

Seashore News



December 2009 Published Monthly by Niguel Shores Community Association Issue 433

Happy Holidays

YEAR IN REVIEW

2009 is almost history, the end to a decade that we entered with great trepidation. Remember Y2K when all the computers were going to revert to 1900 instead of 2000 and there we would be back in the dark ages having to go through the 20th century again, live through the depression and fight all those wars. Seems as though we have done a fair job of repeating some of that history in this decade just ending. Enough of that—we are here to talk about what a great year Niguel Shores has had. Let me count the ways:



ClubHouse Lounge

Big number one: A brand new ClubHouse that is attractive in its own right but also incorporates that spacious meeting room with up-to-date electronics, a lovely lounge attractively furnished, classy bathrooms, the efficient kitchen with lots of storage AND that magnificent patio with outdoor fireplace and, once again, attractive furniture with a backdrop of the pool through the new glass wall. I know we deserve it all but it still seems something of a miracle to get it all done.



ClubHouse and Patio

Big number two: The expanded, newly furnished and newly landscaped Beach Bluff Park. What a treasure that even our ever more ostentatious neighbors don't have. It really is something special to have that enticing place for all of us to gather and enjoy the surf and the view and fun and food and drink—music too at those special events. There is the long-awaited shower, too, to brag about. The long

FROM THE HELM: New Traditions

With the Holidays here we gather with family and friends to celebrate in most cases happy times and continue family traditions. What new tradition will you start this year?

Maybe this is the year to interview your grandparents or parents about their lives, ask for their help in identifying everyone in the family photographs or just have someone record the preparations for and the sharing of a holiday dinner or gathering.

With the completion of the Beach Bluff and the ClubHouse we are seeing increased and different uses for both venues that we have not seen before. The ClubHouse



is booking more events and family gatherings. The outside patio is attracting more family gatherings even in the evening to enjoy our new fireplace. The

new spa is almost complete and, remember the tile projects you worked on? The tiles are up on the wall that separates the tot lot from the spa. Once the spa is completed the tot lot will be put back into use.

Start a new family tradition this year and incorporate our new facilities in the process. Hope your holiday season is a happy one.

—Jerry Koppang

FROM THE GM

HOLIDAY PARTIES & PROBLEMS – Yes, it is that time of the year again, and I know we know this, but nothing will ruin your party faster than having your guests not be allowed through the main gate. *Please* provide your guest list at least 48 hours in advance of the party. Sooner would be even better, as the gate officers are very busy during this period. In the past they have tried to accommodate unlisted guests by calling the homeowner to confirm their authorization. However, they are not able to continue to guarantee this courtesy, but will try to offer the service if the line up permits.

POST COMMANDER RECOGNITION – Many of you know or have met David Gonzales, our Niguel Shores Post Commander. David has recently been recognized by his company, Securitas, as the outstanding Post Commander in the Southwest Region and is now a candidate for their National Recognition Program. David has been our Post Commander for the past two years and his leadership has been the primary reason we have experienced such a high level of service and had minimal officer turnover. Congratulations to Dave for a job well done.

Sea Terrace Townhomes 2010 Annual Meeting

Tuesday, January 12, 2010
ClubHouse 7:00 p.m.

The Sea Terrace Townhomes I Board of Directors encourages members interested in serving on the Board of Directors to call Don Beaver 493-7430.

—Don Beaver

BEACH BLUFF POLICY COMMITTEE – For those who attended the Public Forum on Wednesday, November 18, you were advised that the Board of Directors was forming a special ad-hoc committee to determine policies, fees and deposits governing the use of the Beach Bluff Park. If you are interested, the board is looking for approximately 12 homeowners who are knowledgeable about the issues surrounding the use of the park. In addition, volunteers must be willing to donate time to this project, and enjoy working in a “committee team” environment. If you have never served on a committee, this may be a great way to get involved in the committee process and meet a new group of neighbors at the same time. Application forms are available in the office and the first meeting will be in January 2010.

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY – What better way to celebrate New Year’s than partying in the new ClubHouse and watching the “Ball Drop” on the new big screen projector. See page 6 for details.

FAMILY TILE PROJECT – For those who have not seen the Family Tile Project, they have been mounted on the spa wall facing the tot lot. They look spectacular, and the Board and staff would like to compliment all the “family” artists who participated. There are two panels, each with 80 tiles. The one on the left is the first project from 2002 and the one on the right is from 2009. Who says it takes a long time to get anything done in Niguel Shores? It only took us seven years to complete the first project, four months for the second one, and we will do even better on the next one.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION FORMS – The staff is amazed at the best response that we have ever received regarding the completion of new Emergency Notification forms. We have counted over 500 responses so far, and

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BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 4, 2009 BOARD MEETING (General Session)

APPROVED:

- Approved the General Session Minutes of October 21, 2009.
- Approved the Special General Session Minutes of October 23, 2009.
- Approved the Special General Session Minutes of October 28, 2009.
 - Approved the 2010 Budget.
- Approved the appointment of Barbara Milner to the Communication Committee.

DISCUSSED:

- Clubhouse, pool & spa projects updates.
 - Annual mailing.
- Committee revitalization schedule & update.
 - Snack bar operation at pool side.

REVIEWED:

- Major project list and Board calendars.
- Correspondence from 3 homeowners on: 1) Tile project, 2) Bluff Park usage 3) Tennis.

HEARINGS/MEETINGS:

- None.

NOVEMBER 4, 2009 BOARD MEETING (Executive Session)

APPROVED:

- Approved the Executive Session Minutes of October 21, 2009.
- Approved the Special Executive Minutes of October 26, 2009.
- Approved the resignation of a member of the Architectural Committee due to health.
 - Approved the Silverwood contract for Landscape Design services.
 - Approved contract services for entrance.

REVIEWED:

- November litigation disclosure statement.

DISCUSSED:

- AC matters involving six (6) homeowners.
- Nominating Committee for 2010 Board election.
- Contact authorization policies for legal counsel.
 - Equipment donation and liability issues.
- Homeowner comments on view blockage matter.

HEARINGS/MEETINGS:

- None.

NOVEMBER 18, 2009 BOARD MEETING: (General Session)

APPROVED:

- General Session Minutes of November 4, 2009.
- Approved the 2009 on-site Reserve Study.
- Approved storage shed for tennis equipment.
- Amendment to “start” time of the 2010 Annual Meeting.

REVIEWED:

- Major project list.
- Homeowner letters to the board re proposed rule changes.

DISCUSSED:

- Spa project updates.
 - Annual mailing.
 - Lobby amenities.
- Landscape Master Plan – special Ad-Hoc Committee formation

HEARINGS/MEETINGS:

- None.

NOVEMBER 18, 2009 BOARD MEETING: (Executive Session)

APPROVED:

- Executive Session Minutes of November 4, 2009.

DISCUSSED:

- AC legal matters with 4 homeowners. (legal counsel included in discussion).
 - Executive session protocols for committee minutes.
 - Homeowner drain matter & invoice.
 - Asphalt maintenance contract & timing.
 - Homeowner view blockage matter.

HEARINGS/MEETINGS:

- Conducted Public Forum to discuss 2010 Proposed Rule Changes

NOTE: The last approved General Session Minutes are posted on the Bulletin Board across from the NSCA Office entrance. In addition, the General Session Agenda for the next Board Meeting will also be posted at noon on the Friday prior to the next meeting.

REMINDERS: NEXT GENERAL SESSION MEETING—DECEMBER 9, 2009 AT 9:00 A.M.

ARCHITECTURE

No report this month.

FINANCE

Working with the Board and other committees, we have completed a budget for the 2010 fiscal year. That budget, which was mailed to all homeowners at the end of November as required by state law, included the change in next year's association dues of \$100 per quarter. It also included a \$178,000 project for a Master Landscape Study to assess and revise the landscaping of our entire community. If successfully executed, we will have long term savings on water and landscape expense that will pay for the Study cost many times over. Water costs have skyrocketed this year and state law will mandate less water usage. The upside is that we may be able to reduce water expense and plant foliage that is drought tolerant and requires less maintenance. We will need to save money in cost centers like landscape if we are going to keep dues at the reasonable levels we have grown accustomed to in the Shores. The Finance Committee provides decision support to projects like this and looks for a way to reduce NSCA expenses.

—Steve Stewart

LANDSCAPE

No report this month.

MAINTENANCE

Just as we were beginning to see a slowdown in the labor allocated to construction and moving, we are seeing a significant increase in labor allocated to support the many functions in our new ClubHouse. However, the Maintenance Staff was still able to make progress on other needed projects.

The cement has been poured for repair of the stairway from the beach upper parking lot to Cabrillo Isle. The fence and gate, which no longer served a purpose, have been removed. At this writing we still have some stair rails and lights to install. That will soon be completed and the stairway will again be opened for use.

A safety fence has been installed on the beach upper parking lot wall. This will prevent someone from accidentally stepping off this seven foot wall. The posts will be painted to match the color of other fences in the community.

The old, ugly, and intermittently working, vehicle access keypad at the Garibaldi Gate has been replaced with an all new system and box. It looks much better and will be more reliable.

Each homeowner has been sent the opportunity to contribute to the holiday gratuity for our staff. Speaking for the Maintenance Committee, we urge those of you who are able to be generous. Your Maintenance Staff has given this community support well beyond their job descriptions. They and the entire Niguel Shores Staff are deserving of your appreciation.

—Jack Christiansen

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY

Thanksgiving is just past us, winter and the always busy holiday season is approaching. The season will mean fewer hours of daylight and more traffic going and coming to visit in our community. Please caution family and friends to drive carefully.

Guest entrance procedure change: With more guests expected to be entering at the Mariner Gate it is critical that, as good hosts and neighbors, we provide the office and or the gate with a list of expected guests. In the past, as a matter of courtesy, when an arrival at the gate was not listed as a guest, the guard when possible, would call the concerned host and ascertain the authenticity of the purported visitor. While approval for entrance was being sought, it at times resulted in a considerable traffic back up. With the expected surge of holiday traffic this practice is going to be modified. **Effective this month, any non listed guests seeking entrance to our community will be directed to leave the premises and then call their prospective host.** The negligent host must then phone the gate and arrange for the individual to be added to the family's guest list.

Commander Gonzalez recognition: The organization that provides us with our security force, Securitas Corporation, announced recently that our Post Commander, David Gonzalez, is being recognized as the Region "Hero" of the Year. His nomination will also be forwarded as a candidate for additional honors to include perhaps an international award. This recognition is no doubt the result of his hard work, positive approach to his responsibilities and supervisory and communication skills. If you see David, feel free to congratulate and thank him for all he does. At times he and his staff put up with a lot of seemingly unnecessary guff from some anxious folks.

Gate courtesy and reckless driving: I would like to nominate the occasional guest of a resident on Periwinkle as the rudest and curtest person entering the community this year. This young adult when challenged at the gate, as she should be, has on more than one occasion lost her composure and directed a stream of profanities at our security officer.

There have been several reports of a young adult male in the vicinity of Flying Jib driving recklessly and making annoying comments to our young people. If anyone sees him driving at an excessive speed get his license number and consider notifying our sheriff's office and report his activity. More importantly, should he annoy you or a young family member, please report his actions to Dana Point deputies as soon as possible. His actions may well be criminal and should be dealt with by deputies. Remember be a good witness and let the deputies take the action.

Selva Gate caution: Last but not least, a word of caution when entering the Selva gate. Don't tailgate on the green light. After the first car passes through, the

gate arm comes down faster than you might think. However, even more importantly the spikes on the ground come up almost as fast. We have had several broken gate arms and punctured tires. Only one car should enter per green light cycle. God Bless... Have a safe and happy new year.

—Tim Murphy

VIEW PRESERVATION

A fall reminder, it's that time of year again to trim your trees so we can enjoy our views. As per rule 4122, trimming precautions, please trim your trees or shrubs below the stated maximum height so that normal growth will not require retrimming more frequently than once every six months. The cooperation of all homeowners will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

—Barbara Orsini

NIGUELSHORES.ORG

No report this month.

RECREATION Special dates to add to your calendar:

December 13: Santa will be waiting to hear the wishes of the children as we all enjoy the tree lighting with refreshments and entertainment. Daniela Mills and Alicia Martinez with the help of the committee will again have decorations for you to admire. See accompanying announcement.

New Years Eve celebration is being planned by Barbara Milner and her committee to welcome 2010 in our new ClubHouse. It will begin at 7:30 and go until midnight. See accompanying announcement.

Happy Hour will continue on Wednesday nights around the fireplace or in the lobby area. Come enjoy visiting and meeting new people with your own drinks and refreshments. Ice and glasses will be available. See you there at 4:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

Dana Point Senior Program is offering AARP Driver Safety Program January 27 and 28. Call (949) 496 4252 for more information.

Miss Patty's Trip on December 10: This Mission Inn Holiday tour to Riverside is from 2-8:30 p.m. \$55. Call (949) 248 3530 for reservations.

Beach cities senior trips will be going to Casinos and Candlelight dinner theater in Claremont. For more information call Evie at (949) 496 4109.

Potluck: Make a note on your calendars for the next Potluck on January 17.

The Niguel Shores Recreation Committee is planning 2010 activities for all ages to enjoy. Watch for them in the coming months. Thank you for the support you have given to the Recreation Committee this past year. Happy Holidays...

—Carol Yocom





Holiday Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 13

4 - 6:00 p.m. outside the ClubHouse

*Santa will be there to hear your wishes
Hot cocoa, spiced cider and cookies...mmm delicious
A craft for the kids you don't want to miss!*

The St. Anne Choir and our neighborhood kids will sing holiday cheer for all to hear!

We will be taking donations for the Orange County Rescue mission.
Please bring clothes, canned foods, health or hygiene products to the event.

If your child would like to sing at the tree lighting, please contact Alicia at alicimm@mac.com

New Year's Eve Party

December 31, 2009

7:30 pm – midnight

Community Center ClubHouse

\$10 Per Person

Beer, Wine, Champagne (no host)

Hors D'Oeuvres Served Or Bring Your Own



New Year Toast at 9:00 pm (Midnight New York Time) and at Midnight PST

Black, White, Red and Silver Color Theme. Bring Your Dancing Shoes
SOOTHING TUNES FROM 7:30-10:00 PM – THEN WE'LL SPICE IT UP!

Tickets Sold in the NSCA Management Office or at the Door
Don't miss the first annual New Year's Eve party in our new clubhouse

GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club annual Holiday Luncheon will be held on Monday December 21 at 12:00 noon in the ClubHouse. Club members are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share and a garden related exchange gift valued at about \$10. If you have not already included your name on the sign up sheet, please call Ann Strauss at 481-9768 to let her know if you are going to bring a salad or a desert.

Since the holidays are here, I felt it would be a good idea to reprint an article written by Patty Therolf about the history of the poinsettia:

“The Christmas Holidays are quickly approaching and the flower that depicts this time of year more than any other is the poinsettia. Have you ever wondered how this beautiful flower got its name? The poinsettia (*euphorbia pulcherima*) is named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico; he introduced the plant to the U.S. in 1825. Poinsettias are native to

southern Mexico and Guatemala where they grow as a large shrub or small tree.

In Mexican legend, the poinsettia became associated with Christmas when, on Christmas Eve, a child who could not afford a gift picked some weeds by the roadside to take to church as an offering. Once inside the church, the weeds blossomed into vibrant red and green leaves and were considered by the congregation to be a miracle. Also known as the Star of Bethlehem plant, the poinsettia with its star shaped leaves, became a sign to mark the birth of Christ.”

Poinsettias do best when placed in indirect sunlight, with daytime temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees, and 55 degrees at night. Water when soil becomes dry and allow good drainage. Linda reminds us that indoor potted Poinsettias and mums also do well placed outdoors after the holidays.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays and good gardening...

—*Jerry Koppang*

MEN'S CLUB

On behalf of the Men's Club, Jack Christiansen honored Don Beaver with the “Senior Cook Life Time Membership Award.” He presented Don with a certificate and a very attractive plaque representing many years of outstanding and appreciated service.



Don Beaver

Our October 20 speaker was none other than our International Ambassador of Travel, Jerry Milner who gave an excellent slide presentation of the



Niguel Shores Men's Club Annual Christmas Dinner Dance

Tuesday, December 8, 2009
El Niguel Country Club
6:30 – 11:00 p.m.

Black Tie Optional – 6:30 – 7:30. No-host Cocktails
Dinner served at 7:30 p.m.

Music by Sam Conti and His Orchestra

\$65 per person is to be paid at a Men's Club meeting or to the Men's Club mail box in the NSCA Office
Advise Carl Printz (493-2040) if you would like special seating preparations and your entrée preference

Milner's trip to New Guinea. They cruised all over the area starting in Port Moresby to Jayapura and a lot of places I can't remember or spell (I was just trying to pay attention) including a village which had been home to cannibals and has current day questionable intentions. Needless to say, it was an interesting trip for the Milners and they did arrive home safe and sound...probably not to return.

Sergeant Greenwood, a 27-year veteran of the Orange County Sheriffs Department, was our speaker on November 3. He gave an enthusiastic presentation on the organization, its geographical responsibilities and strong community relations, and emphasized the importance of keeping and improving the quality of life in the Dana Point community. One of the new campaigns for security is the reduction of car content theft. It's called "Hide it/Lock it/or Lose it." There are two programs, one directed to adults and the other to teenagers/students. Information can be found on the Police Community Service web site. A special web site for the younger folks is "Shwazooki." Sergeant Greenwood is definitely a very impressive officer.

Nick Karnazes, *The Happy Golfer*, gave an inspirational pitch at our November 17 meeting about his incredible Golfing Odyssey. He talked about his playing 96 golf courses in 96 days in 48 states (two courses per state) and traveled over 14,000 miles. He managed to play in sunshine, rain and snow. Just to top things off, he had a triple bypass shortly after returning home. Oh well, just another day at the links for Nick! Since

his operation he has managed a couple of 5K runs just to keep in shape at the tender age of 73. Terrific young man!!

The DHHS Dickens Carolers will be our guest on December 1.

We do have some bad news—our friend Dick MacNair fell and is currently in the hospital.

The Men's Club Dinner Dance will be held on December 8 at the El Niguel Country Club.

It's already that time of year again. Please remember to bring your unwrapped gift to our annual Toys for Tots Christmas drive. The value of the toy should be between \$10 and \$20. We will begin collecting the toys at our first meeting in December. Thanks for your participation in this much needed cause.

—Bob Ryan



WOMEN'S CLUB

December offers fun for Women's Club members, starting with the annual Holiday Party on Thursday, December 3 from 5–7:00 p.m. in the ClubHouse. Attendees should bring hearty appetizers for the potluck—no dips, nuts, chips or candy, please. The bar will provide wine and soft drinks. Members are

asked to put their names on the underside of their serving dishes. The Holiday



Party is an opportunity for everyone to chat, sing carols, admire our decorated tree in the ClubHouse and—of course—enjoy delicious food.

Members can also enjoy a Christmas Home Tour and Boutique on Sunday, December 6, from 11:00 to 4:00 p.m. This tour is sponsored by The Assistance League of Capistrano Valley and includes four homes—from 5000 to 9000 square feet—in Nellie Gail Ranch. Proceeds from the tour support needy children of the Capistrano Unified School District and Camp Pendleton Marine families. Tickets are \$35 which is tax-deductible. There will be gourmet food-tasting at each home and an opportunity for boutique shopping in one of the homes. Those interested in the tour should leave their checks, payable to ALCV, in the office



as soon as possible. They will be contacted by a tour organizer concerning car pooling.

The tour will take place rain or shine, with no refunds. Those attending should wear comfortable, low-heeled shoes. The homes are not wheelchair accessible.

The first Women's Club meeting for the New Year will be January 14, 2010 and will include a talk by Joel Weintraub. His PowerPoint presentation is titled *An Introduction to the US Census: A Genealogy Perspective*.

At all Women's Club meetings members should take time to check the bulletin board, which is located on an easel in the lobby, to keep apprised of announcements.

—Phyllis Tezer

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WEDNESDAY BRIDGE

We enjoy bridge every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. and would like to welcome new bridge players. Bring a sandwich or else have a bite before you come. The hostess for December is Patricia Conway at 240-3559. She is planning a little Christmas party for our members—hope you can join us at the ClubHouse.

Winners are:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| October 21 | Helen Campbell, Shirley Heimstaedt,
Kay Wittmack |
| October 28 | Lois Judith, Helen Campbell,
Freida Baskin |
| November 4 | Francesca Rossi-Sunness,
Kay Wittmack |
| November 11 | Dorothy Horany, Patricia Conway,
Bobbi Kahn |

—Helen Campbell

REALLY SERIOUS OREO COOKIE BOOK CLUB

The brain was discussed by our curious members who were inspired to wonder if they are right brained or left brained after reading “*My Stroke of Insight: – A Brain Scientist’s Personal Journey*” by Jill Bolte Taylor. She discusses her recovery from a stroke that interrupted her left brain function. One of our members told us about a Web site where you can test yourself to see which side of your brain dominates: left logical or right creative. Try it at: lipscomb/brainlab (that’s a short version that should get it). It will give you a personal evaluation after you finish the test (it seems a little like a clairvoyant telling you about yourself).

The Book Club will not meet in December. Our next gathering will be on January 20 at the home of Priscilla Agnew, 23656 Tampico Bay at 1:00 p.m. We are reading *Einstein* by Walter Isaacson. Check the Web site for other books on the 2010 reading list.

—Mary Crowl

PAGE TURNERS

There will be no book discussion meetings in December. Instead, there will be a holiday party for all Page Turners on December 7 from 1–3:00 p.m. at the

ClubHouse. Members are asked to bring a gift-wrapped, used book for the gift exchange.

Regular meetings will resume on January 25 with a discussion of Dickens’ *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Page Turners meets on the fourth Monday of each month September through June, except for December. If you wish more information please call Gloria Weintraub at 248-8205 (rdabook@cox.net) or Kathleen Hardcastle at 481-5503 (khlaguna@gmail.com).

—Kathleen Hardcastle

LIBRARY NEWS

The Dana Point Library presents a Holiday Season of enchantment!

Story time will be featured on Tuesday mornings for Toddlers/Pre-Schoolers at 10:30 a.m. on December 1, 8, and 15. Holiday stories and crafts will be featured at our school-age After-School Club for children five and up on December 3, 10 and 17.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will make a visit on December 10 with an afternoon of crafts, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, music and more. Bring cameras for picture taking.

December 14 at 7:00 p.m. will feature Family Pajama Story Time with the Sunshine Readers.

December 16 at 7:00 p.m. **Swazzle** will present an exciting new holiday puppet show **Live from the Ice Cube!** Funded by the Friends of the Dana Point Library.

—Judy Pasek

GM Report continued from page 2

even though it is great news, it means that half the Association has yet to respond. We need this important information in the event something bad happens to your property when you are not there and we need to contact you or someone you trust in an emergency.

FROM THE STAFF – Lastly, I can’t end the year without saying a special thank you from the Staff. First, thank you for allowing us the privilege to serve you during this past year, and the opportunity to continue serving you in 2010. Secondly, even in these severe economic times, the generosity of the Niguel Shores homeowners is simply amazing. On behalf of the Staff, I would personally like to thank all of you who graciously contributed to the holiday gratuity and let you know that this small token of recognition is greatly appreciated by the Staff.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

—Leo Riley, General Manager

MEN'S GOLF

December 8 is our annual putting contest at Talega Golf Club in San Clemente. Starting time is 8:30 a.m. Following the contest we will enjoy a deluxe breakfast at the Golf Club--all this for only \$30.

SCGA annual dues of \$45 are now due. Make your check to Niguel Shores Men's Club. Bring your check to the putting contest or drop the check in my mail box in the Niguel Shores office.

Next year's golf schedule will be available soon! More matches and some at new courses. Get ready for a new exciting Golf season.

Words of wisdom from Yogi Berra — *Ninety percent of the putts that fall short don't go in.*

—Tom McNicholas

WOMEN'S GOLF

Next Fun Day is Monday, December 14. This is also our Christmas Luncheon at the Fountains. All members, former members and potential members are invited. Check-in time is 8:00 a.m. at Aliso Creek Golf Course. We always welcome new people and all levels of players. Call Golf Captains Ceacy Johns 493-8355 or Marlene Lynch 493-6494 to sign up for golf. Call Joan Beyer 496-

1428 or Irene McDonald 481-3035 for information about the Christmas Luncheon.

If you need to cancel golf please call one of the golf captains. Last minute cancellers also have to notify the starter at the course, 499-1919.

After our last golf outing, on November 9, we enjoyed lunch in our ClubHouse. We had a brief business meeting and then our golf captains announced the winners. This month the game was "The Turkey Trot."

The winning team was Maria Elena Banks, May Gramer, Irene McDonald and Victoria Siegfried who had the best scores on holes 3, 6, and 9. India Rouse passed out golf balls to the winning players.

Closest to the pin on #6 was Victoria Siegfried.

Closest to the pin on #8 was Linda Ross.

Longest drive on #9 was Maria Elena Banks.

Low putts was May Gramer.

Low gross was May Gramer.

Low Net was a new member, Maria Elena Banks.

"The best shots are the practice swing and the conceded putt."

—Irene McDonald

NIGUEL SHORES TENNIS PROGRAMS

JUNIOR TENNIS CLINICS:

Rookies Junior Clinic (Ages 5-8)

Fridays 4:00-5:00 p.m. (Dec 4, Dec 11)

Cost: 5 Weeks—\$66. Price to be adjusted for clinics with less than 4 persons

Minors Junior Clinic (Ages 8-11)

Tuesday 4:00-5:00 p.m. (Dec 8, Dec 15)

Cost: 6 weeks—\$80. Prices to be adjusted for clinics with less than 4 persons

Majors Beginner Junior Clinic (Ages 10-14)

Mondays and Wednesday 4:00-5:00 p.m. (Dec 7 & 9, Dec 14 & 16)

Cost: 6 weeks—\$160. Prices are to be adjusted for clinics with less than 4 persons

ADULTS:

Group lessons/clinics can be arranged with groups of 2 or more persons.

Contact Gary Dudic: (949) 636-8605

Review continued from page 1
wait and the major effort put into redoing our bluff top park certainly seem worthwhile when one sees so many people enjoying the facility.

Number three: The newly resurfaced and re-landscaped parking lot with its sturdy retaining walls. If a parking lot can possibly be attractive, that one is. Maybe it's because it's ours. Then there is the rebuilt stairway up from the lot to the street above and the useful fence to guard against accidental falls.

Number four: The spa—a work in progress at this writing but greatly anticipated by many, not only for the pleasure it gives but for its therapeutic value to those in need. The shade trellis at the back of the spa by the tot lot and the decorative tile wall are welcome additions and add to the improved amenities in our community.

Other than improvements to our physical plant, our clubs and committees have been busy. As I read through the past year's newsletters, I see that the Recreation Committee continues to contribute greatly to the enjoyment of our community—there were some cancelled and curtailed events because of construction up and down but we still celebrated on the 4th, had a lively Taco Night at the Bluff and the big August Bluff Party.

Bluff parking lot & shower (right)



Beach Bluff Park

Planners organized a fun Halloween Party, there were Sunday night BBQs, potluck dinners, the Tree Lighting gathering and, coming up, a New Year's Eve Party. More and more neighbors get together at the Bluff for the spontaneous sunset partying and homeowners bring their private parties to the Bluff and the ClubHouse.

The two book clubs are thriving, the Men's and Women's Clubs and the ever growing Garden Club enjoy their gatherings and camaraderie with friends and neighbors. Bridge players meet and eager exercisers work in the pool and in the ClubHouse. We host a new weekly Saddleback Emeritus Class that is educational and fun for those who attend to see and discuss with the professor old and new movies.

I must not neglect praise for our staff which, with all the construction and renovation, had more than the usual workload during the past year. Thanks to all of you for that and for keeping things running smoothly in our community.

That's our year—or most of it that will fit on a page or two. We'll tackle 2010 (two thousand and ten, or twenty—ten—which will it be?)

with our usual optimism that Niguel Shores will flourish and continue to be the best of all possible places to live.

—Mary Crowl



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Born in Caracas!

How exotic and, no doubt someone from Ven-e-zue-la, the country with the melodic name, should also have a melodic name of her own. Such is the case with Maria Elena Banks, a descendant of an old and distinguished Venezuelan diplomatic family with a famous general on the family tree and now, is one of our delightful neighbors. Maria Elena Banks came to the U.S. at the age of nine after her father died but then, went back again for her high school years, lived with her grandmother and graduated from high school in Caracas. Then, back in the States, she rejoined her family which, with a new step-father, had moved to Marin County, California where M.E. (as she is often called) attended Marin College, studied accounting and, after marriage and a child, worked part time as an accountant. A divorce some years later and remarriage brought her to Newport Beach where, with two young sons, she tragically lost her husband. She was advised by her father to transfer into real estate work where she could increase her income and, as a young widow, be able to take care of the children while working. She coached soccer and other sports for the kids, participated in all their school events and became an expert at fundraising activities. During this period M.E. rented a house on Capstan in Niguel Shores when her two sons were young then, after moving a couple of times locally, settled again in Niguel Shores—back on Capstan where she started. This time she bought the house and little by little is getting it remodeled.



Maria Elena Banks

Maria Elena says she has always worked, as well as done volunteer work, from a young age. She worked during high school as a translator in her uncle's company in Caracas, did lots of volunteer work at the schools her children attended, has worked with Laura's House, the Ocean Institute and now, as part of her occupation in the real estate business, volunteers on the boards of the local and state realtor organizations. She has served as president of the Women's Council of Realtors, a leadership training group, in 1998–99 and again in 2006. She is currently a director of the Orange County Board of Realtors and of the California Association of Realtors. She has served as the local government relations representative to the Board of Realtors, specializing in legislation, risk management and community interest development. The realtors' interests, as she says, always lie in protecting property rights. She continues to be engaged in many activities in the community and uses her talents to its advantage.

Lastly, another charming revelation about Maria Elena, in addition to her Caracas origins, is that she is a professional singer and, from my hearing, an excellent one. She continues her singing lessons, sings professionally in some local restaurants (Brio and Stellas), at weddings and other events. She loves Gershwin, Cole Porter and all the great songs of that era.

Like her colleagues, she struggles with our slow economy, but with that sunny personality and life experiences to guide her through the ups and downs, she knows that eventually all will be well. Best wishes, Maria Elena, for a long happy future in Niguel Shores.

—Mary Crowl

Help Prevent Ocean Pollution — Washing and Maintaining Your Car

- Take your car to a commercial car wash whenever possible.
- Choose soaps, cleaners or detergents labeled *non-toxic, phosphate free or biodegradable*, but even these products should not be allowed into the storm drain.
- Do not dump washwater onto your driveway, sidewalk, street, gutter or storm drain. Excess washwater should be disposed of in the sanitary sewers (through a sink) or onto an absorbent surface like your lawn.
- Use cat litter or other absorbents and sweep to remove any materials deposited by vehicles. Contain sweepings and dispose of at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center. Visit www.oilandfills.com for a collection center.
- Recycle oil or antifreeze at a service station or HHWC as above or used oil recycling center. Visit www.1800CLEANUP.ORG for a used oil collection center.

The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door — Project Pollution Prevention



photo courtesy of Craig Karnazes

Letter to the Editor

We seem to have a revolving door in our office. It makes it very difficult for all, homeowners, committee members, and staff, when we constantly lose good people and new ones need to be trained. I think that the board should consider decent pay raises for the existing staff so this situation does not continue. I know the argument of the economy, but when we lose good trained office staff who

go elsewhere to work for more money, I think it's a very false economic measure that is being practiced. I bet that you got good pay raises, or you would not be living here.

—Ginny Nevitt

Editor's Note: Board comment: We have a budget to live with and we have job descriptions that support the salaries we offer.



Carol's Cuisine Corner

Do you want to have a special place to take your friends or family in December? We are fortunate to have many available in our area. The hotels and restaurants will be providing very nice special buffets and menus. You must make reservations and ask the price of the event.

BRIO Tuscany Grille: 24950 Camino Del Avion, 949 443 1476. An early dining menu is offering ten different dinners for \$10, every day from 4-6:30 p.m. Each night of the week a special is featured. Christmas Eve lunch and dinner will be served and it will be open Christmas Day from 4-11:00 p.m. with a special menu plus the regular menu. They will have a New Year's Eve celebration. Call for reservations.

SALT CREEK GRILLE: 32802 Pacific Coast Hwy. 949 661 7799. The 50 per cent off from 5-6:00 p.m. will continue until December 3. There will be regular menu prices afterwards with specials offered each day. It will be open for Christmas Eve until 7:00 p.m. Sunday Brunch is 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Happy Hour is 4 to 6 in the bar. They will have a New Year's Eve champagne celebration. Call for reservations.

THE VINTAGE STEAK HOUSE: 26701-b Vertigo, San Juan Capistrano, 949 661 3400. You will think you are on that train when dining was so special. They will be open Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with special dinners offered. They have Happy Hour Monday to Friday from 3-7:00 p.m. with half price items. Call for reservations.

THE ST. REGIS RESORT: 1 Monarch Beach Resort, 949 234 3200. Holiday afternoon tea will be December 19 noon to 3:00 p.m. Gingerbread House Academy on Saturday December 5, 12 and 19, from 10:00 a.m to noon and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to noon December 6, 13, 20. This is a tradition for the kids to have an opportunity to decorate their house. Christmas Eve will be at Motif Restaurant 5:30-10:00 p.m., a four-course dinner and

Stonehill Tavern 5-9:00 p.m., a five-course menu. Christmas Day in the Motif Restaurant 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. there will be holiday brunch and a limited dinner menu 6-9:30 p.m. with the buffet closing at 8:30 p.m. On New Year's Eve, the Motif Restaurant will be serving a five-course prix fix menu from 5:30-10:00 p.m. and, in the Stonehill Tavern from 6-9:00 p.m., a six-course dinner menu. On New Year's Day the Motif Restaurant will be open 7-1:00 p.m. with a breakfast buffet and Bloody Mary station.

THE RITZ CARLTON: One Ritz Carlton Drive, 949 240 2000. The traditional Teddy Bear Tea and magic show from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on December 6, 13 and 20. Christmas Eve dinner a la carte will be served in Restaurant 162 with a Christmas Day four-course meal in 162 and buffet from 3-12:00. The New Year's Eve celebration will be the Silver Bell.

MONTAGE-LAGUNA BEACH: 30801 South Coast Highway, Laguna Beach 866 271 6953. Christmas Eve, the Loft will offer 4 course holiday tasting menu as well as a la carte menu 5-10 pm. Studio will have 5 course prix fix holiday tasting menu and a la carte selections 5-10 pm. Christmas Day the Loft will feature 4 course Holiday menu 12-9:00 pm the Loft Bistro will present creative comfort dishes 3-9:00 pm Studio 5 course prix fix 5-10 pm The Holiday Buffett will be in the ballroom with entertainment 1-5pm. New Years Eve. Celebrations in the Studio or the Gala party in the Ballroom with entertainment. 8 pm to 1:00 am. Call for more details. And reservations.

Happy Holidays, wherever you dine. Enjoy celebrating 2010. Let me know about any places you would like to have mentioned this coming year at zmamie@cox.net. —Carol Yocom

Teens Talking

Emily Carlson is a blonde-haired, blue-eyed sophomore at Dana Hills who eats, sleeps, breathes, and studies with one common goal in mind; success. The youngest in a family of four, Emily has dreams just like any other fifteen year old high school student. However, Emily won't be flying to the moon anytime soon, or scaling the highest peak in the world; she has her sights set on something equally as high. Emily hopes to pursue a career in medicine and study under the cardinal red banners of Stanford University. The idea of becoming a surgeon was brought on by her own injury. During the water polo season of her freshman year, Emily hurt her arm while playing. A visit to an orthopedic surgeon sparked her immense interest in the study. "Blood has never grossed me out and, ever since I met the surgeon, I knew what I wanted to do when I got older. I knew I wanted to work hard so that someday I could become an orthopedic surgeon." Since that visit to the surgeon, Emily has been committing her time to studying hard so that Stanford medicine can become a reality in the near future.

Emily and her family have been living in the Shores since Emily was a toddler, and since then have become an active part in the community. Cynthia, Emily's mom, you may recognize as the teacher of the Dippy Dolphins and also a swimming instructor here at the Shores pool. It seems only fitting that Emily would grow up to love the water, and it turns out that a bit of chlorine exists in her blood.

Since her freshman year, Emily has been a starting player on her Dana Hills varsity water polo team. Now a sophomore, Emily continues to be a

prime factor on her team as one of the top goal scorers. In just one week, water polo consumes on average thirty five hours of Emily's time. In between the grueling practices and late night cram sessions, Emily spends her time with friends and family where she can escape from the stress of her daily activities.

During the day, Emily is a student at Dana Hills High School where she is enrolled in the HMO program that helps students come a step closer to achieving a career in the field of medicine. Along with HMO, Emily participates in a handful of clubs, including Best Buddies and Dolphin Pride. However, if you set aside the HMO program, ignore the clubs, and truly look into the eyes of Emily, you

see a determined individual who loves life. Someone who loves being around friends, someone who is always smiling and constantly laughing at whatever obstacles life throws at her. Emily's priorities never consist of herself; they always lie in the well being of others. It is more important to her to see another person succeed, than to see her own self succeed.

On an everyday basis Emily faces obstacles and choices that can curb her future, good or bad. With her every step of the way, coasting her in the right direction are her parents. Emily explains that the "motivation and encouragement that comes from my parents keeps me in the right direction." They push her to go beyond the normal standards and try her absolute greatest in everything she takes on.

Most importantly, Emily will continue to play hard in the pool, and continue to study hard so that someday those cardinal red banners can become not just a possible dream, but a well earned accomplishment.

—Colleen McNaught



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NEIGHBORHOOD ADS

For Lease: \$3200 per month, Capri model. 24151 Vista D'Onde, ocean view, marble floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room. Christina 626 437 3167.

For Sale: White washed oak with beveled glass top 48 inch sq. cocktail table & matching end table. \$150 (949) 443-1632.

For Sale: E-Z-GO Golf Cart w/ battery charger, less than 1 year on new batteries. Seat belts, rear view mirror, horn & turn signals \$2,000. (949) 493-0957.

For Sale: Stationary bike, Roadmaster—Vitamaster USA built. Meter for time, speed, distance and calories. In excellent condition, nice seat with height adjustment. Please call June 949-661-4802 (asking \$80).

For Rent: Lovely furnished vacation rental near ClubHouse. 23881 Taranto Bay, 1 story, 3 bedroom & den, 2 bath, wood floors, molding updated, charming garden, front & back. (818) 501-6678.

For Sale: Beautiful antique Irish pine “cupboard” from early 1800’s. It is a dining room hutch. Would normally sell for over \$5,000. Asking \$1800 for quick sale. 212-5746

For Sale: At the Fountains Dana Point Retirement Community. One bedroom condo. Fee simple ownership. Owned by former Niguel Shores resident. Pristine condition. Details call Frances Ozimec 949-240-8553 cell 714-271-2717.

Furnished Rental—September through May—Panoramic oceanview side Halyard—1 story, 3 bedroom / 2 bath. Updated large rear / side deck. Fenced area with doggy door. All the amenities of home. Please call 626-795-9155.

Ads for the Seashore News must be submitted by the 15th of the month. Include a check payable to NSCA, \$3 for a maximum of 30 words. Advertisers must fill out a form available at the Association office. Neither NSCA nor the Seashore News assumes responsibility or liability for quality of goods advertised. See Rule 5525 (Non-Commercial Ads Only)

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DECEMBER 2009 in Niguel Shores

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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 	1 8:30 Mens Club Breakfast 10:00 Recreation Committee	2 8:30 Fitness Class 9:30 H ₂ O Aerobics 11:30 Bridge	3 1:00 Architectural Committee 6:00 Womens Club Christmas Party	4 8:30 Fitness Class 9:30 H ₂ O Aerobics 3:00 Committee Appreciation Party	5 NSCA Office Open 8:30 - 5:00 6																																																																																											
	7 8:30 Fitness Class 9:30 H ₂ O Aerobics  Pearl Harbor Day	8 8:00 Mens Golf 	9 8:30 Fitness Class 9:00 NSCA Gen. Session Board Mtg. 9:30 H ₂ O Aerobics 11:30 Bridge	10 9:00 Maintenance Committee 12:00 Womens Club Luncheon AC DEADLINE TENNIS COURTS CLOSED UNTIL 2PM for Cleaning	11 8:30 Fitness Class 9:30 H ₂ O Aerobics 10:00 SSN Staff  Hanukkah Begins	12  13  Tree Lighting Ceremony																																																																																										
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Sheriff's Department: 770-6011 Non-emergency services. Dana Point Community Support Unit 248-3580 Business Services 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday-Friday		NOVEMBER <table border="1"> <tr><th>Sun</th><th>Mon</th><th>Tue</th><th>Wed</th><th>Thur</th><th>Fri</th><th>Sat</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						JANUARY 2009 <table border="1"> <tr><th>Sun</th><th>Mon</th><th>Tue</th><th>Wed</th><th>Thur</th><th>Fri</th><th>Sat</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
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MEETINGS

1:00 pm, 1st and 3rd Thursdays
 See Calendar
 3:00 pm, 2nd Monday
 9:00 am, 2nd Thursday
 10:00 am, 1st Tuesday
 10:00 am, 1st Friday
 8:30 am, 2nd Wednesday
 1:30 pm, 3rd Monday

MEETINGS

To be determined
 To be determined
 To be determined

Women's Club

Nancy Tinnes, President
Men's Club
 Blair McDonald, President
Garden Club
 Linda/Jerry Koppang, President

Seashore News

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BY **CONNIE MCKIBBAN**

IN ESCROW BY CONNIE



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