

Seacliff Improvement Association



Winter 2016

Join us for our First Quarter Membership Gathering:

Meeting at the Med

Tuesday, March 8th, 2016 - 6:30 pm



The Seacliff Improvement Association is hosting a meet and greet at The Mediterranean, 265 Center Street. This meeting we welcome the:



*“What’s Up With Our Water Situation:
Water Shortage Issues, Solutions and How We Can Help You.”*

**Presented by: Ron Duncan, General Manager, Board President Dr. Bruce Daniels,
Vice President, Dr. Tom La Hue and Vai Campbell/Conservation**

Soft Drinks and munchies will be graciously provided by The Med, Sid’s Smokehouse and Marianne’s.
Parking is very limited so get your carpool together and mark your calendar *now*.
(Must be 21 to attend)

We look forward to seeing you there!

**This edition of the Seacliff Improvement Association
newsletter is sent to over 1,200 Seacliff Residents!**

The Association works for you by:

- Publishing informative quarterly newsletters
- Hosting membership meetings about important Seacliff issues
- Sending email alerts informing you about local government developments that impact Seacliff
- Improving our Seacliff neighborhood, ultimately helping to increase your property values and make Seacliff an even greater place to live

*See the last page of the newsletter for our membership application.
If you need to pay your membership for 2016, you can use the application to renew.
Membership is open to all Seacliff residents, businesses and property owners.
We hope you enjoy this issue and consider joining today.*



Encouraging Alternative Energy Options

Zach Friend
Second District Supervisor
County of Santa Cruz

The Board of Supervisors has been working on ways to encourage alternative energy options in our community. This includes exploring Community Choice Aggregation (where cities and counties can pool their residential, business and municipal electricity loads and purchase and

generate power on their behalf), as well looking for ways to encourage the installation of solar photovoltaic residential systems (solar power systems).

Improving Solar Options

A number of community members provided feedback that the County's solar permit fees were higher than some other local jurisdictions, which provided a disincentive for solar photovoltaic installation.

In December, the Board of Supervisors directed Planning staff to return with a permit fee that would be more in line and competitive with other jurisdictions. At a recent meeting, the Board of Supervisors received a report on ways that the fee could be reduced through greater efficiency of Planning Department processes such as: development of standard solar photovoltaic plans for use at the counter or online application submittals and a dedicated online email for solar permit application submittals. Additionally, the County Planning Department reviewed their inspection requirements to ensure the process was as efficient as possible while still remaining compliant with state mandates.

The end result was very positive. The Board of Supervisors approved a 50% reduction in solar photovoltaic residential system permit fees - lowering them to a flat fee of \$250. While this doesn't fully recover inspection and processing costs, the proposed fee is comparable to solar credits given by other jurisdictions and other jurisdictional permit fees.

Providing Our Own Power

The County has been a major partner in researching the feasibility of Community Choice Aggregation and, if so, what the options are for implementation. One of the potential advantages of Community Choice Aggregation is that it puts control of energy purchasing and pricing into local hands, and allows the community to determine what type of energy mix best serves their needs. This includes the possibility of using more renewable energy options.

More information about the work can be found at <http://www.montereybaycca.org/>

As always, I'd love to hear your thoughts. Please feel free to call me at 454-2200 if you have any questions, or if I can help in any way.



Seacliff Infrastructure Update

Rebecca Downing

Part of our association's mission is to improve our infrastructure by advocating for public works projects in Seacliff. This important work is ongoing and often the product of our effort doesn't arrive until those who initiated the endeavor have retired from our board of directors, moved or passed away. The pace of these improvements have been almost glacial at times due to budget constraints and staffing levels, the order in which the projects must be completed, and the willingness of public and private entities to cooperate. Members of this association continue to work through these issues for our neighborhood to bring these much-anticipated improvements to Seacliff. Following is a brief update of current projects except for Seacliff Village Park that is mentioned in the next article:

Undergrounding of Utility Poles in Downtown Seacliff:

Good things come to those who wait? Because this project has been delayed for so many years, a 4TB fiber trunk will now be included in the project allowing any internet company to provide very-high-speed broadband to the Seacliff. Cruzio is particularly interested in offering gigabit-speed home internet products, and it is also expected that AT&T and Comcast will make their gigabit products available to the community at some point in the future.

From Patrick Mulhearn, Analyst in Supervisor Friend's office, we just learned that PG&E policy requires a 3 foot separation between their facilities and so-called "wet" utilities. Since the current design shows a 1.9 foot separation at one point, the county's design consultants are reviewing their records from a previous project to determine if the exact locations of utilities in the ground are noted. PG&E's policy allows for a variance with administrative approval as long as the separation is no less than 1', so it has been recommended, as a precaution, they submit an internal request for a variance. Once this is resolved, the project can continue. Upon its completion, the County's Seacliff Village Streetscape Beautification project can commence.

Mar Vista Pedestrian Bridge over Highway 1:

According to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation District(RTC) Executive Director, George Dondero, RTC staff will soon be requesting project proposals from consultants and expect a selection to be made this spring. In the summer there will be workshops to gather information and take comments from the public. The association will email notices of public meetings so our members can participate. According to the RTC, the ongoing funding crisis for transportation at the statewide level continues to affect many projects and could incur delays on this one since it is not yet fully funded.

Seacliff Roads:

According to Supervisor Friend, over 200 potholes were filled by County Public Works last week in Seacliff because of requests from his office and the Citizen Connect App (see page 6) requests they have been receiving from us! You may have also noticed some new high visibility street signs like the ones at Seacliff and Mar Vista Drives. Keep reporting those potholes, abandoned cars and graffiti to keep Seacliff safe and beautiful!

Seacliff Village Park Opens

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

Seacliff has its neighborhood park and it is a lot of fun! On December 10, 2015, the winter rains paused long enough for the grand opening of the long anticipated Seacliff Village Park located at the corner of Sea Ridge Road and McGregor Drive. Neither rain nor ceremony hindered the happily impatient neighborhood children and hours before the official ceremony, the new playground was filled with squeals and laughter as children and parents explored the Lighthouse motif climbing structure and swings.



While neighbors who have been instrumental in the acquisition of the parkland and the creation of the Seacliff Village Park Master Plan reminisced as they examined a display of photos and memorabilia, County Parks staff graciously poured juice and coffee and circulated trays of finger foods donated by Manuel's Restaurant and Severino's.

Before the ribbon cutting ceremony, a range of people instrumental to the park's creation included County Supervisor Zach Friend, holding his 1-year old son, Elliott; Jeff Gaffney, Director of County Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services; Will Roblin, President of the Seacliff Improvement Association; Tom Dobrovolny, representing Seacliff Needs a Park, Inc.; and, County park project manager, Sheryl Bailey. Happy cheers and applause rose from the attendees as Seacliff Village activist Pepper Golesh wielding the over-sized wood scissors, provided by Karen and John Hibble from the Aptos Chamber of Commerce, snipped apart the ceremonial red ribbon, officially opening Seacliff Village Park.

Recently the mosaics were vandalized and the County Parks Department is in discussion with the artist about the extent of the damage and how to best repair the artwork.

Upcoming additions to park will be the installation of three memorial benches and educational signage identifying the park's bio-swale and drought tolerant landscaping.



Save the Date! May 7, 2016 For the 36th Annual Human Race

Deb Murray, SIA Fundraising Chair

Santa Cruz County's 36th Annual Human Race Walkathon and Fun Run will take place on May 7, 2016. The Human Race is a nationwide community fundraising event where communities come together for a good cause. The Human Race has become this association's primary fundraiser. The money we raise will be used for First Aid kits for Seacliff CERT Team and bender board and decomposed granite for the Mini Park.

Our 2016 goal is to raise \$2,500. To reach this we will need your help. We encourage all of you to participate and walk (or run) with us. It's a fun day with a beautiful walk (or run) along West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz. More details to come via email alerts...stay tuned!

Have a Concern?	Contact	Contact Information
Noise	Santa Cruz County Sheriff	24 hour non-emergency: 471-1121
Abandoned Vehicle Please provide:		http://www.scsheriff.com/Home/AbandonedVehicles.aspx
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location and Color • Make and model • License plate number • How long it has been since it was last moved, if known 	Santa Cruz County Sheriff	454-3139
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car Blocking the street • Parking in a no parking zone • Non-injury accidents 	California Highway Patrol	796-2160
Animal Control/Barking	Santa Cruz Animal Shelter	http://www.scanimalshelter.org/complaint_process
Code Compliance	Santa Cruz County Planning Department	http://www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/CodeCompliance.aspx
Graffiti Removal	Graffiti Hotline	427-0462



To report some of the above and other neighborhood concerns, use the Citizen Connect App: <https://sccappstore.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/>

Seacliff Community Contacts

Santa Cruz County Offices	2nd District Supervisor, Zach Friend	454-2200
Aptos/LaSelva Fire District	Fire Chief, Jon Jones	685-6690
Sheriff's Sub-Station Rancho Del Mar Center	Sergeant Patrick Dimick	662-0690
Seacliff State Beach	Park Office	685-6442 or 685-6500
Aptos Chamber of Commerce	Executive Directors: John and Karen Hibble	688-1467

Seacliff Improvement Association
Treasurer's Report January 2016

	January	YTD
Beginning Cash Balance:	\$25,461.42	\$25,461.42
INCOME:		
Donations	\$ 50.00	\$50.00
Membership Dues	\$ 226.00	\$226.00
Total Income:	\$276.00	\$276.00
EXPENSES:		
Postage	\$ 26.03	\$26.03
Newsletter		
Printing/Postage	\$ 240.16	\$240.16
PayPal Reconciliation	\$ 0.78	\$0.78
Total Expenses:	\$266.97	\$266.97
Ending Cash Balance:	\$25,470.45	\$25,470.45

Welcome New Members!

Danielle Dorrian
Matt and Joan Love
Gregory and Heidi Pierce
Mike and Kathy Ransom

We thank all 356 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.

**Seacliff Improvement Association
2016 Board of Directors**

President: Will Roblin
Vice President: Coni Hendry
Secretary: Rebecca Downing
Treasurer: Mark Mauceri
Director: Mary Edmund
Director: Diana Hayden
Director: Stacy Patyk

We have two openings on our board. If you are interested in serving on the board please send us an email: info@seacliffimprovement.org

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

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/>



Coffee, Tea and History


**The Storms and Seawalls
of Seacliff Beach**



See amazing photographs of the different seawalls and the damage from the major storms. We also have rare pictures of the early Seacliff development including plans that never materialized and those that did. Presented by John Hibble.

Saturday, February 27th
3:30pm to 5pm
Rio Sands Hotel Community Room, 116 Aptos Beach Dr

\$15 donation benefits the Museum
Reservations required (831) 688-1467

 **Aptos History Museum**

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

Remember to join us at
The Med on March 8th
6:30 pm!
See Front Page for details

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

Membership Application/Renewal

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: _____

The association does not give out membership lists or phone numbers except to a fellow member for valid membership purposes. If this policy does not provide sufficient privacy, please check one of the two choices following:

Consult me before giving out my address or phone number to any SIA member

Or

Do not give out my address or phone number to any SIA member

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