

Neighbors Stroll to Aptos Village!



Summer 2024



Volunteers, Aptos Merchants, Local Agencies, and elected officials welcomed pedestrians, cyclists and the public to the Aptos Village Green on August 3rd. A big thank you to all of them and America Walks for this successful event!



A new format for our Annual Dinner

We will be holding our dinner at the Aptos Grange with a local Chef/Caterer doing the cooking for us! Please bring your own beverage to share. Dessert will be a cake commemorating Zach Friend, our outgoing County Supervisor and honored speaker for the evening. Marianne's will be providing ice cream for the cake and Ken Constable, guitarist, will be providing the sounds for the evening. Our theme will take us back to years past with black & white photos from yesteryear of the Seacliff area.

When: Oct 19, 2024 - 5:30 to 8:30 pm

Where: Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Drive

Music: Ken Constable on Guitar

BYO: Beverage Or Bottle of Wine to Share

RSVP: (on page 7) ASAP!





Appointment of a New County Sheriff

Zach Friend
Second District Supervisor
County of Santa Cruz

The Board of Supervisors is charged with appointing someone to fill the remainder of current Santa Cruz County Sheriff, Jim Hart's, term. Sheriff Hart submitted his resignation from elected office effective December 6, 2024, after serving honorably for over 35 years.

This provides an overview of the requirements for appointment and background on Undersheriff Chris Clark - whom the Board recommended.

What does the Government Code Section say?

Under Government Code Section 25304, "The board of supervisors shall fill by appointment all vacancies that occur in any office filled by the appointment of the board and elective county officers, except judge of the superior court and supervisors. The appointee shall hold office for the unexpired term or until the first Monday after January 1st, succeeding the next general election."

Recent changes to the Election Code connect terms of a County Sheriff to presidential elections - therefore this appointment would continue until the next presidential primary, a term ending January 8, 2029.

Undersheriff Chris Clark

Our district's office has worked closely with Undersheriff Clark for our three terms and have found him to be very responsive, thoughtful and forward-thinking. He played an integral role in the County's response to the CZU fires and floods has always been available for any public safety-related requests that came from our constituents. His background, beyond his two decades in local law enforcement, provide him with a broad perspective that he attributes to shaping his leadership philosophy.



Undersheriff Chris Clark

Undersheriff Clark grew up in a military family. He was born overseas and lived in multiple countries and multiple states before settling in Santa Cruz County after college with his wife and family. Undersheriff Clark currently oversees the Administration Bureau - which includes Professional Standards and Conduct, Media Relations, Personnel and Training, Records, Warrants, Crime Analysis, Civil, Payroll/Fiscal Management, Forensic Services and Computer Technology.

As always, I appreciate any feedback you may have on this or any other County issue. I maintain regular updates on social media at www.facebook.com/supervisorfriend and you can always call me at 454-2200. You can also learn more about the Sheriff's Office at <https://shf.santacruzcountyca.gov> and clicking on the "Our Agency" tab or explore other sections of their website.

Developing Community Collaboration for the Future Seacliff State Beach

Scott Rolff

Staff Park and Recreation Specialist, California State Parks - Santa Cruz District

The winter storms of 2023 forever changed the coastline in Seacliff. The community has been patient as we assessed the damage and launched a process to better understand what future storms and sea level rise could do to our beloved local beach.

As many of you know, the Santa Cruz District of California State Parks started a sea level rise study following the catastrophic damage that wreaked havoc on our coastal areas in the early months of 2023. As our coastline continues to be affected by climate change and extreme weather, this study will provide State Parks with important guidance for science-based decision-making as we focus on creating greater resilience and adapting to present and future conditions.

Building off a strong understanding of science and local coastal processes, State Parks would like to collaborate with the community to develop a future that is adaptable, resilient and meets the needs of all Californians.

California State Parks and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks will host a community workshop on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Seacliff Inn, 7500 Old Dominion Court in Aptos. This open house-style workshop will include updates on the study. You will be able to learn about coastal processes and how they shape our coastline, as well as the forecasted impacts of climate change-driven sea level rise. Project staff will be available to answer questions and receive community input.

Planning for the future provides an opportunity to be strategic and create a space that is sustainable and resilient to fluctuating environmental conditions. This way, both current and future generations of Californians will know the wonderful feeling of looking onto the Monterey Bay, with sand beneath their feet, at Seacliff State Beach. To stay informed, please visit:

[Seacliff State Beach](#) and be sure to sign up for our email list.

SIA has formed a Working Committee to represent the interests of our neighborhood and the community at large as California State Parks develops plans for the future of Seacliff State Beach. The committee has several goals:

- Protect and preserve a beautiful, accessible Seacliff State Beach
- Preserve day parking access at both beach and bluff levels
- Preserve the open bluff field with walking access and potential expansion of the native species sanctuary gardens.

We can always use more volunteers to help! Please contact us via email at: info@seacliffimprovement.org if you wish to participate.



Seacliff 2024 Beautification Award Winners

Brent Lay
Beautification Committee Chair

It is the Beautification Committee's pleasure to announce our 2024 winners. Between the twelve members of the committee and public submissions, there were 18 nominations this year.

An announcement of the winners was made at the Ice Cream Social, for those who didn't attend, you missed a nice event and free ice cream. Each four of our winners receives a \$50 gift certificate for Dig Gardens and the display the award sign in their yard. Here are our winners and the stories of their beautification transformations:



105 San Benito

Rick and Jinny Strock have owned their home at 105 San Benito for about 20 years. It was built as an architect's residence and later was a rental home. Their son Ben lived there while remodeling his own home in Seacliff and Rick and Jinny have used the residence since Covid. They undertook extensive landscaping and repainting of the front and back yards including new plantings emphasizing their love of color and flowers.

Jinny developed her appreciation of gardening from her grandmother who had a beautiful rose garden. Rick and Jinny split their time between Santa Clara Valley and Seacliff, they are very active in the community and philanthropic causes in Seacliff.

520 Middlefield

Carlene Gundersgaard purchased her home at 520 Middlefield in 2019, but she is no stranger to Aptos. For most of her adult life she raised her daughter and worked in Aptos schools. When it was time to retire, she longed for the beach weather and the special community of people. In 2020 she hired Bellascape landscape company and owner Brian Mackel worked closely with Carlene to update the exterior and create a landscape that felt fresh and contemporary.



Today Carlene does a lot of the gardening herself as she learns what plants grow best here and how to care for them. She said Dig Gardens has been very helpful and always provided good recommendations. Carlene said she has always admired the homes who have received Beautification Awards and is honored to be included this year.

149 Coates

Michelle Skinner has lived many places before moving to 149 Coates with her husband 2 1/2 years ago. She grew up in Canada in a home full of gardens and orchards. It was there that she developed her love of plants. She and her husband spent an extended amount of time in Michigan before following their son to California. Their first residence in California was in Brookdale off Highway 9 in the Santa Cruz Mountains.



They had only been there a short time when the CZU Complex fire ravaged their community. They loved living in the redwoods but sought Seacliff's safety. Michelle has relandscaped their home with drought tolerant plantings, primarily succulents. It has been a steep learning curve since her experience in northern latitudes didn't prepare her for growing succulents. But Michelle didn't let her lack of experience daunt her. She consulted with neighbors and local nurseries, persisting until she had the result she wanted.



206 Santa Cruz

The first step in the transformation of Eric Olsen and Lisa Franklin's home was a remodel of the exterior 3 years ago. With a new color palette on the house, the front and side yards were updated, keeping the mature trees and installing a new landscape. This also included a new fence with a decorative gate. Their goal was to create a drought tolerant garden with a tropical feel.

Eric and Lisa were very involved in the development of their landscape. They planted, rearranged, and replanted until they established the ambiance they wanted. Eric likes to repurpose the bamboo from his backyard to make trellises for some of the climbing plants. The bamboo and garden art pieces they have incorporated provide a Zen-like feel. The overall result is quite a transformation, bearing little resemblance to the photos on Google from four years ago.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners. Next spring Committee members will be canvassing the neighborhood for nominees for the 2025 awards. It could be you!



No Coastal Rail Trail Access For Eastside of Seacliff

Rebecca Downing

Our association requested the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission establish an access point to the Rail Trail at the east end of North Avenue, next to the Seacliff Garden Apartments. It would have allowed residents living east of State Park Drive and in Rio Del Mar Beach to avoid backtracking to State Park Drive to reach the trail. This was originally part of the 2014 Sustainable Santa Cruz County Plan that envisioned safer passages through intersection and facilities upgrades and new street connections. The Mar Vista Pedestrian Overcrossing and the Soquel Drive Buffered Bike Lane and Congestion Mitigation Project, both currently under construction, were also proposed in the plan.



Location of Proposed Rail Trail Easement

Unfortunately, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Project Development Team has recommended not to proceed with this connection. Some of the challenges leading to the decision include elevation standards required for ADA-compliance, opposition of an easement by property owners, and relocation of a PG&E utility pole. The connection would also require a new crossing that would require approval from the California Public Utilities Commission(CPUC), an 18 to 24 month long process. The CPUC stated it was possible to gain approval, but it would take time and, if or when either freight service is reactivated or passenger rail service begins, the crossing would need to close.

Seacliff Improvement Association 2024 Treasurer's Report

	YTD
Ending Balance from Dec 2023	\$22,940.13
INCOME:	
Membership Dues	\$2,794.99
General Donations	\$1,067.54
Beachgate Trail Donations	\$100.00
Wells Fargo Account Interest	\$1.35
America Walks Grant	\$1,500.01
TOTAL INCOME:	\$5,463.89
EXPENSES:	
Membership Reimbursement	\$100.00
Beachgate Trail Expenses	\$760.00
Annual Dinner	\$1,166.50
Insurance	\$414.00
Membership Meetings Expenses	\$30.44
Mini Park	\$875.03
Newsletter	\$2,967.63
Nonprofit registration fees	\$20.00
Seacliff Street Fair	\$250.00
Website Hosting	\$1,603.64
Zoom Annual Subscription	\$159.90
Aptos Village Stroll	\$498.59
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$8,845.73
ENDING CASH BALANCE:	\$19,558.29
Beachgate Trail YTD Balance:	\$4,380.62

Membership Approves Dues Increase

The SIA members vote to increase our annual dues from \$20 to \$25 beginning in 2025 has passed. The increase was approved with 141 YES votes and 2 NO votes. Dues will now be \$25 per year.

To learn more about the association including our bylaws, activities, and newsletter archive visit: [Seacliff Improvement Association](#)

Our membership meets quarterly, and our board of directors meets on the second Tuesday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us if you wish to attend: info@seacliffimprovement.org

Seacliff Improvement Association
Annual Membership Renewal and Dinner Reservation
Complete, print and mail your form to:

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

Name(s): _____

Seacliff Street Address: _____

Mailing Address if different: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Telephone Number(s): (____) _____

(____) _____

Email Addresses for our newsletter and alerts:

Email 1: _____

Email 2: _____

Email 3: _____

Dinner Entrées:

1. Greek Style Stuffed Chicken
2. Red Wine Braised Short Ribs
3. Pasta Shells with Butternut Squash

Dinner Guests (please print):

Select One Entrée:

Name: _____ 1 2 3

Name: _____ 1 2 3

Name: _____ 1 2 3

Name: _____ 1 2 3

\$25 for 2025 Dues (January - December) \$ _____

Additional Donation: \$ _____

_____ Number of Dinner Attendees

Total Reservations at \$65 each: \$ _____

Select Payment Method:

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Zelle to: info@seacliffimprovement.org

PayPal from the link at our homepage: <https://seacliffimprovement.org/>

Check to the: Seacliff Improvement Association

Seating is limited so R.S.V.P. by October 7th!

Thank you for your support!

Seacliff Improvement Association

PO Box 533

Aptos, CA 95001-0533

**OPEN NOW!
Annual Dinner
Invitation and
RSVP Form Inside...**



***Save the Date: October 12, 2024, for the
Seacliff Street Fair and Dog Parade!***

- ★ ***Music: Steven Graves and The Joint Chiefs***
- ★ ***Prizes: Gift certificates from local businesses including a night's stay at The Chaminade***
- ★ ***Food Trucks: Sauceyz and Samba Rock***
- ★ ***Crafts: 20+ vendors this year!***
- ★ ***Seacliff Dog Parade***
- ★ ***Kid's Corner: Face Painting, Library, Chalk Art and more.***

Fair details and hours coming soon!