



NEWSLETTER - April 2024



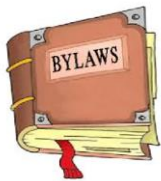
Dear Sunset Beach Residents - We are excited to bring you the latest updates and announcements from the Sunset Beach Improvement Association (SBIA). Here's what's been happening in our community:

Save the date – Spring Clean-up Day - Saturday, April 20, 2024

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 20th! Join us in beautifying our special neighborhood! There will be green waste dumpsters and mulch! We can all relax at a community BBQ in the afternoon. We'll need "all hands on deck" to make this event a success! If you cannot join in, please consider a contribution to help pay for additional day labor, which is always appreciated! A check made payable to the SBIA should be mailed to:

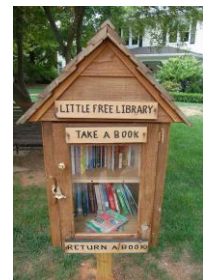
Suzie Yost, 212 Augustine Way, Scotts Valley, CA 95066

If you prefer paying electronically, the SBIA Zelle information is: sbiaacct@gmail.com



Bylaws Revision Approval: We are thrilled to announce that after a recent vote by the membership, the revision of our SBIA Bylaws has been overwhelmingly approved by a majority of our members. Thank you to everyone who participated in this important process. Our Bylaws are posted on the SBIA website.

Little Library Resource List: Our Resource List in the little library is in need of recommendations from neighbors. These recommendations can be contractors, electricians, plumbers, housekeeping services, meal delivery services, florists, event planners, rentals in the neighborhood, and even something like was recently needed, a service that will humanely rid your home of bats! It can be whoever has done a good job for you that you would like to share with others. Please date your entries. Include any services you yourself may offer as well. If you are willing, please provide your contact information. This way, if someone has a question about your specific experience, they can reach out to you directly. Please only take a photo of recommendations or jot down contact information. Do not tear out and remove pages!



Prompt Response to Tree Falling on our Roadway in a Major Storm: During a recent major storm, a eucalyptus tree fell and blocked our entrance road. Our emergency road was immediately opened providing access for residents. Thanks to all the SBIA board members and residents who helped open the emergency road and get the tree removal arranged so quickly and on a Sunday!

SBIA Board members:

Betty Stone, Angelynn Bostrom, Mark Elliott, Suzie Yost, Chris Vanni, Chris Frazier, Karl Simmons



Spring Regrading of Emergency Road: We're pleased to announce that the emergency road will be regraded this spring. This maintenance ensures our emergency road is safe and accessible for all residents when unforeseen circumstances occur, such as when the large eucalyptus tree fell in the roadway during a recent storm.

Understanding SBIA Dues: Have you ever wondered how SBIA dues are used? In addition to routine maintenance and repair projects for paved roads and path and stairs to the beach, dues are used for emergency situations such as removal of the fallen tree that blocked our main access road and maintaining and regrading of the emergency access road so that it is available when needed.



Water Emergency/Problems: In case of any water emergencies or problems, here are the contacts you need to reach out to. From water management to bill inquiries, our Sunset Beach Water Board has got you covered!

Water Emergency Manager: Mason Weidner, Central Coast Water 831-238-9895
 Water Bill Questions: Owen Sharp: Oz@sbcglobal.net
 SBMWC email address: sunsetbeachmutualwatercompany@gmail.com



Reminder: Use of Bungees on Garbage Cans: Please remember to use bungees on your garbage cans! Critters get into them, especially if they are cracked or broken. Owners, landlords and rental management companies, please make sure your full-time and part-time vacation renters have and use bungees. It's never any fun picking up your own or anybody else's wet, half-eaten garbage on the ground when a raccoon or skunk gets into it. If your garbage cans are cracked or broken and you need a new can or simply want to change the size of your cans, just call: Green Waste customer service 831-426-2711.

Welcoming New Neighbors



Have you met your neighbors, Bill and Suzi? They moved to 57 Sunset Drive in late summer last year from the Central Valley to enjoy the beautiful coast. They have a grown blended family with her 2 girls and his 3 kids who they hope will all come visit often. You may also see their dogs: Blue, a husky and Sunny, a golden retriever, but their cat Pepper is more elusive. They are enjoying our little community and said, "We are always available to help out if anyone needs assistance or our community needs help". So be sure to wave the next time you see them and introduce yourself if you haven't yet.



Holiday Party Photos: Relive the fun and joy of our last holiday party with these few photos of the outdoor festivities with a spectacular view



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CERT Information

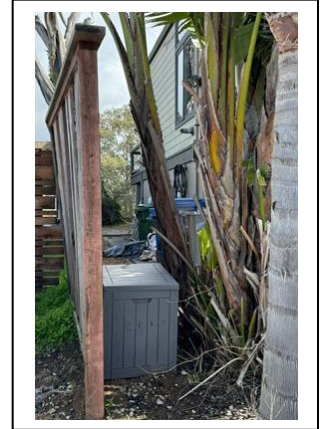
The Sunset Beach Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has some important new information to share with the neighborhood.

First, the CERT team created a small emergency kit and placed it at the neighborhood's Northern end. The kit is in a small garden box next to the fence of 1 Mesa Way and it includes items like caution tape, digital flares, and traffic cones. The full CERT shed with emergency supplies is located next to the SBMWC pump house at the southern end of the hood and the team felt it would be helpful to place some resources at the northern end in case there were issues in that area that needed to be addressed quickly (e.g. downed utility wires).

The second new piece of information is that Santa Cruz County has two new emergency ALERT systems, Cruz Aware and Genasys Protect. CERT recommends residents (part and full-time) register with these systems so that you will receive alerts if there are issues affecting our area:

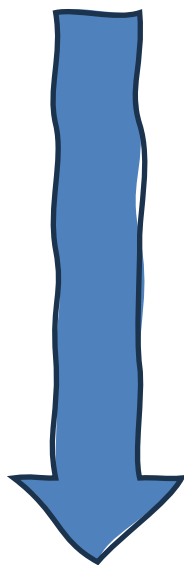
- Cruz Aware Alert System (replaces CODE Red).
 - [Alert Notification Application \(santacruzcountyca.gov\)](https://santacruzcountyca.gov)
- Genasys Protect (previously ZoneHaven) provides information on evacuation zones:
 - [genasys Protect](#)

Genasys Protect also offers a free smartphone application that is highly recommended - it is available in the Apple iTunes or Google Play Store.



New CERT kit at northern end of the neighborhood next to the fence of 1 Mesa Way

If you have questions and/or would like to learn more about CERT, please contact Jennifer Carr via email: gojencarr@gmail.com



Keep Scrolling

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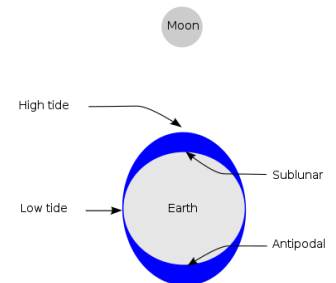
Time and Tides ... and Driftwood

You may have read very recently that glacial melt is slowing the rotation of the earth. Right – all that melted polar ice is flowing south – and north – from the poles and ending up near the equator, in the vicinity of Mother Earth’s midsection. Like so many of the rest of us, Mother Earth is thickening with advancing middle age and, like a figure skater who drops her arms mid-spin, our Mother’s rotational spin is slowing, reversing a relatively recent trend in the direction of *faster* rotation. This recent trend toward faster rotation had become so pronounced that scientists have been considering subtracting a single “negative leap second” from our clocks as early as 2026. But now, with so much water flowing away from the poles and toward the equator, that spin is slowing, which means that this “leap second” eventuality, for those who have been worrying, will be postponed for several years. Huzzah!

It is fascinating to consider that for most of the last 70 million years or so, leap second adjustments have been required because Earth’s daily rotation has generally trended slower. Your favorite Tyrannosaurus Rex who terrorized Stegosaurus and Brontosaurus in the late Cretaceous Age lived through a day that was only 23.5 hours long. He (or she) had to wait 372 days for Christmas to roll around. Many factors in addition to the flow of glacial melt affect the rotational spin of the earth: up-thrusting masses no longer burdened by an abundance of ice; the movement of fluids within the earth’s core and, of course, the movement of the tides.

Now, anyone who has walked along our beautiful Sunset Beach will have noticed the incessant flow of tides in and out, exhibiting a pattern that fluctuates in timing, but that demonstrates a wonderful regularity: 2 tides, high and low, each day, called a “semidiurnal” tide. Ours is actually a “mixed semidiurnal” tide, as our high and low tides differ in height. Some locations, such as the Gulf of Mexico and the coast of Alaska, experience a “diurnal” tide: only 1 high and low tide each day.

And to what do we owe the magnificent regularity and power of the tides – a force that many credit with the origin of land-based life on earth, sloshed up out of ancient seas by the force of the tides? Why, the Moon, of course; the Moon and, to a much lesser extent, the Sun. As shown in the figure at right, the gravitational force of the Moon creates a kind of “tidal bulge” in the earth, forcing the oceans into an ellipse. What we experience as a rising and falling of tides is nothing more (or less!) than our daily spin through this tidal bulge, creating the impression to our earth-bound eyes of rising and falling tides.



Among other wonderful benefits of the tides, this correspondent would be remiss to omit the daily bonanza of driftwood that washes up on our shores. Driftwood has deep and enduring roots in human mythology and culture. According to Norse mythology, the first humans, Ask and Embla, were formed out of two pieces of driftwood, an ash and an elm, by the god Odin and his brothers. Vikings would cast wood into the sea before making landfall. The location of the wood would be an indication as to where to build their mead halls. Driftwood carried by Arctic rivers was the main, or sometimes only, source of wood for some Inuit and other Arctic populations living north of the tree line until they came into regular contact with European traders. The Inuit classified driftwood into seven different types, each possessing its own unique material and visual properties. Native American tribes believed that driftwood was sacred and had spiritual significance. They believed that driftwood was a gift from the sea and the land, and that it represented the unity of the elements. In Japan, driftwood is called “mokomokai,” which means “spirit wood.” It is believed that the wood is inhabited by spirits and has the power to purify and cleanse.

Many consider that driftwood holds a special *spiritual* meaning for all humans on earth – that it may represent the power of the ocean, impermanence, and the connection between humans and nature. Others consider that it is a representation of resilience and adaptability. As the wood is tossed and turned by the waves, it is shaped and transformed into something new. This may be seen as a metaphor for the human experience, where all of us are shaped and transformed by life’s many challenges.

And so you see – time and tides ... and driftwood continue to weave a rich tapestry in the most inspiring way.

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