

# Seacliff Improvement Association

Fall 2016

## Happy Birthday Seacliff Village Neighborhood Park!

Katharine Minott, Santa Cruz County Parks & Recreation Commissioner



It's hard to believe the Seacliff Village Neighborhood Park is already celebrating its first birthday. Our children are now happily scrambling onto the new swings, clambering up the slides; and exploring the lighthouse shaped climbing structure.

Our park is also an outdoor classroom. A stroll through the park reveals grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees that provide an on-going learning experience of Seacliff's native plant community. Plants thrive with little to no water because they have naturally adapted to the year-round moderate climate and the wet, summer fog. To lessen the impact of buildings and asphalt streets, we have learned to mimic features found in nature to slow down storm-water runoff, let it spread and slowly sink back into the ground. Porous pavement in walkways and the parking area allows water to seep into the soil, directing runoff to two rock-lined drainage "dry creek" swales. When it rains, about 50% of water flow can be slowed by vegetative bio-swales or rock-lined "dry creeks" that allow it to soak into the ground to nourish the plants and trees.



Rock-lined Dry Creek Swales

According to Bill Ratto, longtime Maintenance Supervisor responsible for all county parks and properties from Aptos southward, Seacliff Village Park is probably the most popular playground in the mid-to-south county park system. Varying age groups are actively using the park throughout the day and come back after dinner to stay until the last glimmer of sunset. Because of the friendly park users and the unobstructed view of Monterey Bay, Bill and his crew look forward to work days at the Seacliff Village Park.

Many park users have reported damage to the mosaics designed and created by neighbors and artist Kathleen Crocetti. Although no one has been identified, it is highly likely that at least one person who is reading this newsletter may know someone who used rocks taken from the park's nearby drainage swales to smash the mosaics. After the rock lined drainage swales have been repaired, Kathleen will repair or replace the shattered mosaics. You can help by using the Citizen Connect App (see page 7) to report any vandalism at the park.

With only the grassy/turf to be planted, Phase One of the park is almost complete. There is still space for one more commemorative bench and one more commemorative tree in the park. Contact Mary Chavez: [Mary.Chavez@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:Mary.Chavez@santacruzcounty.us) for information about these programs. Now, grab your shoes, kids, dogs, leashes, picnic baskets and go celebrate and enjoy our local gem, the Seacliff Village Neighborhood Park!



## Road Improvements Coming to Aptos Village

Zach Friend  
Second District Supervisor  
County of Santa Cruz

With work beginning on the Aptos Village project, including the recent movement of the historic apple barn to its location in the heart of the Village, I want to provide an update on some of the associated road improvements. Here is an overview of the work that will be done, an estimated timeline and ways to learn more about the project:

### What road and pedestrian improvements are planned?

- The Soquel Drive/Trout Gulch Road Intersection will be signalized and a new left turn lane will be installed for westbound Soquel to access the Bay Federal Credit Union complex. New streetlights will be installed as will new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) crosswalks controlled by the traffic signal. The crosswalks will include one across Soquel Drive on the east side of Trout Gulch and one across Trout Gulch on the south side of Aptos Street. These crosswalks should greatly improve the pedestrian safety at this intersection.
- Soquel Drive from Trout Gulch Road east will be improved with a new sidewalk and an ADA compliant bus turnout. A new retaining wall will be built for the turnout and the south side of Soquel Drive will be improved from the driveway access of the Bay Federal complex to the walkway west of the driveway with a new ADA compliant sidewalk.
- Trout Gulch from Soquel to Valencia Street will be improved with a new sidewalk on the east side and segments of new sidewalk and ADA access, including handrails, on the west side. The road will be resurfaced and striped for bike lanes.
- The Trout Gulch Rail Crossing will be removed and replaced with concrete panels for road and pedestrian crossing and will have new crossing arms and warning systems of flashing lights installed. A new drainage system under the crossing will be installed to connect to an existing system on Soquel Drive to improve storm drainage in that area.

### How are these improvements funded?

The road, bike and pedestrian improvements in the Village are funded through developer fees, Regional Surface Transportation Program and Transportation Development Act state funds, Surface Transportation Block Grant federal funds, and Highway Safety and Lighting funds.

### What is the preliminary work schedule?

Current plans for the phase one road improvements outlined above are to begin in February or March, weather permitting, and to end in July or August.

### How can the community learn more?

As we get closer to construction, the County Public Works Department will create a dedicated website for Village road improvements available on their site: [dpw.santacruzcounty.us](http://dpw.santacruzcounty.us). The developer also has a page that will include general updates and a link to sign up for an email newsletter with information: [www.theaptosvillage.com](http://www.theaptosvillage.com). Road message signs with updated information will be placed at both entrances to the Village for motorists as well and County Public Works will have a specific point of contact for the community for questions related to the road work.

## Soquel Creek Water District Announces Public Scoping Meetings for “Pure Water Soquel”

Rebecca Downing

For Seacliff residents, conserving water has been part of our daily routine even before the Groundwater Emergency was declared by the district in June, 2014. Years of pumping water from local aquifers without their replenishment has created an overdraft that is now threatened by contamination from seawater intrusion.

To address this long-term issue that is unrelated to the cycles of El Nino and droughts, the district is developing a replenishment project that treats municipal wastewater with purification methods then injects the purified water into groundwater aquifers to help address, as well as prevent, further seawater intrusion. This is one component of the **Pure Water Soquel** project.

The water district has developed a Community Water Plan that serves as the district’s roadmap to meet long-term sustainability. This includes conservation, groundwater management, and securing supplemental supplies. The district has been evaluating three different supply options; with groundwater replenishment as the district’s preferred project. A feasibility study was completed earlier this year which led to an environmental review and preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The first step in the EIR process is called “scoping” - your opportunity to help identify the potential environmental effects that will be evaluated in the EIR. For information about the project visit: [www.soquelcreekwater.org/purewatersoquel](http://www.soquelcreekwater.org/purewatersoquel)

During the scoping comment period that ends on December 21, 2016, the public may provide input on the environmental topics, potential effects, mitigation measures, and range of alternatives to be analyzed in the project EIR. Scoping comments may be submitted at public scoping meetings, by mail or email. All comments must be postmarked or received via email by December 21, 2016 for consideration in the Draft EIR. Mail comments about this proposed project to:

Melanie Mow Schumacher, P.E., Associate Manager - Special Projects, P.O. Box 1550, Capitola, CA 95010 Email: [purewatersoquel@soquelcreekwater.org](mailto:purewatersoquel@soquelcreekwater.org).

**In an effort to make scoping accessible and convenient for the community, the Soquel Creek Water District will hold two EIR scoping meetings on Wednesday, December 7, 2016:**

**Twin Lakes Church, 2701 Cabrillo College Dr., Building 700, Aptos, CA 95003**  
**2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Each meeting will include the same open house with information stations and presentations about the project. Public comments during the meetings may be provided verbally, via court reporter, or in writing. Contact Melanie Mow Schumacher, P.E., and Associate Manager - Special Projects at 831-475-8501x153 or [melanies@soquelcreekwater.org](mailto:melanies@soquelcreekwater.org) with any questions about this meeting or the public input process.



# Seacliff Downtown Undergrounding Update

Rebecca Downing

As you can tell from the large, flashing road construction signs, the undergrounding of utilities in our downtown has begun. During a meeting last week with Danny McKanna, project foreman for Leo Tidwell Excavating Company, he described the scope and scheduled progression of the project so Seacliff residents can plan their visits downtown.

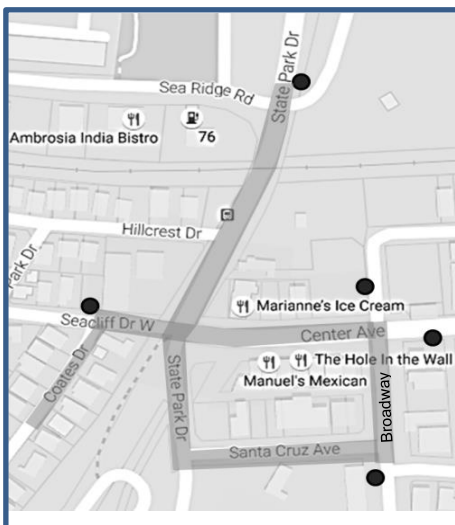
Underground boring work began on Coates Drive last month. Once this is completed, hopefully within the next week, boring will begin on the north side of Center Avenue, State Park Drive south of Center Avenue and will continue around the corner onto Santa Cruz Avenue. Trenching will then begin on both sides of Broadway and continue onto the ocean side of Center Avenue. Downtown parking during the day throughout this trenching will be limited. Metal plates will be placed over the trenches so parking spaces will be available in the evening.

Once the Santa Cruz County Public Works Department completes its survey for the portion of the undergrounding around the northwest corner of State Park Drive and East Seacliff Drive, trenching will begin on these roads moving uphill to the railroad tracks. Boring is required under the tracks.



*Because the undergrounding components must match the elements of the streetscape beautification project that is to follow, portions of the landscaping and sidewalk on State Park Drive may be removed so new utility boxes can be placed at the correct elevation. The utility pole in the planted area will also be removed.*

Utility boxes will be set into the road and new poles have been installed to receive the utilities at the edges of the project. Once the road construction portion of the undergrounding is finished, the utility companies whose lines will run underground, will each, in turn, send their lines through the conduits and connect to the utility boxes and edge poles. Once all utilities are in place and connectivity throughout the project area is confirmed, poles that no longer carry these utilities will be removed.



*Utilities to be undergrounded are located within the shaded area with conduits connecting to recently installed utility poles shown as the dark circles at the edge of the project area. Utility poles in the alley between Center and Santa Cruz Avenues will also be removed.*

Since undergrounding construction will last several months and location of work will be shifting daily, drive slowly and exercise caution through this area to keep workers, pedestrians and other motorists safe. This is especially critical after dark and when parking space is limited and pedestrians are difficult to see. For other questions about this project and the county beautification project, write to: [info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org)

# Mar Vista Bridge News

Zach Friend

Second District Supervisor, County of Santa Cruz

The Mar Vista bike and pedestrian overcrossing continues to take some significant steps toward becoming a reality for our community. The overcrossing is one of three new bicycle/pedestrian overcrossings that have been identified as part of the Highway 1 Corridor Investment Program. The Mar Vista crossing will reduce travel distances for bicyclists and pedestrians traveling between Mar Vista Drive at McGregor Drive to Mar Vista Elementary School by up to 1.6 miles and minimize travel through the busy State Park Drive interchange. This bridge reunites an area split by construction of the highway and will rejoin both sides, providing safe bike and pedestrian access. Additionally, traffic engineers have noted this may help reduce the amount of morning traffic on State Park and Soquel associated with school drop-off times.



The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approved \$7.5 million in State Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Surface Transportation Program funds for the project in April 2007. The RTC recently awarded a contract for environmental review and design work that is beginning now. This environmental document will be available for public review and comment.

Public engagement is essential as we complete the preliminary environmental review and project design. The RTC will seek public input on the project's design, aesthetic treatment, and operational considerations to ensure the project continues to meet the needs of Seacliff and there is community buy in. I look forward to working with the SIA to obtain as much community participation as possible when we move toward construction. As always, you can contact me with questions at 454-2200 or you can speak directly with the RTC transportation planner assigned to the project, Kim Shultz, at 460-3200.

The **Seacliff Improvement Association** welcomes the household team of Kat Hsueh and Brent Lay to our board of directors. They will be a tag-team board member and bring the current total to seven. As there are nine openings, two board memberships are open and waiting for your participation.  
2017 Board Officers and Directors for 2017:

President - Will Roblin  
Vice President - Coni Hendry  
Secretary - Rebecca Downing  
Treasurer - Niki Derby

Director - Kelly Dillon  
Director - Mary Edmund  
Director - Diana Hayden  
Director - Kat Hsueh and Brent Lay (shared)

Fresh energy is always welcome. Bring some of your Seacliff understanding to the greater neighborhood. Attend a Board meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month 6:30pm, usually at the Aptos Firehouse, and see what's going on in our village.



Get Your Tickets!



# It's Seacliff Annual Dinner Time!

I could be a winner!



Great to see you!

Thanks for the music, Ken!



Hooray for the Buffet!



I hope I go home with someone special tonight.



We Love Seacliff!

Who's ready for Door Prizes?



See you all next year!



Fascinating Topic, Gary!



Seacliff Improvement Association  
Treasurer's Report November 2016

|                                  | November           | YTD                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance:               | \$23,720.50        | \$25,461.42        |
| <b>INCOME:</b>                   |                    |                    |
| Donations                        | \$60.00            | \$1,627.00         |
| Membership Dues                  | \$704.00           | \$6,680.00         |
| Dinner Reservations              |                    | \$1,875.00         |
| Human Race Donation              |                    | \$655.00           |
| Volunteer Center - Human Race    |                    | \$1,590.00         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>              | <b>\$764.00</b>    | <b>\$12,427.00</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES:</b>                 |                    |                    |
| Web Hosting/Administration       |                    | \$546.38           |
| Newsletter Editing               |                    | \$1,750.00         |
| Printer Toner                    |                    | \$83.10            |
| Postage                          |                    | \$73.03            |
| Newsletter Printing/Postage      |                    | \$2,407.16         |
| PayPal Reconciliation            | \$1.30             | \$32.57            |
| Membership postage/copies        |                    | \$66.32            |
| Insurance                        |                    | \$563.00           |
| Aptos Chamber of Commerce Dues   |                    | \$150.00           |
| P.O. Box Rental                  |                    | \$86.00            |
| Beautification Gift Certificates |                    | \$200.00           |
| Gift for Mark                    |                    | \$50.00            |
| Human Race Postage               |                    | \$28.20            |
| Human Race Donation              |                    | \$655.00           |
| CERT of Santa Cruz County        |                    | \$1,123.99         |
| 1Q Meeting Expenses              |                    | \$221.75           |
| 2Q Meeting Library Rental        |                    | \$75.00            |
| Annual Dinner                    |                    | \$3,453.65         |
| Minipark/Village Gardener        | \$240.00           | \$1,620.00         |
| Gravel/Mulch for Seacliff Drive  |                    | \$460.07           |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>            | <b>\$241.30</b>    | <b>\$13,645.22</b> |
| <b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>             | <b>\$24,243.20</b> | <b>\$24,243.20</b> |
| <b>ENDING CASH BALANCE</b>       | <b>\$24,243.20</b> | <b>\$24,243.20</b> |

## Welcome New Members!

Ken and Nancy Ahnemann  
Nina Bailey  
Jessica Little  
Gerri Martin  
Straus Stephanie  
Sarino and Holly Torrise  
Bob and Rhonda Van Dyk

**We thank all 343 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 about us, visit Seacliff Improvement Association visit: <http://www.seacliffimprovement.org/>

To report neighborhood concerns and help the county keep Seacliff safe and beautiful download the Citizen Connect App:



<https://sccappstore.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/>

 **Nextdoor Seacliff**

Many Seacliff neighbors have joined Nextdoor, a private social network for neighbors to build community connections and 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**

*Share your newsletter with a new neighbor and invite them to join!*

Membership Application/Renewal-Newsletter

Annual Dues are \$20.00 (January– December)



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Seacliff Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address if different: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address (for newsletters and bulletins):

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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