

Seacliff Improvement Association

Spring
2018






Join us for our 2nd Quarter Membership...

Ice Cream Social

Saturday, June 9th, 2018, 2 pm

Join us at Seacliff Village Neighborhood Park, at the corner of Canterbury and McGregor Drives, to raise a cone with your Seacliff neighbors. Bring your kids and dogs (on leash) and meet your neighbors and the SIA board of directors.

Share a scoop with 2nd District County Supervisor, Zach Friend. Learn about association projects, committees and progress of issues that are important to our members and Seacliff Village:

-  Beachgate Trail Repair and Fundraising
-  "Travel Safely Through Seacliff this Summer" Contest
-  Park Bench Dedication



RSVP with number in your party by June 7th to: info@seacliffimprovement.org

Enter the "Travel Safely Through Seacliff this Summer" Contest!

Summer approaches...that means longer days, warmer weather and...more visitors in our neighborhood, more of us out playing in the street, enjoying a walk, and more opportunities to drive at safer speeds. To remind us all to slow down and pay attention, we are sponsoring a safety sign contest.

Here's how it works: Make a sign and post it in your yard so we can all see it. It should be big and bold enough to be easily read from a passing car. Use family-friendly language. Take a photo of your sign and enter the contest by writing to: info@seacliffimprovement.org Include your name, address and attach your photo. Contest entry deadline is July 5th. We will then announce the entries via email to SIA members by July 10th with an invitation to visit all the signs and vote for your favorite by August 1st. One vote per household.

All prizes are gift certificates for the Seacliff State Beach Park Store:



 **Grand Prize: \$100**

 **2nd Place: \$75**

 **3rd Place: \$50**



Questions? Write to: info@seacliffimprovement.org



Making it Easier to Build Accessory Dwelling Units

Zach Friend
Second District Supervisor
County of Santa Cruz

There is no question that housing costs in Santa Cruz County are one of the biggest challenges facing our residents. It's common to hear stories about people working multiple jobs to pay rent, seniors struggling to stay in their homes or kids and grandkids growing up here just to

move away after high school or college to find less expensive housing. We've also seen, in Seacliff and in other locations, an increase in the number of vacation rentals and second homes as home ownership becomes more difficult for residents.

To help address the ongoing housing crisis, the County of Santa Cruz has released an interactive toolkit making it easier for homeowners to design, permit and construct accessory dwelling units (ADUs), which can be a more affordable housing option for Santa Cruz County families. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors has recently reduced permitting fees, streamlined the permit process and created a forgivable loan program that could cover the cost of fees and even construction in some cases for units that are deed restricted affordable housing units.

ADUs, sometimes called granny units or companion units, are one of the quickest and easiest ways to increase the affordable housing stock in our area. For parents looking to age in place in their homes, they can construct an ADU to live in while providing the main house to their family. For people looking to obtain some income while renting a unit that is affordable by design (meaning the rents are generally lower than apartment complexes or condos of similar size) an ADU provides options that meet both needs. The Board of Supervisors put in rules to prevent these ADUs from becoming short term rentals (vacation rentals) so that these new units would really provide a new long-term rental option for people in our community.

Available at www.sccoplanning.com/ADU, the toolkit includes an overview of recently revised regulations designed to make it easier to build ADUs; a cost and cash flow estimator; guides and FAQs about design, construction and financing; and more. It also includes a GIS tool allowing property owners to instantaneously determine if their property can have an ADU and the maximum allowed size.

Financial assistance to build an ADU is available under two new programs. The County is making up to \$40,000 available as a forgivable loan to applicants who agree to make their ADU affordable to those making up to 80 percent of area median income for a period of 20 years. Through the "My House My Home" program, the County has also partnered with Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay and Senior Network Services to assist low-income seniors interested in building ADUs to create extra income and remain in their homes.

The ADU toolkit is designed to give residents easy answers to the County's simplified and streamlined construction process. Under the new program, most residential lots in the unincorporated area with an existing single-family home are potentially eligible for an ADU. The County has also created simplified, downloadable guides on "ADU Basics", an "ADU Design Guide", and an "ADU Financing Guide." Collectively, the guides provide answers to many common questions without requiring a trip to the County's Planning Department.

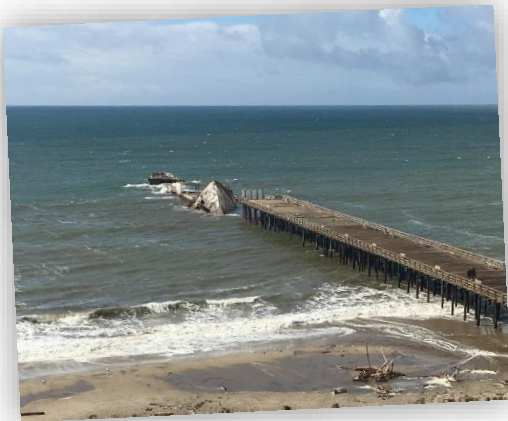
As always, if you have questions please feel free to reach out to me at 454-2200.

Around Seacliff this Summer

Rebecca Downing

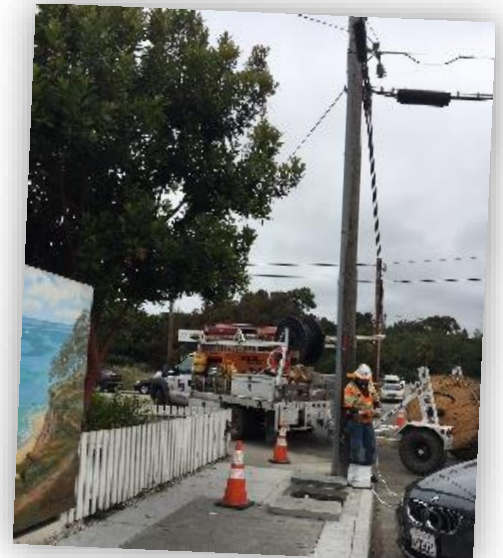
Following is the latest on the projects and activities of the association. The board of directors has been busy working on fundraising, liaising with the county, the state and private companies working in our village.

The **Beachgate Trail** pipe repair is still in the planning stage as the association waits for design bids from local firms. The \$6,053.37 raised so far will be applied to the design. Our recent fundraising efforts, just from the newsletter and a sign posted at the trail, brought in over \$1,700 since January. SIA board members are planning a specific campaign to generate the much larger amount anticipated for its repair. We will announce these efforts this summer. We are also working with State Parks to secure grant funds.



The **pier** at Seacliff State Beach remains partially closed and will not be repaired this year. The pier is just one of 90 State Park FEMA sites in our district that includes San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. State Park staff has submitted the required information for this and other local projects but is still waiting for FEMA to decide about storm damage compensation awards. Once FEMA determines the amount, budgeting for the repair can commence.

Undergrounding of utilities in downtown Seacliff slowed considerably in the beginning of 2018. Both Comcast and AT&T had not run their lines, so the association and Supervisor Friend asked Assemblymember Mark Stone to request that the California Public Utility Commission investigate the delay. We learned that the utilities have now resolved their issues and Comcast is currently installing lines in utility boxes specifically redesigned for them by LTEC, the company originally selected for the construction portion of the project. Due to the multiple delays, the cost of the County downtown streetscape beautification project has increased, so more funding will need to be secured before it can begin.



When you stroll by the **Mini Park**, located on Seacliff Drive above Seacliff State beach near Aptos Creek, check out the new Ceanothus bushes the association planted this winter. They are still small but growing nicely and will eventually spread to create a drought-tolerant low groundcover. They are being hand watered during the dry season and are still fragile so please stay on the path when you visit them.

Ahoy from the Mediterranean!

Gregory Peinado

The Seacliff Improvement Association's first quarter membership meeting at the "Med" was informative, social, and tasty. 2018 welcomed new faces to the association's board, and many new members who were on hand for an informative question and answer session from 2nd District Supervisor, Zach Friend and Assistant Director of Public Works, Steven Wiesner. But first, delicious pizza from Pizza 1 was enjoyed by the crowd of SIA members and guests!

Supervisor Zach Friend described new developments in housing throughout the county, including, "granny units", and how the Board of Supervisors has been working on ordinance revisions that will make new unit construction affordable. He explained that the costs to permit these units have been virtually cut in half, and that the process has become more user friendly for residents. Zach also spoke about the Rancho Del Mar Shopping Center and indicated that there are four six-month phases in the center's reconstruction. The first phase is almost complete and shops in that location should open soon.

Zach then shared the status of the Aptos Village Project. Residential units are now being sold, some of which are affordable, that will remain so in perpetuity. Residences will sell for approximately \$250,000 to \$400,000. He expects businesses in Aptos Village to begin opening in the fall, including the much-anticipated New Leaf Market.

Zach continued his comments with the topic of Cannabis, a significant county issue requiring county regulatory action, otherwise state regulations would apply. Although regulations regarding selling Cannabis are approved, cultivation and processing regulations are more complicated, and have not yet been fully legislated or regulated. Regulations need to be heavily scrutinized due to potential environmental and other community impacts. He also explained that Cannabis could bring significant income to the county and fund programs for children, public safety and county roads.

Assistant Director of Public Works Steve Wiesner spoke next about recent storm damage repairs to State Park Drive and Valencia Road and discussed the utility companies working to underground their lines in the downtown Seacliff area. Once this is done, he expects the Seacliff Streetscape Beautification project to begin. He also discussed local repaving in Seacliff that will happen in the next 2-5 years with funds from recently passed Measure D.

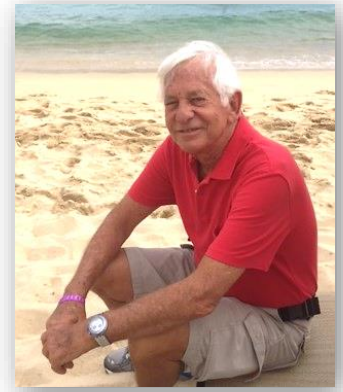
There seemed to be a united concern from the attendees about speeding that occurs throughout Seacliff, which prompted a discussion about possible speed bumps, strategically placed throughout the area. Steve suggested visiting the Department of Public Works Transportation and Roads website: <http://dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Home/TransportationRoads.aspx> to relay concerns and advise the California Highway Patrol, so they may assist in traffic safety in the community.



The meeting concluded with delicious MARIANNE'S ICE CREAM!

Remembering Bill Phillips

Long-time Seacliff resident Bill Phillips passed away on April 30th after suffering a stroke earlier in the month. Bill and his late wife, Mary, purchased their Santa Cruz Avenue home in the 1970s when it was only 400 square feet! They brought their young children over the hill and had many good years at the beach house. The house was enlarged several times, and they moved here permanently while both still worked at the San Jose Mercury News.



Bill retired in 2000, and his wife Mary passed away in 2007. For the past 10+ years Bill shared his home with Joanne Engelhardt, and they enjoyed many trips together. Now that Bill has passed away, his son will take ownership of the house and Joanne will soon move back to San Carlos. Bill and Mary will be long remembered by their Seacliff Pier bench which is etched with their names.

Seacliff Beautification Awards Celebrates their 20th Anniversary

Brent Lay

In celebration of those community members whose beautiful landscaping brightens our neighborhood and puts a smile on our faces, the Beautification Committee members will be selecting four homes to receive this year's Beautification Awards.

Winners receive a \$50 gift certificate to Hidden Gardens Nursery and get to display the Award sign in their yard over the summer. Look for profiles of the winners in the next issue of the newsletter.

Members will be going out to make their nominations and vote over the next few weeks. If you've wanted to win, now is the time to show your garden some love, this could be your year!

If you have a neighbor who's home you feel is especially deserving, you can nominate them! Send a brief description of why you are nominating them to info@seacliffimprovement.org. Nominations need to be received by Sunday June 3rd.

Cheers for the Seacliff Drive Gardeners

Mary Gibbs

The gardens along the fence at Seacliff State Beach are ready for summer visitors thanks to the efforts of neighbors Sharon Brinzo, Ingrid Glazebrook, Pat Lordan, Cheri Nilsson and Lila Steiner.

Their weeding and plant donations really help us maintain this area along a favorite local walking route. If you wish to donate plants to improve this highly visible spot, write to: info@seacliffimprovement.org and we will happily add your plant to the garden.



Cheri Nelson surveys her weeding progress along the Seacliff Drive Garden.

Join our “Seacliff Remembers” Team

Lila Steiner

Are you aware that most people in Seacliff know someone who has been affected by Alzheimer's, Frontotemporal degeneration, Lewey Body Dementia or other dementia? The World Health Organization calls Alzheimer's a growing public health threat. Locally, you can support those with dementia by joining the Walk to End Alzheimer's - on the bluffs of Seascape on Sept. 22, 2018.








Join the movement to raise awareness, support families and help advance research towards a cure. Come walk with our team, "Seacliff Remembers": http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2018/CA-NorthernCaliforniaandNorthernNevada?team_id=470774&pg=team&fr_id=11071

Support Aptos Library at the June 16th Book Sale

Buying and donating books is a fun way to support your local Aptos Library.

The next sale is June 16th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and proceeds fund many library projects including:

-  Summer reading programs at the Aptos Library
-  Early Learning Computer for the Children's area of the Library
-  Advocacy for the overall Santa Cruz County Public Library bond measure
-  A sustainable water-wise landscape garden in front of the library.
-  Our Community Reads -- our latest project launched in August 2017.

For more information about library projects or to join the friends, visit:

<https://www.friendsofaptoslibrary.org/>

Welcome New Members!

Robert and Sandra Cornell
 Marty Deakers
 Freda DeFelice
 Noel B. Gasset
 Leslie and John Hays
 Dan Holdren
 Chuck and Joyce Jennerjohn
 Deziree Jones
 Paul and Susan Karz
 Geri and Paul King
 Doris Lara and Jennifer Davis
 Linda Lee
 Joan Low
 Michael McConnell and Lena Wu
 Jim and Tamsen McGinley
 Nancy Pola and Dave Somerton
 Mark and Lori Shaheen
 Susan Thomas and John Clements
 Diane Thorson and Shante Shenoy
 Gary J. Walter
 Guntram Wolski and Jeannine Rodems

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

Seacliff Improvement Association Treasurer's Report 2018 YTD

	January	February	March	April	YTD
Balance from 2017:	\$27,201.54				\$27,201.54
INCOME:					
General Donations	\$30.00	\$55.00	\$95.27		\$180.27
Membership Dues	\$681.73	\$762.61	\$840.85	\$42.61	\$2,327.80
Beachgate Trail Donations			\$96.80	\$1,624.92	\$1,721.72
TOTAL INCOME	\$711.73	\$817.61	\$1,032.92	\$1,667.53	\$4,229.79
EXPENSES:					
Website Hosting and Administration			\$155.88	\$70.00	\$225.88
Newsletter (edit, post, print)			\$916.46	\$630.00	\$1,546.46
Postage		\$49.00			\$49.00
Membership Meeting items				\$221.09	\$221.09
Membership Supplies		\$26.96			\$26.96
Gardening				\$742.00	\$742.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$75.96	\$1,072.34	\$1,663.09	\$2,811.39
ENDING CASH BALANCE	\$27,913.27	\$28,654.92	\$28,615.50	\$28,619.94	\$28,619.94
2017 Designated Funds for Beachgate Trail:	\$4,331.85		\$96.80	\$1,624.92	\$6,053.57



Help us repair the Beachgate Trail!

The association has begun raising funds (see report above) but will need much more to help State Parks replace the drainage pipe. You can use our PayPal account, located on our website, to contribute funds for repair.

Please include **Beachgate Trail** in the comment field so we know to add it to funds already raised. We expect the cost of repairs to be more than \$40,000 so every donation helps!

Get involved!

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



**Seacliff
Needs
YOU!**

If you are tired of jockeying for a good view of the 4th of July Parade in Aptos, then it's time you were IN it!

Show your Seacliff pride! Grab your dog, your kids, your bike and your red, white and blue to join your neighbors as we parade with our banner in the world's shortest parade! RSVP to: info@seacliffimprovement.com for marching details.

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



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

To learn more or join the Seacliff Improvement Association visit: <http://www.seacliffimprovement.org/>