

Seacliff Improvement Association

Winter 2006

*Mark your calendar to join us for the
Seacliff Improvement Association
Membership Meeting*

*Thursday, February 23, 2005 at 7 p.m.
At the Aptos Library Community Room*

We welcome:

Ellen Pirie

County Supervisor, 2nd District News

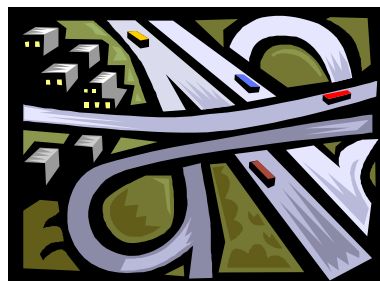
Jan Lindenthal

South County Housing Par 3 Project

And

Peter Dunn

Standard Pacific Par 3 Housing and Traffic



President's Letter

by Terry Winston

Dear Seacliff Neighbors:

Here it is 2006! We have an excellent new board consisting of your neighbors, Patti Camarillo, Ramona Daniels, Rebecca Downing, Steven Gibbs, Bill Eaton, Johanna Lighthill, Mark Willaman, and Lou Wolfe. I have the good fortune of being the president of this industrious board for this year. I thank Rebecca Downing for her stellar presidency of 2005 and the departing board members Pamela Avellino, Dave Boggini, Tom Dobrovolny, and Larry Williams for their dedicated service to our association.

After the Park Measure V failed for the proposed 3-acre site at Sea Ridge and McGregor Drive many Seacliff residents were disappointed but still wanted to find a way to create a park. Our County Supervisor, Ellen Pirie, came up with a compromise solution that will establish a 1.25-acre park, with no additional taxpayer costs, and put in 15 to 20 affordable, owner-occupied town homes instead of the probable three-story hotel. On January 24th the Board of Supervisors approved this plan. Thank you Ellen for looking out for the Seacliff neighborhood. A thanks also goes to County Supervisor Jan Beautz who helped Ellen with the budget funding for the park.

On Thursday, February 23rd we will have our first annual member meeting. It will be held at the Aptos Library from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ellen Pirie will be our first speaker and will talk to us about the proposed park at McGregor and Sea Ridge and the proposed 15 to 20 units of affordable housing to be built at this site. She will also briefly discuss the plans for the proposed 228-unit development on the old Par 3 golf course. Standard Pacific Homes and South County Housing are partnering to build a mix of market-rate and affordable housing on the 13 acres off Mar Vista Drive, adjacent to Highway 1 near the State Park Drive exit. This proposed housing project is a concern to the Seacliff neighborhood because of the expected increase in traffic, and also because of the density of the housing and the appearance of the completed development. Jan Lindenthal from

South County Housing will discuss the proposed affordable housing at the McGregor site and the proposed affordable housing at the old Par 3 site. Peter Dunne from Standard Pacific Homes will talk to us about the market-rate housing to be built at the Par 3 site and what their plans are to mitigate the traffic.

Please mark your calendar to attend this membership meeting on Thursday, February 23rd at 7:00 p.m. We'll have cupcakes and sparkling juice drinks to celebrate the new park!

A Park for Seacliff, Finally!

by Ellen Pirie

The SIA, SNAP (Seacliff Needs A Park) and many Seacliff residents have been working for years to get a neighborhood park in Seacliff. While the State Beach and State Park are wonderful, they fill different needs than a neighborhood park with a play structure for children, picnic tables and grassy area to run, play or relax. Last Spring the voters of Seacliff were unable to reach the required two-thirds positive vote to tax themselves to buy the land and create a park. Although 62% of the voters were willing to pay \$98 per year, that was 4% short of the needed vote. It did show, though, that most of the community wanted a park so much that they were willing to pay for it themselves.



The proposed Seacliff Park site is located at Searidge Drive and MacGregor Road

I've been working with County staff to find another way to get a park for Seacliff and it looks like we've found it.

The Kumar property of 2.9 acres, located at

Searidge and McGregor, will be purchased by South County Housing with a loan from the County. The County will seek to re-zone the property from VA-Visitor Accommodation to Residential and Park. The park will have approximately 1 1/4 acres and the housing will have the remainder of the parcel. The housing is planned to be owner-occupied affordable housing

and I hope to be able to direct that housing towards local teachers.

The Seacliff community working with the County's park designer will design the park. We hope to start that process soon, without waiting for all the land use approvals that will be necessary before the public actually owns the land. We will involve the SIA, SNAP and anybody else interested in helping make this piece of land fulfill the community's vision for a neighborhood park.

SNAP Celebrates Park News

by Rick Stoker

Seacliff Needs A Park is very appreciative of Supervisor Pirie's efforts to create a park for Seacliff families. Over the last week we have enjoyed telling the children of our community there will soon be play equipment and facilities for them. Already the kids are voicing their ideas of what type of park they envision. This is a happy time for Seacliff, and SNAP is deeply grateful to all that have advanced the park effort.

Bluff Restoration Update

by Rebecca Downing

Last May, the association board approved the final draft of the Bluff Native Plant Restoration Plan. This project seeks to restore the big overflow-parking field that overlooks Seacliff State Beach to native plants and grasses. We are close to securing the required permit from State Parks so that work on the first planting plot can begin.

Part of the plan includes perimeter plant improvements and our first planting party outside the state beach fence was well attended with Steven Gibbs, Mary Gibbs, Bill Eaton, Dave Boggini, Phyllis Stollenwerk and Terry Winston pulling out the dead ivy and planting drought tolerant and native plants in the outside perimeter area. We offer a hearty thanks to Karen Grellas for donating \$200 to pay for the plants.

We really need the Seacliff community's help as the restoration effort grows. If you are interested in

serving on this committee, please give me a call at 688-4142.



Rail Line News

by Terry Winston

It looks like the idea of a tourist train running the 6 miles between La Selva Beach and Capitola is shelved for now. In fact, whether the Santa Cruz County Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) ultimately buys the 32-mile rail corridor, running from Watsonville to Davenport, is also in question as there may be millions in repairs needed. Currently, a new engineering study is being completed to estimate the probable costs to upgrade the line to passenger service standards. It may be that either the proposed \$19M for the rail corridor will need to be renegotiated or the SCCRTC may decide the purchase and upgrade would be prohibitively expensive.

On December 8, 2005, the California Coastal Conservancy approved a \$10M loan to purchase the rail corridor with the good faith promise that a hiking and biking trail is built alongside the rail wherever feasible. This promise to build a hiking and biking trail in exchange for the loan is good news for trail advocates and should put the emphasis on building a trail (if the rail corridor is purchased) before the expense of upgrading the rail line to add passenger service.

County Supervisor, Mardi Wormhoudt, developed the idea to form a task force to develop a tax measure that has a chance of being approved by two-thirds of the county voters. The Seacliff Improvement Association requested to be included so that our concerns are addressed and we are included in the democratic process. The Rio Del Mar Improvement Association will also have a representative on the Force. This SCCRTC Funding Task Force will initially be convened before May and run by Fred Keeley – former Speaker pro tem of California's Assembly and past Santa Cruz County Supervisor. As the Seacliff Improvement Association Representative, I will report on the progress of this Funding Task Force.



Bill Eaton readies the soil for plants.

Sprucing up State Park Drive

by Rebecca Downing

The rains of autumn finally softened the ground enough at the garden on State Park Drive for a small band of volunteers, under the direction of this year's president and plant fairy, Terry Winston to dig some big holes, amend the soil a bit and drop in some new plants



Ray Wolfe picks just the right spot to plant new flowers.

A big thank you goes to Ramona Daniels, Bill Eaton, Casey Dawes, Mary Gibbs, Steven Gibbs, Ray Wolfe and Terry Winston for clearing three green cans full of vegetation off the sidewalk so that two

people can now walk side-by-side and even double-wide strollers can be pushed.

Seacliff Highlands Almost Complete

by Rebecca Downing



If you or someone you know needs an affordable place to rent consider applying for the new apartments going up right now at Searidge Drive and MacGregor Road in Seacliff.

Applications will soon be available for the 40 units under construction on a new street called Canterbury Drive. First, a lottery will be held of qualified applicants. Then a credit check is performed. The rent is structured according to annual income with residents paying between \$360

and \$1020 a month.

Seacliff Highlands Apartments will be managed by South County Property Management Corporation. This affiliate of South County Housing currently manages 1100 units in the communities served by South County Housing. The property managers were involved very early in the design of the apartments to ensure easier long-term maintenance of the residences. Everything from water heaters, carpeting, heating, windows, and even paint choices are selected for quality and easy maintenance.

Savoring the Annual Dinner

by Rebecca Downing

A colorful autumn sunset was the backdrop for our annual dinner held at the Seascapes Golf Course in October. After a delicious feast, we proceeded to hand out enough door prizes to send everyone home a winner.

A huge thank you goes to Francine Badagliacca of Seacliff Video for working with local businesses and individuals to provide wonderful door prizes for this event.



Sharon and Harry Vaughn are all smiles.



Deb Murray presents Mary Chikis with a lovely door prize from Seacliff Florist

The fabulous door prizes were donated by: Dan and Judy Atwell, Deja-Vu Hair Studio, Domino's Pizza, Enfantino's Restaurant, Forget-Me-Not Clothing and Gifts, Gene Cadden, Hidden Garden's Nursery, James Downing,

Margaret Kotsi, Pixie Plaza Delicatessen, Seacliff Florist, Seacliff Video, Seascapes Foods and Smoky Market. Thank you all!

Watch Your Mailbox for Thieves

by Rebecca Downing

Several Seacliff residents have reported the theft of mail from local mailboxes.

To minimize the risk of your mail being stolen the United States Post Office suggests the following:



- Never send cash or coins in the mail. Use checks or money orders.
- Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery. If you won't be home when items are expected, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.
- Have your local post office hold your mail while you're on vacation, or absent from your home for a long period of time.
- If you don't receive a check or other valuable mail you're expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.
- Always deposit your mail in a mail slot at your local post office, or hand it to your letter carrier.
- If you observe a mail thief at work, call the local police immediately, and then [your nearest Postal Inspector](#).

Identity theft often is the aim of mail thieves. To protect your identity postal inspectors suggest you:

- Review your consumer credit reports annually.
- Shred and destroy unwanted documents that contain personal information.

Aptos History Museum Needs Your Seacliff Chronicles

by Terry Winston



The Aptos History Museum at the Aptos Chamber of Commerce is in the final stages of completion. It looks great, but the Seacliff Neighborhood needs better representation! If you have any old

photographs of Seacliff people or places or any interesting artifacts, please contact John Hibble at 688-1467. You can also support this museum by attending the Dining for History fundraising event at Ma Maison in Aptos on February 21st. Ten percent of proceeds from dinners bought after 5:00 p.m. will go to the museum.

Mark Your Calendar!

We have many exciting events scheduled for 2006:

February 23, 7 pm **Quarterly Membership Meeting** at the Aptos Library

May 10, 7 pm **Quarterly Membership Meeting** Aptos Library

June 23, 9-4 pm **Flea Market Donation Drop-off** at Seacliff State Beach Upper Parking Lot

June 24, 8-3 pm **Flea Market** at Seacliff State Beach Upper Parking Lot

July 29, 12-3 pm **Annual Picnic**, Seacliff State Beach Pavilion 10 & 11

October 28, 6-9 pm **Annual Membership Dinner**, Seascape Golf Course

Community News Briefs

Our next SIA Board meeting will be held at the Aptos Fire Station on March 8th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

You can meet with Supervisor Pirie most weeks on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at the Aptos Sheriff's Substation at the Rancho Del Mar Shopping Center, near the Safeway supermarket. You can also call Ellen to arrange an appointment.

If you enjoy the garden on Mar Vista then please join in the fun! Due to retirement of members of this gardening group, they are in desperate need of volunteers. Please call Margaret Kotsi at 688-8834 or Elena Longworth at 662-2444 to find out how you can help.

Welcome New Members

Karen Grellas
and
Erik & April Rueppel

Membership

This issue of the newsletter is being sent to all Seacliff residents. If you have not yet joined this wonderful organization, we invite you to do so today. Help support your community while being informed about happenings and issues in our neighborhood by receiving your copy of this informative newsletter published quarterly. Membership dues are only \$15.00 annually.

We'd like to hear from you regarding any issues involving the Seacliff community. Just email us or call any of the board members.

Electronic Newsletter Saves Trees and Association Resources!



All members are receiving this issue via US mail because it has a lot of handy reference information for 2006. We will email the rest of our

newsletters this year to those of you who have requested it electronically. If you would like to receive your next issue via emailed pdf file, send an email to seacliffimprovement@yahoo.com.

Treasurer's Report for Fourth Quarter 2005

By Lou Wolfe

Opening Checking Account Balance	\$4,608.20
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INCOME:

New Members	10.00
Renewed Members	425.00
Interest	2.22
Donations	215.00
Annual SIA Dinner Reservations	<u>399.10</u>
INCOME TOTAL	\$1,051.32

EXPENSES:

Membership/Survey Mailing	51.58
Gardens & Upper Bluff Plants	329.77
Awards	119.02
Post Office Annual Box Rental	48.00
Presidents Service Gift	281.88
SIA Annual Dinner	777.38
Newsletter Printing & Postage	<u>181.51</u>
EXPENSES TOTAL	\$1,789.14

Closing Checking Account Balance	\$3,870.38
Savings Account Balance	<u>\$12,984.35</u>

NET TOTAL	\$16,854.73
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Seacliff Improvement Association Membership Application

Annual Dues are \$15.00 (January – December)

Name(s): _____

Seacliff Address: _____

Mailing Address if different: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email address (for official business use only): _____

Check here if you would like to receive your Newsletter via email. ☐

I am interested in helping with the following:

☐ Annual Flea Market Setup and Sales

☐ Award Selection Committee

☐ Watering and Weeding Entry Garden

☐ State Beach Bluff Planting

Signature: _____

Mail to: Seacliff Park, Inc. P.O. Box 533, Aptos, CA 95001

Seacliff Improvement Association 2006 Contacts

2006 Officers

President	Terry Winston	685-3406	Rebecca Downing	688-4142
Vice President	Ramona Daniels	688-1060	Bill Eaton	688-2282
Treasurer	Lou Wolfe	688-3918	Steven Gibbs	662-3495
Secretary	Pat Camarillo	688-6870	Johanna Lighthill	662-2655
			Mark Willaman	688-6108

2006 Directors

Email: seacliffimprovement@yahoo.com

2006 Committees Chairs

Telephone

Annual Picnic and Membership Dinner	Ramona Daniels	688-1060
Dinner Co-chair	Dave Boggini, Patti Camarillo	
Aptos Chamber of Commerce Community Enhancement Committee Representative	Terry Winston	685-3406
Beautification Awards	Niki Derby	685-1908
County Public Works Liaisons	Steven Gibbs Terry Winston	662-3495 685-3406
Flea Market Donations	Steven Gibbs	662-3495
Sales	Margaret Kotsi	688-8834
	Deb Murray	662-9164
Clean-up	Bill Eaton	688-2282
Membership	Lou Wolfe	688-3918
Mini Park Garden	Niki Derby	685-1908
Newsletter	Rebecca Downing	688-4142
SCCRTC Funding Task Force Liaison	Terry Winston	685-3406
Seacliff Needs a Park (SNAP) Liaison	Rick Stoker	688-6948
Seacliff State Beach Liaison	Rebecca Downing	688-4142
State Park Drive Garden	Bill Eaton	688-2282
Bluff Restoration	Rebecca Downing	688-4142
Website Development and Maintenance	Mark Willaman	688-6108

Community Contacts

Sheriff's Sub-station	Sergeant Shea Johnson	662-0690
Rancho Del Mar Center		
Aptos/La Selva Fire District	Fire Chief, Tom Crosser	685-6690
2 nd District County Supervisor	Ellen Pirie, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz 95060	454-2200
State Department Parks & Recreation	Kirk Lingenfelter	429-2881

Seacliff Improvement Association



Save This Date to attend the Membership Meeting!

Date: February 23rd, 2006

Place: Aptos Library

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Topics: Seacliff Park, Par 3 Housing and Much More...

***This issue of the Seacliff Improvement Association newsletter
is being sent to ALL Seacliff residents. Enjoy!***

Seacliff Improvement Association
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