



# Seacliff Improvement Foundation

## Summer 2026

### Meet us at the Aptos Library for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Membership Meeting

We are pleased to invite all members to our 3rd Quarter Membership Meeting, featuring these two special guests:

**Supervisor Kim DeSerpa and SCCRTC Director Sarah Christensen.**



This is a chance to sit down with the people shaping decisions that affect our neighborhood — in a setting that's the opposite of a packed county chamber. The Aptos Library is small and local, which means your questions won't get lost in the crowd. You'll be able to speak directly with Supervisor DeSerpa and Director Christensen and get real answers, not talking points.

Supervisor DeSerpa represents our district on the Board of Supervisors. Director Christensen sits on the SCCRTC, helping guide the transportation projects and priorities that affect how we all get around — from road conditions to transit access.

Meetings like this only work when neighbors show up. The more of us in the room, the more our representatives understand what matters to Seacliff. Bring your questions, bring a neighbor, and join the conversation.

**When: Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**

**Where: Aptos Public Library, Betty Leonard Community Room, 7695 Soquel Drive**

Please RSVP by September 6<sup>th</sup> to [info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org) only if you WILL be able to attend and include the names in your party.



## **Hello Seacliff Neighbors!**

**Kim De Serpa**  
Second District Supervisor  
County of Santa Cruz

### **A Summer Update for Seacliff**

I always appreciate the opportunity to stay connected with the Seacliff community. I wanted to share a few updates on projects and issues that are especially important to our coastal neighborhoods.

### **Highway 1 Construction Update**

If you have been driving along Highway 1 lately, you have probably noticed a lot of activity. Work continues across several parts of the corridor, and we are beginning to see some very visible progress.

The Park Avenue southbound onramp has been rebuilt from the ground up, including significant drainage improvements. Crews are now preparing the ramp for paving.

The new Mar Vista Pedestrian Overcrossing is also moving along. The bridge supports and deck are complete, and crews are finishing the bridge surface. The pedestrian railings are being fabricated and painted now and are expected to arrive soon for installation. Once the railings are in place, crews will begin removing the temporary supports beneath the bridge, which will require periodic lane closures.

Work is also underway at the Bay Avenue and Porter Street ramps, along with construction of the new auxiliary lanes between Bay Avenue/Porter Street and State Park Drive. I know construction can be frustrating, but these improvements are important pieces of the larger Highway 1 project and are intended to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion along the corridor.

Please consider patronizing our hard working local businesses directly affected by the ramp closures all along Bay Avenue and Porter Street.

### **Keeping Our Coast Informed**

Living in Seacliff means living alongside one of the most beautiful and important resources in our County. There are several coastal policy developments happening right now that residents may want to know about.

The Board of Supervisors recently voted to place an updated "Blue Wall" measure on the November ballot. The measure would strengthen the County's existing protections against offshore oil infrastructure and expand those protections to address emerging offshore activities such as deep-sea mining. Voters will ultimately decide whether to approve the measure. The Federal Administration is currently attempting to sell oil leases off the Central Coast.

There is also an opportunity for public comment on NOAA's review of California's Coastal Management Program. The program provides a framework for California's participation in reviewing certain federal activities that could affect our coastal resources. Written comments are due by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on August 22, 2026.

Residents who would like to submit comments can email [czma.california-evaluation@noaa.gov](mailto:czma.california-evaluation@noaa.gov). The subject line should include "Comments on Performance Evaluation of the California Coastal Management Program." Comments can address any aspect of the program. NOAA is particularly interested in input concerning offshore oil production. Written comments may be submitted in English or another language and will be publicly accessible.

## Honoring Rebecca Downing

Emily Chorba

For more than twenty years, Rebecca Downing has been a steady, devoted leader of the Seacliff Improvement Association. In every officer role — Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and President — she served with quiet dedication, thoughtful care, and unwavering commitment.

Her service meant showing up year after year, keeping records accurate, finances transparent, and the board focused through changing neighbors, shifting priorities, and every challenge since the early 2000s. Even after leaving the board, Rebecca continues to care for Seacliff by coordinating the upkeep of the Mini Park — a small space that reflects her habit of quietly strengthening the places that make this neighborhood feel like home.

To honor her legacy, the board placed a bronze plaque in the Mini Park, set into the rock, bearing her name. It will remind future neighbors that this space has been tended by someone who deeply loves Seacliff.

Rebecca, thank you for more than two decades of leadership, integrity, and care. Seacliff is better, more organized, and more connected because of you.



## State Parks Update

Brent Lay

State Parks is proceeding with the re-envisioning of Seacliff Beach State Park. We are currently in the third phase out of five phases. Phase 3 is "Envision Desired Future" meant to come up with conceptual plans for the new reorganized State Park.

Phase One was identifying the processes and risks that required changes for the future.

Phase Two was identifying the various possible methods and strategies to adapt.

Phase Four will be creating the Final Design and applying for the necessary permits.

Phase Five "Implementation" is basically the construction process.

While the big project is working its way through the five phases, a research project has been announced to try several sizes and types of man-made dunes that will then be planted with native shore plants.

These will be improved versions of what was done at Rio Del Mar beach. They will be placed between the main stairs and Rio Del Mar. The purpose is to see what size, height and construction method holds up best to our particular beach configuration and wave action. Apparently the same design will function differently depending on location, so what works at one beach cannot be directly transferred to another environment.

Of course the hot topic is still the Camping Study to determine where to replace the lost Motorhome sites that were at beach level. Sites at beach level are not feasible for rebuilding so all eyes are on the grassy meadow at the top of the stairs. Residents are justifiably concerned and signs have been popping up in people's front yards expressing concern over loss of the meadow and change of neighborhood character if camping was allowed in the neighborhood.

State Parks management and staff from PlaceWorks (the consulting firm conducting the study) will be updating a small group from Seacliff Improvement Foundation and members of Seacliff Strong and listening to our concerns specifically.

On Tuesday, August 25th State Parks and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks hosted a large public meeting, similar to the ones at Seacliff Inn and Cabrillo. This was held at the New Brighton Middle School and was a great chance for Seacliff residents to get their questions answered and their voices heard on this issue. A large number of residents attending the meeting demonstrated to State Parks how important this issue is for people living in Seacliff.

## Seacliff beach trails

### Beachgate Trail: Andrea Miller

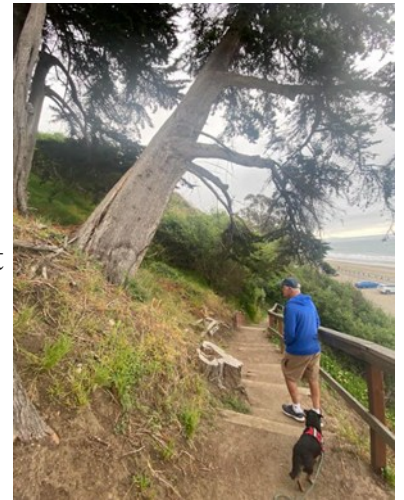
The best part about living in Seacliff is that we really are so close to the sea! You'll find me heading down the Beachgate Trail morning and evening, I like to bookend my days with a with a beach walk whenever possible.

You never know what or whom you'll meet on the trail. Recently I've seen some quail on the trail and a rabbit more than once. Awhile back, in the evening, we were lucky enough to spot an owl in the tree canopy. That was cool!

It's always fun to meet up with neighbors and catch up a bit while heading along the trail.

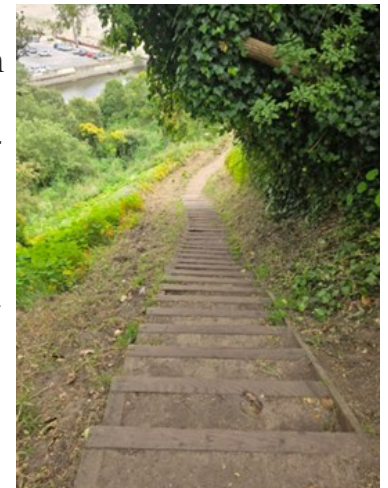
Earlier this year I had noticed a tree had cracked its trunk and was leaning precariously towards the bottom of the trail. Thankfully, after notifying the State Parks, an arborist was called to take a look at it. Sadly, the tree was beyond saving and had to be cut down. The trail is safe again, and that's what matters!

During the winter we had some issues with drainage at the bottom of the trail. An awesome puddle would form, which could only be crossed while wearing tall rain boots. Trail goers without boots would turn back, or sacrifice their dry shoes. Again, State Park personnel have been working on the drainage issue. We'll find out if they've solved it when it starts raining again.



### Moosehead Trail: Dave Somerton

Over the 8 years that I have been the SIF caretaker of the Moosehead Trail we have had two work parties to replace the lower stairs, the first with SIA volunteers alone and the second partnered with State Park staff. The routine maintenance (weed whacking) was done by SIF volunteers as needed. However, starting last year State Parks has taken on this task and continues to do an excellent and professional job. Most people that I meet on the trail appreciate the lack of brush (especially the poison oak) which allows passing other walkers more comfortably. But some of these folk feel a bit uncomfortable on the upper, steep, portion and expressed the need for a hand rail. SIF has discussed this issue with State Park staff to work how this might be done, but a plan has yet to be finalized.



## Seacliff 2026 Beautification Award Winners

Brent Lay

It's the Beautification Committee's pleasure to announce our 2026 winners. Between the Committee members and the public submissions, there were 18 homes nominated this year. From those 18 nominations come our winners.

An announcement of the winners was made at the Ice Cream Social, for those of you who did not attend, you missed a fun event (and free ice cream from Marianne's). This article is meant to provide a little more information about our winning neighbors and their beautification journeys. All of our winners who accepted the award received a \$ 50 gift certificate to Dig Gardens, and get to display the winners sign in their yard. Here they are:

### 123 Sea Terrace

Robert and Nancy Ley have lived in their home for about 4 years, moving from off of Valencia, where Robert's family has had roots for three generations. Since moving there, they have kept the property beautifully, adding new landscaping and some nice specimen plantings. Nancy said she got her love of gardening through her grandmother, and her sister.



### 203 Santa Clara

Joann and Dewayne Niebur moved to Seacliff 2 years ago from Colorado. They put in new landscaping with the goal of creating a lower maintenance and more drought tolerant front yard. Dewayne added some rockwork for height and a new path to the front door. They have settled in well, drawing inspiration from the neighborhood, and made use of succulents donated by friends and neighbors, and were able to obtain some colorful Iris plants from the Iris society.



### 621 Seacliff

Judy Champion has owned her historic Mediterranean style home since 1979. She said it had a "colorful" history prior to her. The home has original hand painted tile and other original touches circa 1920. It took work to get it where it is, it had to be converted from the old "knob and tube" style electrical system. During Covid, Judy removed her front lawn and put in a new planting bed with brightly colored drought resistant plants to go with the house. She used the father and son team at Coastal Evergreen to help with that project.



Congratulations to all of this year's winners. Next spring Committee members will be canvassing Seacliff neighborhoods for homes to nominate for 2027.

— 6TH ANNUAL —

# Seacliff STREET FAIR

SATURDAY · OCTOBER 10  
2026

— 11:30AM – 4:00PM —

BROADWAY, BETWEEN CENTER AVE. AND SANTA CRUZ AVE.



FOOD TRUCKS  
& ICE CREAM



LOCAL  
VENDORS



CRAFTS



KIDS'  
CORNER



DOGGIE PARADE  
@ 11:30 AM

— LIVE MUSIC —

11:30AM – 1:30PM

STEVEN  
GRAVES  
Band



2:00PM – 4:00PM

THE  
JOINT CHIEFS



Thanks to Seacliff Merchants for their sponsorship. Seacliff Street Fair hosted by the Seacliff Business Partnership and the Seacliff Improvement Foundation.

# SIGN UP YOUR PUP FOR THE



## DOGS OF SEACLIFF 2027 CALENDAR

100% of the profits go toward the maintenance of the Beachgate Trail



Submit your photos here:

<https://pci.jotform.com/form/262117919617160>

or scan the QR code

Deadline  
to Enter  
Nov 1st

SUBMIT YOUR BEST PHOTOS OF THE  
**OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> DOGGIE PARADE**  
AND YOUR PHOTO MIGHT BE SELECTED TO BE  
**DOGS OF SEACLIFF 2027 CALENDAR**  
**COVER PHOTO!**

Winner will receive a free calendar and a  
\$25 gift certificate to Aptos Feed



## **The Dogs of Seacliff Calendar**

Samantha Olden

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2026 Dogs of Seacliff Calendar! The calendar featured more than 70 neighborhood dogs and raised over \$1500 for SIF and the Beachgate Trail. Because it was such an enormous success we decided to make it an annual tradition.

Entries for the 2027 calendar are now open, so start gathering your best pup photos. This year's \$30 entry fee includes a free calendar. Feel free to submit several photos of your dogs; if space allows, we may be able to include more than one. Submissions are due by November 1st, and calendars will arrive on or before December 18th, in plenty of time for Christmas!

Be sure to take plenty of photos at the **Oct 10th Doggie Parade** at the Seacliff Village Street Fair — one lucky pup will be chosen for the 2027 calendar cover. The Cover Photo Contest winner will receive a free calendar and a \$25 gift certificate to Aptos Feed.

Submit your photos here: <https://pci.jotform.com/form/262117919617160>

# How to report a maintenance issue to the County

Dave Somerton

Have you ever seen a dead animal, or unsightly graffiti, or a troublesome pothole and wondered how you could get the County to do something about it? One way is to go to the County's website (<https://santacruzcountyca.gov>), but there is a much easier way, that is, by using the County reporting app. To get this app (my Santa Cruz County) on your phone, search for "santa cruz county app". Once you download the app and open it you will get the following screens (numbered left to right):

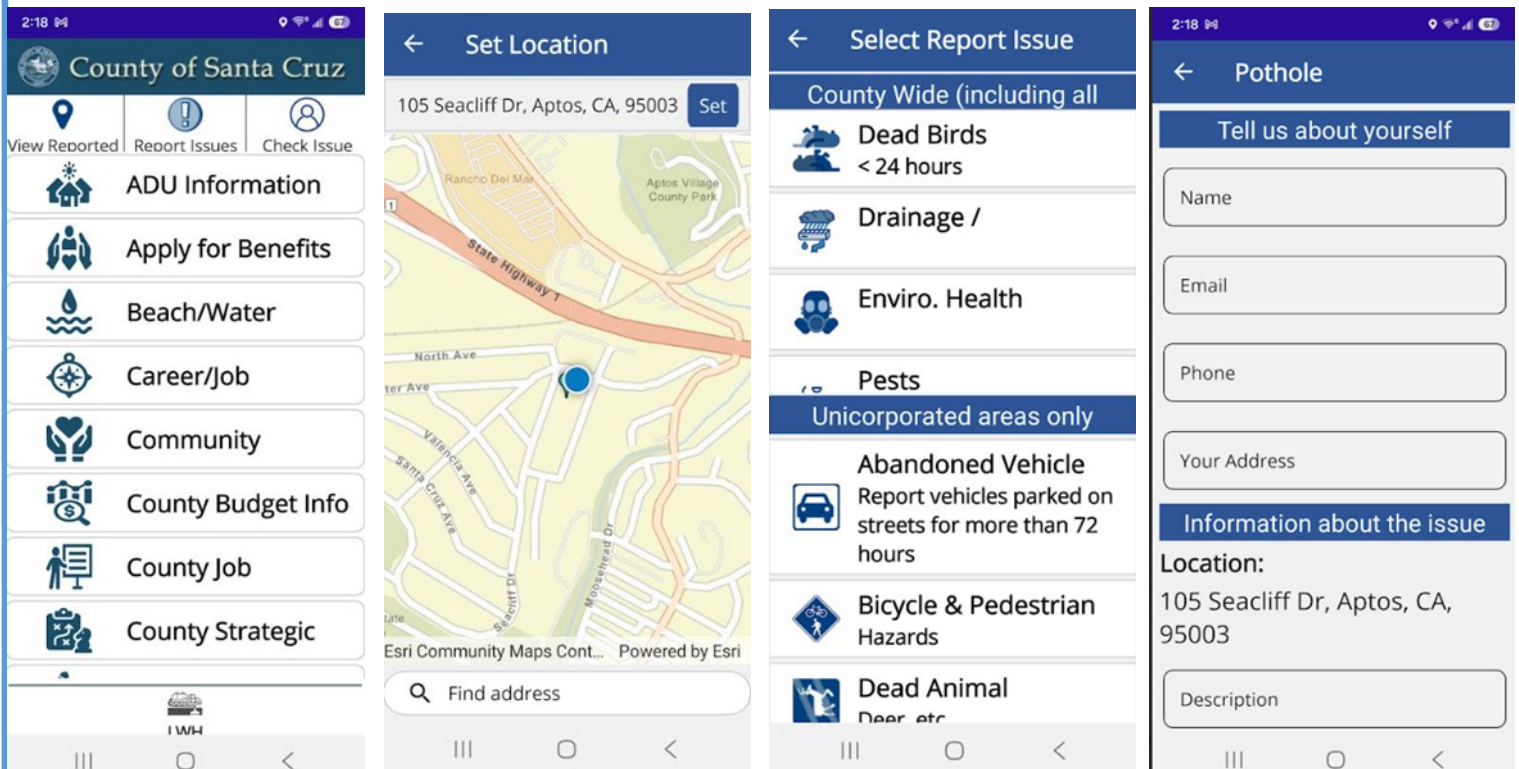
Screen 1. Press "report issues"

Screen 2. The map will show your location, or you can enter a location in the text box. Press set.

Screen 3. Select the type of issue you want to report.

Screen 4. Enter your contact info, details about the problem, take a picture of the problem if you can, then press submit.

The first screen also provides tools for re-examining what you submitted and checking progress fixing the issue. When I used this app two years ago about a pothole, they fixed it the next day.



| Reference List for neighborhood issues                                                                                                          |                                          |                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Have a Concern?                                                                                                                                 | Contact                                  | Contact Information                                                               |
| Noise                                                                                                                                           | Santa Cruz County Sheriff                | 24-hour non-emergency:<br>831-471-1121                                            |
| Abandoned Vehicle<br>Please provide:<br>Location and Color<br>Make and model<br>License plate number &<br>length of abandonment                 | Santa Cruz County Sheriff                | <a href="#">Santa Cruz County Sheriff Vehicle Abandonment</a><br><br>831-454-7602 |
| Car Blocking the street<br>Parking in a no-parking zone<br>Non-injury accidents                                                                 | California Highway Patrol                | <a href="#">California Highway Patrol</a><br><br>831-796-2160                     |
| Animal Control/Barking                                                                                                                          | Santa Cruz Animal Shelter                | <a href="#">Santa Cruz Animal Shelter</a><br><br>831-454-7200                     |
| Code Compliance                                                                                                                                 | Santa Cruz County Planning<br>Department | <a href="#">Santa Cruz County Code Compliance</a>                                 |
| Road Operations                                                                                                                                 | Public Works<br>24-hour Service Line     | 831-477-3999                                                                      |
| Sanitation                                                                                                                                      | Public Works Switchboard                 | 831-454-2160                                                                      |
| Explore County resources and report neighborhood concerns<br>such as potholes, bicycle & pedestrian hazards, encampments,<br>or illegal dumping |                                          | <a href="#">My Santa Cruz County</a>                                              |
| Seacliff Community Contacts                                                                                                                     |                                          |                                                                                   |
| Santa Cruz County<br>Representative                                                                                                             | 2nd District Supervisor:<br>Kim De Serpa | 831-454-2200 or email<br>Kimberly.Deserpa@<br>santacruzcountycal.gov              |
| Central Fire District                                                                                                                           | Jason Nee Fire Chief                     | 831-479-6842                                                                      |
| The Aptos Village Safety Cen-<br>ter                                                                                                            | Sergeant Travis Huntsman                 | 831-662-0690                                                                      |
| Seacliff State Beach                                                                                                                            | Park Office                              | 831-685-6442 or<br>831-685-6500                                                   |

# Treasurer's Report

Jivan Dhaliwal

| Seacliff Improvement Association 2026 Treasurer's Report |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                                                          | January            | February           | March              | April              | May                | June               | July               | YTD                |
| Ending Balance from Jan 2026                             | \$24,355.85        |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | \$24,355.85        |
| <b>INCOME:</b>                                           |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Membership Dues                                          | \$200.00           | \$75.00            | \$250.00           |                    | \$950.00           | \$250.00           | \$150.00           | \$1,875.00         |
| General Donations                                        |                    | \$90.00            | \$105.00           |                    | \$325.00           | \$10.00            | \$29.70            | \$559.70           |
| Calendar Donations                                       | \$1,385.00         | \$125.00           |                    |                    |                    | \$20.00            |                    | \$1,530.00         |
| Beachgate Trail Donations                                |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | \$0.00             |
| Wells Fargo Account Interest                             | \$0.19             | \$0.08             | \$0.09             | \$0.08             | \$0.08             | \$0.06             | \$0.09             | \$0.67             |
| Credit Card Fee Reimbursement                            |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | \$25.00            |                    | \$25.00            |
| Transfer to CFSCC Seacliff Improvement Fund              |                    |                    |                    | \$5,000.00         | \$0.10             | \$5,009.08         | \$2,500.00         | \$12,509.18        |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>                                     | <b>\$1,585.19</b>  | <b>\$290.08</b>    | <b>\$355.09</b>    | <b>\$5,000.08</b>  | <b>\$1,275.08</b>  | <b>\$5,314.14</b>  | <b>\$179.79</b>    | <b>\$16,499.55</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES:</b>                                         |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Beachgate Trail Expenses                                 |                    |                    | \$200.00           |                    | \$200.00           |                    |                    | \$400.00           |
| Beautification Gift Certificates                         |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | \$0.00             |
| Annual Dinner                                            |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | \$0.00             |
| Insurance                                                |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | \$414.00           |                    | \$414.00           |
| Membership Meetings Expenses                             |                    |                    |                    |                    | \$7.65             |                    |                    | \$7.65             |
| Membership Supplies and Annual Renewal Mailing           |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | \$0.00             |
| Mini Park                                                | \$95.00            | \$95.00            |                    |                    | \$500.00           |                    | \$475.00           | \$1,165.00         |
| Newsletter                                               |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | \$0.00             |
| 4th of July Parade                                       |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | \$0.00             |
| Post Box Annual Rental                                   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | \$0.00             |
| Seacliff Street Fair                                     |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | \$0.00             |
| Survey Monkey Subscription                               |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | \$0.00             |
| Website Hosting, Security and Admin                      | \$623.64           | 21.19              |                    |                    | \$15.00            |                    |                    | \$659.83           |
| Transfer to CFSCC Seacliff Improvement Fund              | \$15,000.00        |                    |                    | \$5,000.00         |                    | \$5,009.08         |                    | \$25,009.08        |
| Credit Card Fee for New Foundation Account               |                    |                    |                    | \$25.00            | \$25.00            | \$27.35            | \$25.78            | \$103.13           |
| Annual Zoom Membership                                   |                    |                    |                    |                    | 169.90             |                    |                    | \$169.90           |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>                                   | <b>\$15,718.64</b> | <b>\$116.19</b>    | <b>\$200.00</b>    | <b>\$5,025.00</b>  | <b>\$917.55</b>    | <b>\$5,450.43</b>  | <b>\$500.78</b>    | <b>\$27,928.59</b> |
| <b>ENDING CASH BALANCE:</b>                              | <b>\$10,222.40</b> | <b>\$10,396.29</b> | <b>\$10,551.38</b> | <b>\$10,526.46</b> | <b>\$10,883.99</b> | <b>\$10,747.70</b> | <b>\$10,426.71</b> | <b>\$12,926.81</b> |
| <b>Beachgate Trail YTD Balance:</b>                      |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | <b>\$3,410.62</b>  |



Welcome New members

Coco Pastizzo  
Duncan McCollom  
Cynthia Gray

If you wish to learn more about the association including our bylaws, activities, our newsletter archive, and board service, visit our [website](https://www.seacliffimprovement.org).

[www.seacliffimprovement.org](https://www.seacliffimprovement.org)

Our membership meets quarterly, and our board of directors meets on the second Tuesday of the month. All are welcome to join us so let us know if you wish to attend at:

[info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org) so we can confirm the meeting time and location.



PO Box 533  
Aptos, CA 95001  
Write: [info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org)  
Surf: [www.seacliffimprovement.org](http://www.seacliffimprovement.org)

## **Join the Seacliff Improvement Foundation Today!**

**The annual dues is \$25.**

Click [here](#) to access our website. Select the Membership tab to complete the online application form. You can pay using Zelle or mail a check to:

Seacliff Improvement Foundation,  
PO Box 533  
Aptos, CA 95001.

To pay by credit card, click [here](#) or scan the QR code to access a secure online payment site.

Questions? Write to us at [info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org)

