

Seacliff Improvement Association

Summer 2017



Pathways and Pizza!

RSVP today for our 3rd Quarter Membership Meeting

Based on the results of our June Aptos Village Pedestrian Survey, we have invited the Santa Cruz County Public Works Department and the Regional Transportation Commission to address our community's pedestrian needs as they present local projects funded by the recently-passed Measure D.

If you wish to walk or cycle safely between Seacliff and Aptos Village, or support those who do, please attend this meeting. If more of us can use pedestrian routes, driving will be easier for those who can't. Our county agencies need to hear from us!



When: September 20, 2017 - 6:30 pm
Where: Community Foundation of Santa Cruz
7807 Soquel Drive, Aptos



We're serving: HWY 1 Pizza, Martinelli's and Marianne's Ice Cream

RSVP: info@seacliffimprovement.org with the number attending by September 17th so we can order enough pizza for everyone!

Be Prepared! Sign Up for the Next CERT Training

Mary Edmund



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may affect their neighborhoods and communities. The next basic training will be held in Watsonville on Thursday evenings, and one Saturday. Classes start on September 21 and continue September 28, October 5 and October 12 from 6:30-9:30pm and Saturday, October 14 from 9-5pm. The course is free and you'll receive a stocked emergency backpack upon completion of the training. Signup at www.santacruzcountycert.org and click on "training" then choose "Register". You may also ask questions or get additional information on the "contact us" tab on the same website.

Thanks so much for caring about the Seacliff community.



County Changing Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Rules

Zach Friend
Second District Supervisor
County of Santa Cruz

There is no question it is very difficult to afford housing in our county. One has to earn over \$70,000 to afford the rent of a two bedroom apartment locally and our median home prices are hovering around \$850,000.

While there are a number of factors that lead to the high cost of housing, one way to provide more affordable housing, while creating an income for people seeking help covering their mortgage, is to make it easier to build accessory dwelling units (ADUs). ADUs, sometimes called granny units, are small, self-contained units generally located behind a home or above a garage.

The County Board of Supervisors believes ADUs are a promising approach to expanding housing choices in our local market, which is characterized by high cost and low availability. ADUs are located on parcels with existing single family homes and therefore do not require land acquisition or expensive new infrastructure. They can be built with cost-effective wood frame construction or as factory-built housing, and can be fit into the fabric of existing neighborhoods. ADUs increase the diversity of housing in the community and are a source of rental units that are more affordable than larger dwellings. The Board has worked on an approach over the last year that would make it easier to create ADUs. The County initiated extensive community outreach to determine the best way to expand ADUs that included stakeholder interviews, an online survey that generated over 650 responses and two well-attended community workshops. The Board's approach has originated, in large part, from this community outreach. As a result, we are in the process of reducing fees, changing County regulations, streamlining administrative practices as well as creating programs to assist with design, financing, and obtaining a building permit. Online and print materials will be available to guide current and prospective homeowners and developers towards successful creation of this flexible housing type.



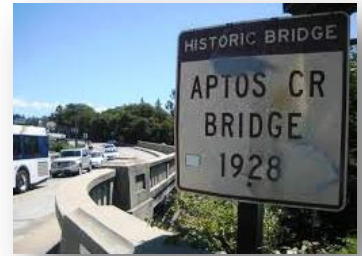
The Board has also created guidelines that will prohibit these ADUs from becoming vacation rentals. The units must be long-term rentals or an on-site living location for seniors aging in place. I commonly hear from people, including here in Seacliff, that they want to move their parents onto their property or even for parents wanting to move into an ADU and allow their children to have their home.

State law is also changing in this arena, and the County has incorporated the state law changes into our current ADU ordinance. The changes in the state gave additional rights to applicants seeking to build ADUs and the state is currently considering additional legislation that will make it easier to legalize unpermitted ADUs. We estimate that about half of the County's current ADUs may be unpermitted. Secondly, the state is considering legislation that would add special districts and water corporations to the local agencies that are prohibited from charging connection fees and capacity charges for ADUs that are created by converting existing space or structures on a piece of property. These connection and capacity fees are very high in some cases and have been prohibitively expensive for many local ADU applicants in the past.

As always, I'd love to hear your feedback. Please feel free to stop by my weekly open office hours or call me at 454-2200.

Aptos Village Pedestrian Survey Results

Kathy and Mike Ransom and Diana Hayden



In June the association conducted a survey of our members and other Aptos residents using Nextdoor to determine the interest in and need for safe passage to Aptos Village. The 392 respondents to our survey overwhelmingly expressed a desire to be able to safely walk/bike from the surrounding areas to Aptos Village safely. The main reasons cited for wanting to walk/bike to the Village were to go to restaurants, attend events at Aptos Village Park, visit Nisene Marks, go shopping, and patronize local businesses and services.

While sixty percent of respondents had not traveled by foot/bike to Aptos Village within a month of the survey, eighty-eight percent would do so if there were safer pedestrian pathways. The hazards respondents identified include: narrow roadsides with no sidewalks, few crosswalks, traffic hazards, inadequate lighting and uneven pavement. The completion of the Aptos Village improvement project, adding businesses, restaurants, housing and services, will only increase the need for alternatives to driving. The comments offered by respondents were detailed and insightful. To read the entire survey, visit our website: www.seacliffimprovement.org

At the upcoming 3rd quarter membership meeting, we will address the issues raised in the survey with both the County Public Works department and the Regional Transportation Commission. If you value pedestrian safety and want a safer way to walk to the other side of the freeway and Aptos Village, please attend the meeting. The details are on page one of this newsletter. Additionally, the association is using the survey to let other groups know the important positive impact safe pedestrian travel will have on Aptos neighborhoods, parks and local businesses.



Pedestrian sidewalks on Aptos Creek Bridge are too narrow and close to vehicle traffic.



Many survey respondents wrote that they walk or ride their bike on the rail line to Aptos Village because they see it as the safest pedestrian route.

Regional and County long-range plans including the Sustainable Santa Cruz County Plan, Unified Corridor Investment Study and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network all envision us getting out of our cars to lower our vehicle miles travelled and reduce pollution. Ensuring a safe way to reach Aptos Village and surrounding areas by foot/bike will help our residents and vacationers meet lower emission goals while supporting our local businesses, improving traffic safety, and reinforcing the importance of maintaining the unique nature of our community.

Beautification Awards

Niki Derby

This summer we saw so many beautiful homes! Our winners this year each won a \$50 gift certificate to Hidden Gardens.

Thank you to our great committee: Coni Hendry, Kat and Brent Lay, Martha Johnson, Margaret Kotsi, Esther Maxey, Deb Murray, Patty Norton, Claudia Silva-doo, and Sharon Vaughn.



611 Maple Street
Andrea St. Cyr and
Sharon and Mike Linnik

After visiting and camping at Seacliff Beach for many years, the Linnik's purchased this little beach cottage 15 years ago with the idea that her mother could eventually retire here. About three years ago, Andrea suffered a major illness that left her in a wheelchair. Andrea has realized her dream of living in Seacliff with her daughter visiting on weekends. Andrea and Sharon are shown in the picture. During the week, Andrea has a wonderful full-time caregiver and this caregiver has many talents. With Andrea's design, the caregiver actually built and installed everything you see....yes, the fence, the borders, the planter boxes with tree roses, everything. What an amazing lady. Andrea loves getting her hands in the soil, so in the backyard, she has her pots (on benches) and a little vegetable garden in a raised bed. If you walk by her home, say hello and you'll be treated to Andrea's most booming, joyous laugh. What a lady!

Continued on Page 5

526 Cedar Street
Kat and Brent Lay

After purchasing their home in 2013, they couldn't move in for a year while the front of the home had to be completely rebuilt due to water damage. Brent went to the county and looked at the original home, which was a Spanish-style design. It had been changed, so they decided to bring back the Spanish influence by adding the porch and the tiled overhang, along with copper gutters.



They also added a carport on the other side of the home. Brent is a dentist and Kat is HR Director for a tech company over the hill. She says the drive is completely worth it so they can live in Seacliff.



211 Center Avenue
Vanessa and Jonathon
Marinshaw

The Marinshaw's moved in 10 years ago with their children, Gianna, Maddox and Gabriella. You wouldn't recognize the old house with all that they have done, including remodeling the inside. They have painted the exterior, added faux grass (which Roxy, their lab, loves), all new landscaping, new concrete, plus more planned. A new fence is scheduled for the near future.

Jonathan owns a cable network company and Vanessa is Operations Manager for Central Coast Ambulance. Center is such a busy street and Roxy is usually out front watching the cars whiz by. Remember, Seacliff streets have a 25 mile-an-hour speed limit!!

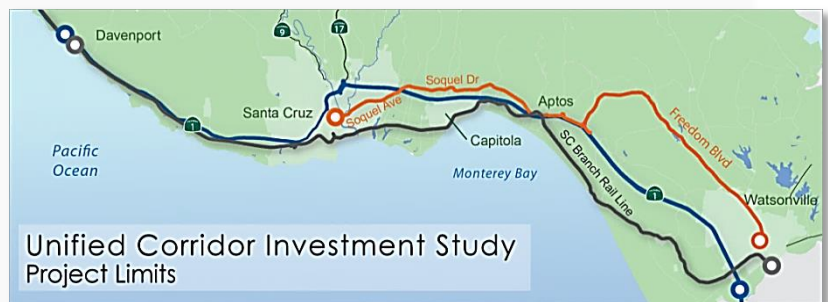
Attend the Unified Corridor Investment Study Workshop

Please come join the discussion about transportation options for our community's transportation needs now and into the future. The Unified Corridor Study is investigating what projects on Highway 1, Soquel and Freedom, and the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line will provide the greatest benefit to the community. The RTC wants to hear from you on how best to improve the economic vitality, natural environment, and health and equity goals of our region. Your input is vital to the success of this study!

Meeting Dates:

Monday, October 2, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Watsonville Public Library,
275 Main Street in Watsonville

Tuesday, October 3, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Live Oak Elementary School
Multipurpose Room
1916 Capitola Rd in Live Oak



Elena Longsworth lovingly cares for the Mar Vista Garden. She welcomes all the many drought tolerant plants offered by Seacliff neighbors.

Welcome New Members!

Mike and Sharon Linnik
Elena Longsworth
Marie McCutcheon
Liron and Sarah Sharaby
Andrea St. Cyr

We thank all 344 member households
and friends for your continued support!

Mar Vista Garden Flourishing!

We really appreciate Elena Longsworth for taking hours and hours along with her gardener to whack weeds and prune this corner garden back to the gem we all love. With help from SIA funds, Elena was able to clean up the garden and will add plants, amendments, and other necessary landscape materials to keep this treasure blooming and tidy. Thanks Elena!

Seacliff Improvement Association
Treasurer's Report August 2017

	June	July	August	YTD
	\$23,004.07	\$26,149.32	\$24,857.93	\$23,856.76
INCOME:				
Donations		\$12.00		\$278.00
Membership Dues	\$20.00	\$109.00	\$20.00	\$2,303.00
Human Race Donations	\$47.00			\$2,393.00
Volunteer Center (Beachgate Stairs)	\$4,284.85			\$4,284.85
Credit for Wells Fargo Checks				\$43.53
				<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME:	\$4,351.85	\$121.00	\$20.00	\$9,302.38
EXPENSES:				
Web Hosting				\$143.88
Web Administration	\$70.00			\$140.00
Newsletter Editing	\$525.00			\$1,155.00
Postage	\$19.60	\$44.10		\$63.70
Newsletter Printing/Postage		\$90.63		\$1,018.01
Survey Monkey	\$29.00			\$29.00
Chamber of Commerce Dues		\$150.00		\$150.00
Farmers Insurance	\$563.00			\$563.00
PayPal Reconciliation		\$4.16		\$95.93
Returned check plus bank fee				\$32.00
Wells Fargo Checks				\$43.53
Beautification Gift Certificates		\$150.00		\$150.00
Volunteer Center for Human Race				\$2,263.13
CA Secretary of State		\$9.50		\$29.50
Membership Supplies				\$89.62
Sound Equipment				\$16.31
Refreshments				\$215.00
Parade Permit		\$24.00		\$24.00
Severino's Deposit for Annual Dinner			\$395.00	\$395.00
Minipark Gardener		\$540.00		\$1,020.00
Mulch for Mini Park				\$639.60
Mar Vista Garden		\$400.00		\$400.00
				<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$1,206.60	\$1,412.39	\$395.00	\$8,676.21
GENERAL FUNDS:	\$26,149.32	\$24,857.93	\$24,482.93	\$24,482.93
ENDING CASH BALANCE:	\$26,149.32	\$24,857.93	\$24,482.93	\$24,482.93
DESIGNATED FUND FOR BEACHGATE TRAIL REPAIR:				\$4,331.85

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/>