

# Seacliff Improvement Association Spring 2017



Join us for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter  
Membership...

## ***Ice Cream Social***

Saturday, June 17th, 2017 - 2 pm!

Meet us at our neighborhood park, at the corner of Canterbury and McGregor Drives, for a community get-together celebrating the beginning of summertime in Seacliff. Bring your kids and dogs (on leash) for a fun time at our local park.

Meet the SIA board of directors and learn more about our association's projects and progress on issues that are important to our members and Seacliff Village.



# ***See you at the park!***



## **Amazing Results for the 37th Annual Human Race!**

Deb Murray, SIA Fundraising Chair

Thank you everyone for your generous donations to the SIA's participation in the 2017 Human Race!

This year our fundraising efforts will be used by the SIA toward the rebuilding of the Beachgate Trail that was damaged by the winter storms.

Special thanks to the SIA Human Race Team!  
With your help this year we raised a record:

# ***\$4,210 !!!***

This year, we will be providing receipts via email; write to: [dmurray@cruzio.com](mailto:dmurray@cruzio.com) if you would like to receive a tax receipt for your donation.

Thanks again for your support!





## Preview of the 2017-2018 County Budget

Zach Friend  
Second District Supervisor  
County of Santa Cruz

The Board of Supervisors is reviewing the \$717 million budget for 2017-2018, which constitutes an approximately 5.5 percent reduction in expenditures from last year. County budget hearings begin on June 19th and last a little over a week, with night hearings in both Santa Cruz and Watsonville during that time.

In the last year, the Board has focused efforts on building up reserves, improving housing affordability, addressing traffic and congestion issues, early childhood health programs, a restructuring of our social safety net program funding to focus on collective outcomes and be more flexible toward funding emerging needs, and investments in mental health and substance abuse services, homeless services, public safety economic development and parks improvements.

The proposed budget from County staff, reflective of recommendations from departments and input from the Board of Supervisors, includes the following (small sample) elements:

- Additional investment in local roads and significant winter storm recovery as a result of the passage of Measure D and state and federal funds
- Additional contributions toward reserves to further improve the County’s credit quality and ensure greater financial stability in an economic downturn
- Inclusion of the *Thrive by Three* program that I co-sponsored with Supervisor Coonerty to invest in our County children ages 0-3 years

### How is the Budget Allocated?

The County budget includes a number of state and federal funds for required services - particularly in the health and human services fields. Here is a breakdown of how our overall budget is proposed for allocation (including mandated expenditures): Approximately 40 percent goes toward health and human services, about 26 percent to land use and community services such as Public Works/Roads, Parks and Planning; 19 percent for public safety including the Sheriff’s Office, Probation, District Attorney, Public Defender and County Fire and 13 percent for General Government functions such as economic development, county facilities, and elections, among other things.

### Next Steps

Although County revenues are up over last year, the County is still working on reducing its structural deficit. State economic forecasts anticipate a slowdown and federal budgeting uncertainty, including the possibility of significant health coverage changes, which means the County needs to continue to contain costs and increase reserves. There is no question that investments in affordable housing and local roads and traffic relief need to be on top of the list of investments and policy changes. In addition, it’s important that the County continue to create policies that encourage economic opportunity locally to continue to grow revenues and provide higher paying jobs for local residents.

These numbers outlined above are just a small part of the budget. While they provide the framework for our budget hearings they aren’t set in stone. Your input in this process is key to ensuring your priorities are reflected in the budget. If you’d like to explore more of the budget, the County has created a new online interactive budget module at [www.sccbudget.com](http://www.sccbudget.com)

Interested in sharing your thoughts? Feel free to attend one of the day or nighttime budget hearings or, you can always give me a call at 454-2200 to let me know your thoughts.

## ***Beachgate Trail "The Next Chapter"***

Rebecca Downing and Dianne Pereira

After this winter's storms walloped both the pathway and the adjoining cliffs, the Beachgate Trail is getting some much needed attention from neighbors and our association. The trail closed in January for several months after a large sink hole developed, followed by numerous slides and a new fissure along the seaward side of the path. Neighbors Dianne and Steve Pereira met with Seacliff State Beach staff to assess trail safety and maintenance concerns prior to its reopening earlier this spring. Donations from this year's Human Race will pay for interim trail maintenance including straw, wattle and other materials required to keep the trail safe for everyone. Additional funds will go toward more lasting repairs.

Association members Mike and Pam Hogan of Hogan Land Services have generously offered to donate their services to survey the trail to determine its current state. Once the survey and repair options are complete, cost estimates will be determined so funding can be sought for both the immediate and permanent solutions.

Immediate work, before the coming winter, includes replacing the drainage pipe and outlet system so water doesn't further erode the trail. Some flexibility will be required once the area is uncovered because of unforeseen damage.

The long term strategy is to repair everything downhill to where the platform used to be and then create stair steps the rest of the way down to the parking lot in a similar style to the stairs from the upper parking lot near the main park entrance. This is required because there is not enough of the cliff remaining so stairs must be anchored to the bottom. All survey work and repairs will be coordinated with State Parks.

A progress report of the survey will be available for viewing at the SIA 2nd quarter Ice Cream Social gathering at Seacliff Village County Park. If you would like to volunteer to help or have questions please direct your email to:

[info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org)



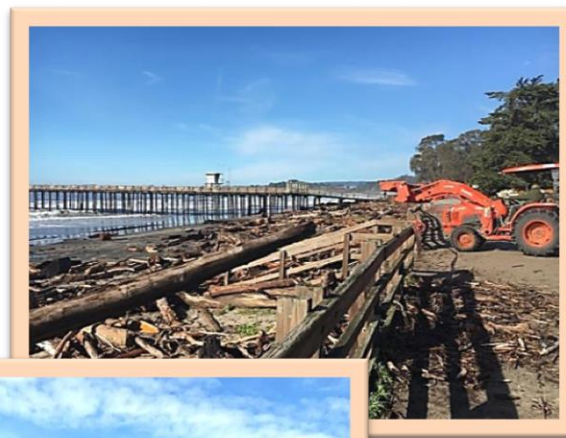
Winter storms caused multiple slides throughout the Beachgate Trail.

# State Parks Epic Repairs Underway

Bill Wolcott, California State Parks, Public Safety Superintendent, Santa Cruz District

This winter's unprecedented storm activity brought flooding, fallen trees, landslides, and damaged drainage infrastructure to our local State Parks. Campgrounds were closed for nearly all of January and February as a result of storm activity. Santa Cruz County Public Works repaired the large culvert failure at the entrance to Seacliff due to the emergency nature of the failure and the threat to other underground utilities in the area. In March and April additional crews were brought into Santa Cruz County for storm cleanup efforts. Crews focused on clearing Seacliff first, then beach driftwood removal, and finally mountain fire road clearing.

Late rains made working on the mountain roads challenging, large road failures at the top of the main road through Nisene Marks still remain, but access has been cleared to Sand Point. The culvert failure at the New Brighton day use parking lot from the 2015/16 winter had been addressed with a temporary fix prior to the onset of the 2016/17 winter, and the repairs held well. The entire culvert that runs under the day use parking lot will need replacement in the near future and planning is underway for that large project. The Seacliff pier was evaluated again this spring to determine what maintenance and repairs it needs. The study showed that the shifting of the cement ship has not damaged the pier itself. The pier structure will require repairs prior to being completely reopened. Currently approximately half of the pier is open for recreation, as it was last summer.



Seacliff State Beach required major repairs and debris removal before re-opening after the winter storms.

The past eight years have been financially challenging for State Parks. Some relief is coming in the form of \$80 million per year in State Park funding from the recently approved gas tax.

In addition, State Parks continues to move forward with its Transformation effort. Among other projects, the effort to quantify and estimate park unit costs through a serviced-based budgeting exercise was completed in February. For more information related to the Transformation, visit the State Parks website or check out the latest information at:

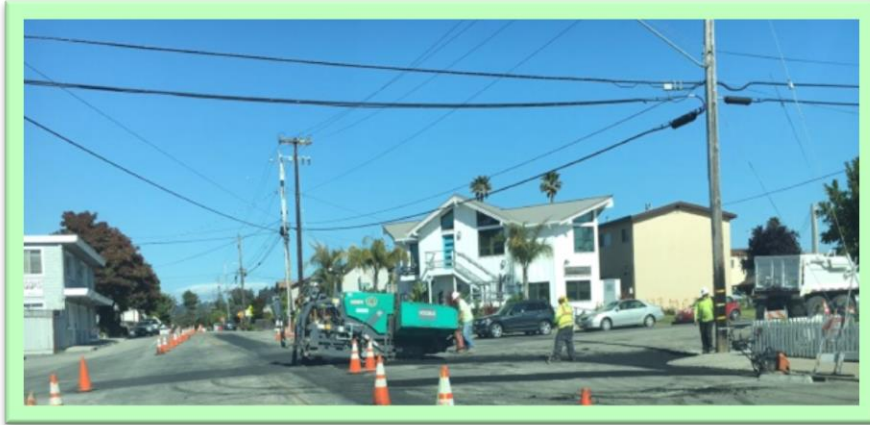
<http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/24689/files/DPR's%20Final%20Transformation%20Progress%20Report.pdf>

Recruiting employees to work in high cost-of-living areas remains a challenge for State Parks. Park supporters interested in volunteering in parks can see local opportunities at:

<http://www.thatsmypark.org/volunteer/> and <http://www.trailworkers.org/>

# Seacliff Undergrounding Heads down the Home Stretch

Rebecca Downing



**Lanes moved daily as new pavement was installed.**

As with all projects, surprises and challenges arise once construction begins and Seacliff is no exception. Matching the undergrounding plan with the upcoming County streetscape project revealed that placement of utility boxes on Broadway would need to be moved to accommodate the wall with the Seacliff Mural because the streetscape design predated the wall and mural construction. The utility boxes were originally designed to go where the Mural wall now sits.

Additionally, the utility boxes that need to be installed on State Park Drive in front of Sno-White Drive In were located in a flower bed that is being replaced by a retaining wall as part of the County streetscape project. It required both design and construction of the wall which took four months to complete by the County during the months when the County Public Works department was deluged with winter storm emergencies. Thankfully, construction has already begun and the sub contracted crew hopes to pour the wall this week. After it cures, utility boxes can be placed, another one-two week process.



**Slow for pedestrians near the construction staging area now located along Seacliff Drive near the bluff path.**

It seems each time we drive through downtown Seacliff lately there are cones to guide us through an ever-changing path. Fortunately, this part of the undergrounding is coming to an end on Center Avenue as the paving crew finishes work here and in the alley this week. According to project foreman, Danny McKanna, the undergrounding is mostly complete with work now focusing on State Park Drive.



**Construction of utility boxes required great care next to the Seacliff mural.**

After this, it is anticipated that it will take four more weeks to complete utility box installations along State Park Drive between Center Avenue to just beyond the railroad tracks at the Seacliff sign, crossing the road in three places. During this time, please continue to drive slowly and cautiously in construction zones. Watch out for pedestrians, construction workers, kids and visitors!



# Join Seacliff CERT Today

Mary Edmund

Be prepared to help your family and neighbors in the event of a disaster. SIA has a Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) Program and we need your help.

Following a major disaster, people who provide fire and medical services may be unavailable. Factors as number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent us from accessing emergency services we expect. We will have to rely on one another for assistance. CERT is designed to help neighborhoods prepare for effective disaster/emergency response through training and pre-planning.

The training covers basic skills that are important to know when emergency services are unavailable. Program material includes earthquakes, fires, hazardous incidents and other general life-threatening situations. Training lasts about 20 hours, divided over 6 evenings. The training increases one's ability to safely support yourself, your family and your neighbors.

Here is where you may help. We need an additional 45 individuals to support our community by becoming CERT qualified. Now is the time to plan and get ready! If you are interested in finding out more about the training or have questions, please contact Mary Edmund at phone: 475-2633 or email: "medmund4@gmail.com".

## *Start your Garden Growing Now for the Annual Beautification Awards!*

Niki Derby

Yes, it's time again to award the owners of four homes for all their hard work at maintaining or improving their property. The committee members scour Seacliff to nominate two homes each that they feel deserve the award. Once all the nominations are in, the members then go out again and pick their four favorite homes. Winners receive a \$50 gift certificate from Hidden Gardens Nursery and a sign in their front yard, designating them as winners. This committee has been in existence since 1998....almost 20 years! We have openings for two new members, so if you would like to join, just email us at [info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org) It's a fun committee and doesn't take too much time. We're aiming to give out the awards during the first half of July. Come and join us!

## Welcome New Members!

- Richard and Sharon Abrahamson
- Mike and Christina Bonigut
- Marina and Sasha Buchman
- Joshua and Jeanne Conner
- Matthew Holmes
- Kathie Kenyon
- Hillary McCrea
- Doreen and Kevin O'Donovan
- Livia Peras and Kathleen Bortolussi
- Jeanne Pifferini
- Tim Preece
- David, Ladan, Cameron and Ella Ralston
- Dee Roe
- Mark and Lynn Rose
- Ed Shapiro

We thank all 338 member households and friends for your continued support!

Seacliff Improvement Association  
Treasurer's Report May 2017

	March	April	May	YTD
	\$24,449.20	\$23,225.25	\$23,583.11	\$23,856.76
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Donations	\$101.00			\$266.00
Membership Dues	\$411.00	\$144.00	\$20.00	\$2,154.00
Human Race Donations		\$626.00	\$1,720.00	\$2,346.00
Credit for Wells Fargo Checks	\$43.53			\$43.53
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$555.53</b>	<b>\$770.00</b>	<b>\$1,740.00</b>	<b>\$4,809.53</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
Web Hosting		\$143.88		\$143.88
Web Administration	\$70.00			\$70.00
Newsletter Editing	\$630.00			\$630.00
Newsletter Printing/Postage	\$823.14			\$927.38
PayPal Reconciliation	\$5.03	\$28.26	\$55.91	\$91.77
Returned check plus bank fee				\$32.00
Wells Fargo Checks				\$43.53
Volunteer Center for Human Race			\$2,263.13	\$2,263.13
CA Sec. of State - Statement of Information	\$20.00			\$20.00
Supplies				\$89.62
<u>Quarterly Membership Meetings</u>				
Sound Equipment	\$16.31			\$16.31
Refreshments	\$215.00			\$215.00
Minipark Gardener		\$240.00		\$480.00
Mulch for Mini Park				\$639.60
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,779.48</b>	<b>\$412.14</b>	<b>\$2,319.04</b>	<b>\$5,662.22</b>
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$23,225.25</b>	<b>\$23,583.11</b>	<b>\$23,004.07</b>	<b>\$23,004.07</b>
<b>ENDING CASH BALANCE</b>	<b>\$23,225.25</b>	<b>\$23,583.11</b>	<b>\$23,004.07</b>	<b>\$23,004.07</b>

Our board of directors meets on the second Tuesday of the month 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](mailto:info@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/>



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

Hey! June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
SIA Ice Cream  
Social!  
Details on Page 1...



I scream,  
you  
scream...



***Share your newsletter with a 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