation Jan-May 2015	\$33.24
Paid Dinner Reservation	\$1,625.00
Dinner Raffle Tickets	\$260.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$19,977.04
EXPENSES:	
Web Hosting and Administration	\$511.38
Newsletter Production	\$1,505.00
Newsletter Mailings	\$2,787.30
Membership Postage & Stationery	\$185.38
Aptos Chamber Membership	\$150.00
Liability Insurance	\$563.00
PayPal Reconciliation	\$72.48
Beautification Gift Certificates	\$200.00
Fourth of July Parade Registration	\$20.00
Board Member Gift	\$100.00
Quarterly Membership Meetings	\$427.31
Annual Dinner	\$2,859.17
Mulch for Mini Park	\$43.25
Seacliff Gardens Clean-up	\$1,211.34
Friends of SC County Parks	\$816.00
Payment to Mural Artist	\$10,875.00
Refund for Mural Donation	\$200.00
Human Race	\$841.80
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$23,368.41
GENERAL FUNDS	\$25,788.57
DESIGNATED FUNDS	(\$75.00)
ENDING CASH BALANCE	\$25,713.57

Welcome New Members!

Janet Fincher
Ingrid Marianne Glazebrook
Joel and Elizabeth Millwee
Bill and Lura Reddington
Tanya Southworth

We thank all 351 member households
and friends for your continued support!

Our board of directors meets on the second
Tuesday of the month. Our meetings are held
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



Nextdoor Seacliff

Many Seacliff neighbors have joined Nextdoor, a private social network for neighbors to build community connections. Aptos has several neighborhoods, including Seacliff, that have joined together to share information including:

- Neighborhood Events
- Babysitter recommendations
- Seacliff Coyote Sightings

To learn more visit: <https://nextdoor.com/>

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



Many thanks to the Seacliff businesses, residents and the Seacliff Improvement Association for supporting the "Welcome to Seacliff" mural!



Left to right: Mural supporters -Ben Strook, Cole Strickland, Riley, Leo Santana, Ann Thiermann(muralist), Steve Mills and Diane Strickland.