

# SEACLIFF IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Newsletter - Fall 2009

## Upcoming Events:

**Sat. October 3, 2009**

### Monte Festival

1:00 pm. to 10:00 pm, Activities & Fireworks, Seacliff State Beach  
<http://www.monte-foundation.com/>

**Sat. October 17, 2009**

### SIA Annual Banquet Dinner

6:00 pm

The SIA Annual Membership Banquet Dinner will be held at the Seascape Golf Course Clubhouse.

Save the date!.

## SIA Annual Membership Dinner Saturday, October 17th, at 6:00 p.m.

The annual Seacliff Improvement Association Membership Dinner is coming this October 17th! Members - look for your invitation to arrive by mail in late September - early October. For non-members who reside in Seacliff (even part time) please consider becoming a member today; see the application for membership on the back of this newsletter!

The celebration at the Seascape Golf Course Clubhouse begins at 6:00 p.m. with live guitar music by Ken Constable, a salmon appetizer and a chance to chat with your neighbors. Around 6:30 p.m. our association president, Mona Daniels, will welcome everyone, introduce the 2009 SIA board, and give a brief talk on the state of the association. Following that Dick Garwood will present his *Tales of Seacliff*. In addition, there will be a raffle drawing to select winners of valuable prizes!!!

Attendees will have a dinner choice of tri-tip, chicken or vegetarian pasta and there will be a delicious dessert. Please join us to celebrate our very successful year and lend your encouragement and support towards appreciation of our wonderful community effort! The cost is only \$25.00 per person. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Welcome To Our New Members!

**Please extend a warm welcome to:**

Robert C. Anderson, Brent Marks & Stephanie Corey, Terry & Esther Maxey, Jim & Tamsen McGinley Peter and Diane Rizio

**We are looking forward to seeing you at our meetings and events!**

## 2009 FALL PRESIDENT'S LETTER – MONA DANIELS

Hello Neighbors,

Recently I picked up the oldest association records, maps, plans and photos. They fill a two drawer file cabinet, a plastic tub and a couple of cardboard boxes that Past president Harry Vaughn had graciously stored them in his garage even though he retired from S.I.A. Board for several years. Prior to that, they had been carefully attended to by the late Helen Cheney who had been Secretary for over 25 years. The handwritten ledger expense account begins 1945 with annual dues being \$3.00! Here are a few interesting items from the files:

### SEACLIFF HISTORY:

In 1925 and 1926, the Seacliff Company of Santa Cruz prepared a development plan for Seacliff Beach and the coastal plateaus above it. The Santa Cruz Land and Title Company surveyed the Seacliff area, naming it "Seacliff Park", including the area in Seacliff Village, laying out lots and streets. Although never developed, these lots and streets are very close to today's configuration of lots and streets.

1929 the Seacliff Amusement Corporation made plans to bring a ship to Seacliff Beach to be used as an entertainment center. The SS Palo Alto arrived at Seacliff Beach in January 1930.

Articles of Incorporation of Seacliff Park Inc. was first filed with the CA Secretary of State as of August 25, 1948.

1974 the Seacliff Mini Park walkway/bridge was constructed by Joe Lynch, Merv Garibotto & Carl Ogrey as engineers/builders. Some benches, walkways and irrigated landscaping were also developed by the local neighborhood association.

Santa Cruz General Plan Update Fall 1991 (which included evaluation of the pre-existing 1980 General Plan, Local Coastal Plan, County General Plan along with related maps and background documents).

Seacliff Village Plan was drafted as of March 2000. The goals of the Plan include: (a) Recognize Seacliff Village as a unique place; (b) Establish a cohesive design framework for existing and future uses; (c) Provide a guide to future public and private land uses; (d) Identify needed infrastructure improvements; (e) Serve the needs of the neighboring residential areas; (f) Serve the needs of visitors; and (g) Improve the customer base for the existing businesses.

### S.I.A. CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS, ISSUES and EVENTS:

S.I.A. has a variety of ongoing activities / projects / committees and there are many volunteer opportunities from which to choose. No one can do everything but everyone can do something and there is something for everyone! Here is a list of some of the things we do in and around Seacliff.

Upper Bluff Restoration of Native Plants and Grasses	Annual Flea Market
State Park Garden	Annual Membership Dinner
Seacliff Mini Park	Newsletter
Beautification Awards	Website
Undergrounding (Utilities) Committee	Fundraising/Donations/Advertisement
McGregor Park Development (newest County Park)	Quarterly General Meetings
Festival of the Cement Ship	Abatement and Land Use
4th of July Parade	C.E.R.T (Civilian Emergency Response Team)

And, as approved by the members, the association is supporting in legal action to prevent rezoning the property known as Poor Clares (Coastlands Church location) to High Density Housing.

The Annual Seacliff Improvement Association Membership Banquet is Saturday October 17th at the Seascape Golf Club, 6pm. We look forward to Ken Constable playing classical guitar and member Dick Garwood's amusing presentation: "Tales of Seacliff". Please make your reservations now! See you there!

If you have interest in becoming a Director of the Seacliff Improvement Association Board please give me a call – **Mona Daniels at 831.688.1060** – We can always use a well intended civic minded individual.

**Poor Clares (Coastlands Church) Rezoning Fall 2009 Update****By Bill Eaton (831) 688-2282**

This article is a follow up to the one that appeared in the Summer 2009 SIA newsletter in which there was substantial background information about rezoning at the Poor Clares site (see: <http://seacliffimprovement.org/newsletter.html>).

We are now awaiting the scheduling of a settlement conference with the County. Such a conference is a California State requirement before our appeal to reverse the zoning action can take place. Our attorney, Bill Parkin is pre-eminently qualified to deal with land use issues and environmental law, especially in Santa Cruz County. He is very optimistic that our neighborhood can prevail in getting the high density housing zoning rescinded. Our case is very solid because we got an early start identifying truly valid defects with the environmental work relied upon by the County.

The generation of increased traffic on State Park is the obvious and most harmful environmental result of the ultimate building of 100 units on the back (easterly) four acres of the property. To address our concerns a few neighbors hired and paid for a professional traffic engineer to evaluate the traffic report obtained by the County. Our traffic engineer generated a seventeen page report detailing the errata such as bad measurements, old data, and erroneous conclusions contained in the County's traffic report. It became the crux of our official objections along with some procedural missteps. For instance, the County increased the density from 80 to 100 units even though the environmental work did not consider a change in the number or units.

Some people have questioned the need to challenge the rezoning action at the present time, rather than when building permits are requested. Well the answer is that no meaningful challenge can be made at a later date because the County made a "by right" zoning action. "By right" zoning means that once in place, the zoning cannot be changed nor can the number of units be changed. So this really means that now is the only time this rezoning action can be challenged. The Planning Department made it very clear from the start that the rezoning action at Poor Clares would be "by right."

Nobody wanted to be forced to fight for what is right for our neighborhood. We ordinarily assume the County will do the right thing; however, that was not the case with Poor Clares. I am confident this "by right" zoning action can be rescinded if we can fund the effort to make it to the finish line. Currently pledges and contributions received cover about three fourths of the estimated cost of the challenge. Since the challenge will benefit all property owners, it is fair that all property owners make some contribution to protect our neighborhood. So, please consider making a contribution that will get us to the finish line. Is the money for a couple months cable TV bill too much to spend? Feel free to call me at the number above with your thoughts about Poor Clares.



## August Beautification Awards – Niki Derby

The Beautification Committee awarded the second set of 2009 awards to four very deserving homeowners. I would like to thank committee members for their dedication again this year: Deb Murray, Margaret Kotsi, Rebecca Downing, Sharon Vaughn, Pat Norton, Teri Handzel, Gail Betz, Karen Grellas, and Pat Emard. We'll start again in May 2010.

### 119 Seacliff – Jerry & Socorro Wallace

In 1975 the Wallace's bought their lot and built a single-story, 1200 sq. ft. home. As their family grew with the birth of their two children, the time came to enlarge the house. In 1989 they added the second story and the much-needed room. The children have grown and moved on, but Jerry and Socorro both love their Seacliff home. Both are now retired, which gives them the time to work in their garden and enjoy all that "living at the beach" has to offer.



### 102 MarVista – Dick & Heidi Garwood



From the 1950s, Heidi's family owned a small cabin on this bluff lot. In 1995, Heidi and Dick decided to build their permanent home, but this was no small task. It took five years to weave their way through the permitting process, including getting approval from the Coastal Commission. Finally, in 2000 they realized their dream and moved into the lovely home you now see. Heidi is a graphic designer and Dick spends a great deal of time volunteering at the Aptos History Museum. He helped with every aspect of the museum, including building the display cases. He continues to give tours and talks about Seacliff and the surrounding area.

### 612 Maple – Maureen Cox

Maureen and her late husband bought this home about 25 years ago as their retirement home. In the intervening years, they rented it until about three years ago. Maureen has done a lot to improve the home, including cutting down two Monterey Cypress trees in the side yard, which allowed some much-needed sun into the yard. The magnificent oak in her front yard is estimated to be over 200 years old and it has beautiful structure. With advice from arborists, she is trying to keep it alive and it seems to be responding to her loving care.



### 403 Coates Dr. – Dianne & Steve Pereira



Steve and Dianne bought the house in June 1999. It has been a 10-year "labor of love" with an open checkbook. First on the list was securing the hillside that had slid in the 1997 storms. . . a 9-month process with the County and Coastal Commission. After an additional 3-1/2 year process, they secured a permit to build an accessory dwelling unit with attached garage and loft in 2003. The construction was completed in 2005. Steve was now able to concentrate on what he loves best . . . gardening! He had a faux lawn installed, which is perfect for coastal living -- no additional water on the hillside and it is green year round. Note: it looks really good and you wouldn't guess that it isn't real grass! Great idea for all of us with lawns!

## Worm Composting by Louise & Joel Wallock



I want to alert our Seacliff neighbors to a fascinating way that we are helping our little corner of the planet. Last year, we purchased a worm bin from our Green Waste Recovery garbage collection service. For \$25 we received a worm bin that came with simple, clear, and helpful instructions on how to set up and maintain it. We save all our vegetable and fruit peelings to “feed” our worms.

This year, we harvested wonderful, rich humus that came from the interaction with our worms. This soil amendment, together with the “worm juice” that also comes from the worms, is a fantastic resource and an unbeatable amendment to our soil. We don’t use our garbage disposal as much, we recycle so much that usually becomes food waste, we keep our connection with the earth, and we share our worms’ bounty with neighbors whose lemon bushes and flowers benefit from this wonderfully rich end product. Also, our tomatoes have never been so hearty, productive, and happy.

So, all in all, it’s a win/win situation between us and our worms. Our food scraps and peelings become their food, which then becomes our soil amendment. People who have children will love having their kids see the interaction between humans and gardening and how all living things have a part to play in respecting the earth and keeping our gardens happy and healthy.

By the way, we have a very small yard . . . it really doesn’t take much room or effort!

## Seacliff Cert —Mary Edmund

Be prepared to help your family and neighbors in the event of a disaster. Recently, SIA started laying the groundwork to form Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) but we need your help!

Following a major disaster, people who provide fire and medical services may not be available. Factors as number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect. People will have to rely on one another for help. CERT is designed to help neighborhoods prepare for effective disaster/emergency response through training and pre-planning.

The training covers basic skills that are important to know when emergency services may not be immediately available. Program material covers earthquakes, fires, floods, hazardous incidents and other general life-threatening situations. Training lasts about 20 hours, divided over 6 evenings given at the Aptos/La Selva fire station on Soquel. The training increases one’s ability to safely help themselves, family and neighbors.

Now here is where you may help. We need an additional 41 individuals to support our community in becoming CERT qualified. Now is the time to prepare and get ready! Those who live here only part time or who rent their homes are welcome. The next training is January (will get you the start date ASAP). Please, contact Mary Edmund at phone: 475-2633 or email: [medmund4@gmail.com](mailto:medmund4@gmail.com) to sign-up.



## Upper Bluff Restoration by Terry Winston

This February 2009 Seacliff Improvement Association (SIA) supervised the planting and seeding of 1/4 acre of the Seacliff State Beach Upper Bluff with California native plants and grasses! If you take a walk out onto this area you will find hundreds of blue flags identifying these “baby” native plants. One of our biggest helpers planting and seeding these native plants was the California Conservation Corps (CCC).

This spring and summer SIA volunteers have been diligently weeding wild radishes and other noxious invasive weeds with a great deal of assistance from volunteers from the CCC. We’re making great progress, but there’s still much to do.

In recognition of the outstanding contributions of the CCC the Seacliff Improvement Association awarded 18 Certificates of Appreciation to the following CCC volunteers: Brenda Burks-Herrmann, Sharon Hazel, Janet Wohlgemuth, Anibal Gordo, Anival Froylan, Josue Escoto, Jose Sanchez, Carlos Sanchez, Chris Moreno, Osvaldo Moreno, Luis Medina, Ricardo Soto, Alejandro Salcido, Noemi Larios, Daniel Magdaleno, Froylan Huerta, Jose Carlos, and Jaureque Valdes.

This fall, after the rainy season is underway, we’ll be seeding more California Native Plants to further infill the 1/4 acre plot. If you would like to help weed, prepare the ground for the new seeds, or spread seeds, please contact Terry Winston via e-mail at [terrylyn57@hotmail.com](mailto:terrylyn57@hotmail.com).



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**A Note from Your Editor:**

Due to Space limitations, the SIA Treasurer’s Report has been omitted from the print version of the SIA newsletter. The report will be available in the emailed and online version of the newsletter Please visit our website, [www.seacliffimprovement.org](http://www.seacliffimprovement.org), to download the Fall 2009 pdf version of the newsletter. We apologize for the inconvenience.

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**Community Contacts**

Sheriff's Sub-Station Rancho Del Mar Center	Sergeant Robin Mitchell	662-0690
Abandoned Vehicle Program (vehicles abandoned on street over 72 hrs.)	Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Desk (need location, color, make, model & license plate)	454-3139
Aptos/LaSelva Fire District	Fire Chief, Tom Crosser	685-6690
Santa Cruz County Offices 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, 95060	2nd District Supervisor, Ellen Pirie	454-2200
California State Parks	Sector Superintendent, Pajaro Coast Sector - Kirk Lingenfelter Seacliff Supervising Ranger - Kevin Best (dogs off-leash, dead animals, etc.) Seacliff Park Maintenance Worker II - Jeffrey Long	429-2881 685-6442 475-0164
Aptos Chamber of Commerce	Executive Director, John Hibble Executive Director, Karen Hibble	688-1467
Graffiti Abatement Project	Sara Winterburn	427-0462

## TREASURER'S REPORT

3rd QUARTER 2009 30 Aug. 09

By Lou Wolfe

Opening Checking Account Balance				\$2,315.63
REVENUE				
	Interest		\$42.34	
	Donations		25.00	
	Memberships		225.00	
	Advertising		75.00	
	Sweat Jacket Sales		180.00	
	CD move to checking		14,670.96	
	TOTAL			\$17,533.93
EXPENSES:				
	Printing & Publication		452.38	
	P.O. Bulk Mail Permit		185.00	
	Wittmer/Parkin Legal Services		8,136.41	
	Beautification Awards		100.00	
	Other		41.18	
	TOTAL			\$8,914.95
Ending Checking Account Balance				\$8,618.98
Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation Grant Receivable				
	Grant Balance at 8/30/09			\$136.68
Accounts Payable at		8/30/2009		
	County Parks Contribution			816.00
	Other Accounts Payable			\$0.00
	Total Payable			\$816.00

# Seacliff Improvement Association

## Membership/Renewal Application



Annual Dues are \$15.00 (January–December)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Seacliff Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address if different: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address (for SIA alerts & notification): \_\_\_\_\_

Please send my Quarterly Newsletter by E-mail:

The SIA does not give out membership lists or phone numbers except to a fellow member for valid membership purposes agreed on by the SIA Board. However, if this policy does not provide sufficient privacy, please check either of the two choices following:

- Do not give out my address or phone number to any SIA member
- Consult me before giving out my address or phone number to any SIA member

Please sign me up to volunteer for:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Flea Market Donations/Setup/Sales | <input type="checkbox"/> SIA Communications Committee           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining Gardens                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Seacliff Beach Upper Bluff Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning & Setup                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities Undergrounding Committee     |

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

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