

Seashore News



July 2009

Published Monthly by Niguel Shores Community Association

Issue 428

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Come to the Community Center

BREAKFAST 8:00–10:30 a.m.—Mobile catering truck selling
snacks and breakfast

FLAG RAISING 9:00 a.m.

PARADE 9:30 a.m.

Come to the Beach Bluff Park

FACE PAINTING AND TATTOOS 10:30 a.m.—Noon

LUNCH Noon—Mobile catering truck selling snacks and lunch

SAND CASTLE CONTEST REGISTRATION Noon

SAND CASTLE CONTEST JUDGING 3:00 p.m.

SAND CASTLE CONTEST AWARDS 4:00 p.m.

D.J. AND DANCING 4:00–7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY BBQ GRILL 5:00 p.m.

—Bring your own food and drinks

FROM THE GM

SUMMER IS HERE – Fortunately, the new Bluff Park is complete (except for final landscaping & lighting) and the City / County / Headlands have opened the public walkway from the Selva parking lot to Strand Beach including the new public restrooms. The inclined elevator (the Funicular) is not operating yet, but should be in the next few weeks. Niguel Shores Recreation Committee gave the bluff its first “test run” on Saturday, June 13

with the First Annual “Taco Night.” It was one of the most successful events in Niguel Shores history with 250–300 participants enjoying the live music and the “El Patio” tacos. If you would like to see photos of this event, you can view the pictures courtesy of Board member/photographer Gary Tinnes on the web site at: niguelshores.org.

ATTENTION FILM BUFFS – We have a new program beginning in Niguel Shores that is part of SaddleBack College’s Emeritus Institute. The first class is titled “Film as Literature” and it begins in the new Clubhouse on August 24. You can read more about it here in this issue in the article headlined “Emeritus Program: Attention Film Buffs” on page 10. The class will be meeting every Monday from 2:30–5:30 p.m. and will involve watching a classic movie and then discussing its many different aspects.

JULY 4th PARTY – Just a reminder that our annual party is still taking place even though the Clubhouse will not be finished. The breakfast will be served in the parking lot thanks to three mobile catering trucks, instead of being traditionally prepared by the Men’s Club (more about that later). The flag raising, parade and games will take place as usual and you can read all the details on the July 4th “Flyer” in this issue.

CLUBHOUSE DEDICATION – Yes, we are getting close now and plans are being developed for the Dedication Ceremony that is scheduled for Saturday, September 5. The



Beach Bluff Park 6-09

Clubhouse will be completed before that date (mid-August), but the official grand opening is set for Labor Day Weekend. The kick off will be breakfast by the Men’s Club and served in the same manner as the traditional July 4th party. There will be more details of this event in the August issue of this newsletter. Mark this important event in your calendar as it will be one of those memorable days in Niguel Shores history.

POOL / SPA OPENING – Everyone is asking when the pool will be open and unfortunately, we have some bad news here. The pool cannot be opened until the Clubhouse is completed and the reason is simple. We cannot turn on any of the utilities until we receive the Certificate of Occupancy (COO) from the City on the project and there is no waiver or way around this policy. In addition, our agreement with Niguel Racquet Club to use their pool was only good through June 30. We tried to negotiate an extension, but it was not workable since their paying members are their first customers and summer is their high usage period. We apologize for this inconvenience and we are doing everything possible to open the pool as soon as possible. Bottom line is the pool will be opened mid-August. No Board decision has been reached on the new spa proposal as of the time of this writing. I will notify the community by email as soon as a decision is reached.

—Leo Riley



Clubhouse progress 6-09

BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

JUNE 3, 2009 BOARD MEETING (General Session)

APPROVED:

- Approved the General Session Minutes of May 6, 2009.
- Approved the Special General Session Minutes of May 19, 2009.
- Approved the April 31, 2009 Variance & Delinquency reports.
 - Approved the April 31, 2009 Financial Report.
- Approved the appointment of Patrice Miller to the Architecture Committee.

DISCUSSED:

- Surf Museum update.
- Beach Bluff & Clubhouse rental policies and fees discussion.
 - 2009–2010 BOD & Management objectives.

REVIEWED:

- Special update on Clubhouse & Spa projects.

HEARINGS/MEETINGS: none

JUNE 3, 2009 BOARD MEETING (Executive Session)

APPROVED:

- Approved the Executive Session minutes of May 6, 2009.
- Approved the Special Executive Session Minutes of May 11, 2009.
- Approved the Special Executive Session Organizational Minutes of May 19, 2009.
 - The Monthly Legal Status Report – March 2009.

REVIEWED:

- Attorney, Richard Fiore's status report on pending legal matters.
 - March 24, 2009 Assessment Collection Status Report.
 - Violation Log.

DISCUSSED:

- Discussed paving company dispute matter.
- AC matters involving three (3) homeowners.
- Pool / Spa repair & conversion contracts.
- Beach Bluff landscaping proposals / contracts.

HEARINGS/MEETINGS:

- Hearing with a homeowner for violation of Article IX, Section 16 – Failure to maintain.
- Hearing with (2) homeowners for violation of Rule 6405 – Overnight Parking.

JUNE 17, 2009 BOARD MEETING: (General Session)

APPROVED:

- Approved the General Session Minutes of June 3, 2009.
- Approved the appointment of Suzanne Enis to the Recreation Committee.

DISCUSSED:

- Discussed new Spa Proposal.
- Discussed Paving matter dispute.
- Discussed Beach Bluff benches.
- Discussed Beach Bluff / Clubhouse rental policies and fees.
 - 2009–2010 Board Objectives (continued).
 - 2010 Budget Preparation Schedule.
 - Tree Removal Form.
 - V-Ditch inspection Form.
 - Gate House remodel in 2010 discussion.
- Niguel Racquet Club Pool use agreement expiration.

JUNE 17, 2009 BOARD MEETING: (Executive Session)

APPROVED:

- Approved the Executive Session Minutes of June 3, 2009.
- Approved the appointment of Ellen Dovey to the Landscape Committee.

DISCUSSED:

- Committee policies and reform.
- Landscape Committee matter.
 - Sea Terrace 1 matter.
- Homeowner request to waive hearing fine.

HEARINGS/MEETINGS:

- Hearing with a homeowner – continuation of violation of Article IX, Section 16, failure to Maintain.
- Hearing with a homeowner – Unauthorized and unapproved alterations.

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—JULY 1, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

ARCHITECTURE

3D Modeling and Google SketchUp

A computerized 3D model, also known as a rendering, is an interactive representation of a physical object that can be viewed on a two-dimensional computer monitor. Once prohibitively expensive, 3D modeling of a project is now a cost-effective design and presentation tool. It is much less expensive to make corrections in the design of a home improvement project than in the project itself. Since plan and elevation drawings can be difficult for people to visualize, a rendering allows many to see how a finished project will look before it is even started. This can be especially helpful when trying to explain plans to your neighbors. Many objections raised by neighbors cause delays that could have been prevented by showing them a 3D model of a project.

It is available at <http://sketchup.google.com/download/> for both Mac and PC. The software can import Computer Aided Design (CAD) files that are created by an architect. Once loaded into SketchUp, your architect can add textures and colors to the surfaces in your project, set the coordinates and north heading of your site to show accurate shadows and move the point of view around so you can see how it will look from different directions.

Ask your architect about using 3D modeling when you start the design phase of a project. Though it may involve additional cost, the time saved will probably benefit you in the long run.

—Rob Rifkin

FINANCE

Niguel Shores currently has four significant and ongoing projects:

- (1) Clubhouse
- (2) Completion of the Beach Bluff Park
- (3) Irrigation System Analysis
- (4) New Drought Resistant Landscape possibilities.

Currently, we are in limbo regarding final financial numbers, so I will defer any discussion until next month regarding financial dollars per project.

Due to the economy, we are finding that a significant number of contractors are letting their business license lapse, which means they most likely are not insured or bonded. I highly recommend that you run all of your contractors, even those you have used in the

past, through the California State License Board at www.cslb.ca.gov. When you log onto this web-site, look to the left hand side and click on “Instant License Check.” You can then enter the license number you want to verify or on the right hand side, it gives you other ways to search for verification such as “Contractor Name.” This morning, I ran contractors I used two or three years ago (my roofer and rain gutter company) through this web-site and both have expired licenses today.

I always print off the information in case there is a problem with work performance. You can also file complaints against bad contractors at this web-site.

—Marcy McNulty

MAINTENANCE

We are all beginning to enjoy our beautiful new Bluff Park. Maintenance cannot accept accolades for the park or its design, but we did spend considerable time installing, or getting ready to install many of the features. To be ready to install three new cameras we needed to find the old conduit and splice boxes. Just finding the old stuff was no small task. Repairs were made to the old conduit and splice boxes, new conduit installed, and wires pulled from the camera location to the Breakers Isle guard house where a new DVR will be located. An additional power line was pulled from the guard house to the Fob gate.

We didn't select the tables, but we did install them. This was one of those “some assembly required” deals. It was really “total” assembly required and of course, not everything was there to complete the installation. Our ever ingenious Maintenance folks made the additional necessary components to complete the installation.

You may have noticed an old lamp post foundation near the vehicle gate. It was ugly, so Leo said “take it out.” Easy for him to say! After a day with sledge hammers we rented a jack hammer and got the job done.

To minimize the need to dig up our new lawn at some future date we installed conduit around the park perimeter. The future installation of anything requiring power or data transmission will now be less disruptive. See, we don't always do everything twice.

Some of the sidewalk and deck was damaged by trucks delivering top soil. This will be repaired. The rabbit damage is another issue. We leave that for someone else to solve.

—Jack Christiansen

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY

Occasionally things occur in Niguel Shores that require the immediate attention of law enforcement or emergency services. We had a couple of such occasions last month. The Traffic and Safety Committee would like to remind you once again that a direct call to the Dana Point Sheriff's Office or 911 is the protocol. Calling the front gate or the office will only delay the process of getting the proper help to the scene. The front gate can be alerted to the situation after the Sheriff's or Fire Department has been notified.

One of our residents reported that she had a near miss with her car and a child on a skateboard in the bluff parking lot recently. Her vision was obstructed by cars properly parked by the drive ramp and the child suddenly appeared in front of her. Happily, there were no physical injuries, only some elevated heart rates. We can't stop our kids from being kids, but please do all you can to educate them about dangerous situations with wheel toys where cars are moving. **Incidentally, recreational skateboarding is prohibited in the common areas of Niguel Shores.**

Lastly, our Securitas personnel are encountering increasing numbers of unauthorized guests, and the trend will probably continue through the summer. Please understand that a guest cannot authorize entry of another guest. If your security code has been breached, or you want to "unauthorize" someone from admitting guests, please change your code. It's a good idea to do that periodically anyway. Be safe.

—Michael Card

VIEW PRESERVATION

As referenced in the May issue of the *Seashore News*, Rule 4112 Pad Level Plantings states: No tree or shrub growing on private property at pad level shall be allowed to exceed the height of the highest elevation of the nearest adjoining roof segment, **unless such height does not unreasonably interfere with the view from another lot.** In areas where an unreasonable lateral view obstruction is involved, plantings at pad level are limited to a height of three (3) feet, or the height of side yard walls or fences in the lateral view end of the viewing house. In other words just because a tree or shrub is higher than a roof, as long as no views are blocked it's not a violation.

The View Preservation Committee is strictly a complaint driven committee. We do not go out looking for violations until a complaint is made.

—Bonnie Gilberstadt

NIGUEL SHORES WEBSITE

Connect to Niguel Shores Online

I know many of you have visited Niguel Shores' website at least once since the new remodel last year. However, I know many of you still don't know all the functions that can be done using our website: www.niguelshores.org. This article will give you insight on those new things.

Online Service Form: Submit your request for service, information or to report a violation condition online. There is a form that allows you submit this online. Once submitted, it will be routed to the appropriate service provider for resolution or response. This can be found under "Forms & Documents" in the menu that also includes several other downloadable forms.

Committee Pages: Each Committee in Niguel Shores has its own webpage on the Niguel Shores website. The Committee page shows the purpose of members of each Committee. If you are part of any of the committees, we strongly encourage you to use the page as a landing page for all other members to get the latest updates on what is going on within your committee. Some suggestions include: adding your meeting agendas, posting your minutes and any special information. You can send any additional ideas or things to be posted on your committee page by emailing webadmin@niguelshores.org

Club Pages: Be sure to check out the "Women's Club" and "The Really Serious Oreo Cookie Book Club" pages under the "community" menu tab. These pages will be



updated with the latest photos and information of the clubs. The “Garden Club” and “Men’s Club” pages will be launched on the website in the next month so be sure to keep checking back.

In addition, the latest issue of the *Seashore News* is always up on the site in full color. We’ll be sure to update

the homepage with the latest updates on the website so you won’t miss it. As always, if you have any questions, suggestions or comments—feel free to email me at webadmin@niguelshores.org.

—Kathleen Capalla

RECREATION

A very successful party for families (you can see by the lines for tacos in the photos below) to enjoy the new Bluff Park was on June 13, **Taco Family Night**. Many requested a family Taco party again soon. The food from El Patio and the music was enjoyed by an attendance of over 200. Thanks to everyone who attended and to the



volunteers to make it happen. A note for future parties: **Please have your drinks from our bar. We served good wine for this event and excellent margaritas. The money helps to provide the music and food.**

4th of July Celebration:

Another year for this event that all ages enjoy. See the schedule and plan on being a part of this day and evening. The evening BBQ is one to bring your own food and drinks.

August 4: Another evening BBQ for you to enjoy with your neighbors. Bring your own food and drinks as you watch a beautiful sunset.

August 23: The Newport Ribs and the Flock of 80’s music will be another wonderful summer party at the beautiful bluff. You do not want to miss this evening. Tickets will be on sale the morning of the 4th of July and

after that in the office. This is an evening for \$30, plus drinks, that Daniella Mills and Alicia Martinez have planned.

Look for future announcements for a **Chili Cook Off** in September. October 18 will be the famous **Pot Luck** in the new Clubhouse. Look for future detail announcements. October 25 will bring the first **Halloween Party** to be enjoyed by families in the beautiful Clubhouse. November 1 — **Art Affaire:** Niguel Shores will celebrate 25 years of showcasing the artistic talents of our residents. Please mark the date on your calendar and be sure to plan your holiday shopping around the unique items that

our artists and craftsmen will have to offer. Artists, craftsmen and craftswomen contact Barbara Milner now to reserve your booth. (949) 443-2911 or bmilner@wtbinc.com.



Taco Family Night in the new Bluff Park. Photos by Gary Tinnis.

This committee has a goal to provide fun activities for all ages in Niguel Shores.
—Carol Yocom

GARDEN CLUB

The Niguel Shores Garden Club ended the year with its annual Beach Bluff BBQ on June 15. The BBQ was a big hit with side dishes supplied by members and hamburgers and drinks supplied by the Garden Club. A big thank you goes out to Bob Borland his “burger boys,” Tom McNicholas and Myron Miller, for cooking and serving the burgers.

A very special thanks to Debbie Hanson for her service as Membership Chair. Debbie has served in this position for the past four years and we will miss her great organizational skills, her bright smile, and her willingness to jump in to help the club run smoothly in all areas.



Attracting wildlife to your garden...

One of the pleasures of gardening is slowing life's frenetic pace to watch wildlife. Watching a hummingbird taking a bath or a butterfly sip nectar is both fascinating and relaxing. You need three simple elements to attract wildlife:

1. Water. More specifically the sound of running water is the surest



way to attract feathered wildlife to your garden. Consider adding a water feature. Even a still birdbath will bring feathered friends. I have a bird bath outside our living room that attracts birds every day. Feathered friends need clean water for many purposes, including drinking, bathing and to maintain their feathers. I add fresh water daily to my bird bath and keep it clean.

2. Food is the next must have for attracting wildlife. To invite more birds here supply them with a taste of the plants they enjoy in California, such as amaranth, asters, bachelor button, blanket flower, cosmos, pincushion flower, poppies and sunflowers. Many flowering plants attract both hummingbirds and butterflies since both sip on nectar. Both of these winged visitors enjoy bright flowers especially in warm reds and oranges.

3. Shelter is essential because all creatures need a safe place to rest, nest and to be protected from people, predators and inclement weather. For most wildlife all you need for shelter is a tree or two, shrubs make excellent havens for many feathered friends.

Just remember. Welcoming wildlife lowers your blood pressure and raises your garden's beauty quotient and it is as simple as counting “one, two, three” as in water, food, shelter.

Field trip... For an interesting afternoon this summer take a field trip to the Niguel Botanical preserve at 29751 Crown Valley Parkway next to the YMCA. The primary goal of the preserve is to display garden worthy plants appropriate to the southern California region. The garden is located on a hillside with views of Saddleback Valley (the accent is uphill at the beginning) best of all its free.

The Niguel Shores Garden Club will resume its regular third Monday of the month meetings in our new

Clubhouse on September 21. Happy gardening.

—Jerry Koppang

MEN'S CLUB

On May 27 Jerry Pearl and Bob Ryan were invited by Bonnie Borden, DHHS awards coordinator, to attend the 2009 Senior Awards Ceremony at Dana Hills High School. On behalf of the Men's Club we presented a \$1000 scholarship each to Nathan Lubock, Tiffany Han and Erika Peterson who received the Buck and Fran Ewing Arts Award. The three recipients, along with Bonnie Borden and Erika's mother, attended our breakfast on June 2 and were introduced by Jerry to the members. Each student gave a few short comments on their individual area of study and the college they will be attending in the fall. Nathan is headed to Duke, Erika is going to Michigan and Tiffany is off to UCLA. A very impressive trio of students.

Our guest speaker on June 2, Peter Bastone, President and CEO of Mission Hospital, was introduced by Club member Walt Klosterman, an old friend and associate of Peter's. Mr. Bastone has worked at Mission for 14 years. Peter gave an excellent overview of Mission Hospital's operation both from an historical reference and a projection of its growth. He discussed the acquisition of the South Coast Medical Center which is in the last stages of finalization. The completion of Mission's current building expansion, plus the addition of the South Coast Medical Center, will make this hospital one of the finest in the country. The financial implications and final facility complex will be extremely impressive and will be a major contributor to the total care

available in our greater area. Mission dedicates 10 percent of its total budget to providing care of indigent patients. (I did make an error in the June edition by stating that Peter was the President/CEO of Memorial Hospital instead of Mission Hospital...sorry about that.)

Agent Jose Ortiz of the U.S. Border Patrol was our guest speaker on June 16. This was a very interesting presentation considering the current activity concerning immigration. Bunny Ross joined us to talk about registering for the "Emeritus Program" which is sponsored by Saddleback Community College. There have been several articles in the newsletter about this program.

Guest speaker on July 7 will be Nick Karnazes, yes it's Kraig's dad, talking about his "Living in the midst of a 96-day, 96-round golf journey through the United States"...hello reality! On July 21 Roger Hogan, President and General Manger of Capistrano Toyota/Scion, will be our speaker. Considering the current situation of the auto industry this, too, will be a very interesting talk.

The Men's Club has a breakfast on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Call Bob Ryan for details and directions.

—Bob Ryan

WOMEN'S CLUB

The slate of the Women's Club officers for 2009–2010 was presented and voted on at the June 11 Seaside Social Tea at the Dana Point Yacht Club. Recognition went to outgoing



New Club officers left to right: Ardis Ghobrial—Treasurer, Karla Sanders—Secretary and Nancy Tinnes—President.

"ship officers:" President Tina Fornadley, Secretary Carol Kuhn and Treasurer Ann Jones, along with committee "crew" members Parliamentarian Ceacy Johns, Membership List Hope Luedeke, Hospitality Nancy Tinnes, Care and Concern Diane Hearn, Membership Bunny Mahoney, Fourth of July Sheila Furst, Table Decorations Rhea Gutknecht and Home Tour Ginny Nevitt. Outgoing officers were on deck to welcome aboard new officers President Nancy Tinnes, Secretary Karla Sanders and Treasurer Ardis Ghobrial. Ceacy Johns will assist in Program Planning for the coming year. Committee members not present also received recognition: Historian Mary Crowl, Hospitality Frieda Baskin, Telephone Gretchen Rask, Care and Concern Gloria Weintraub, Membership Kathy Vonk and Ann Morris Table Decorations. Ceacy Johns presided at the installation of new officers and handed the gavel to Nancy.

The Women's Club does not meet in July and August. Next season will start with a potluck luncheon on September 10 in the new Clubhouse. The program, "You've Come a Long Way, Baby," will be a celebration of how the club started and has grown to what we have now, with a welcome to our new Clubhouse. The \$10 membership fees are payable by check. See you in September.

—Phyllis Tezer



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WEDNESDAY BRIDGE

While we're awaiting the opening of the Shores Clubhouse, a few of the "girls" have been keeping up with their bridge and bridge friends. We would like to report on the activities of our group:

Frieda Baskin has been in New York attending the graduation of one of the family—then on down south to visit her Niguel Shores friend, Dan.

Francesca Rossi Sunness is a "Mrs." now, marrying Robert Sunness.

Gloria Thraelkill is back playing bridge after being in and out of the hospital for a few months with complications of the leg.

Edie Tisch is feeling much better after an absence of a few months. She has entertained some of the bridge group in her lovely home during the lull.

Kay Wittmack is "back on the road" again after tangling with the Motor Vehicle Company for weeks on end—going to classes and shelling out dollars. Glad she did so well on her tests.

Helen Stevenson lost her daughter, Gail Guthree, to a heart attack on April 19th of this year. This is a hard loss for Helen after travelling to California from Connecticut to be near her only kin.

We hope to get new bridge members when we get a new community hall soon.

—Helen Campbell

REALLY SERIOUS OREO COOKIE BOOK CLUB

In June we discussed *Confederates in the Attic—Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War* by Tony Horwitz. We all knew that it wasn't over... July's book is *The Lost City of Z—A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon* by David Grann. Explorers looking for disappeared explorers in the Amazon jungles—reminiscent of Stanley and Livingstone in Africa with a different ending. The August book is *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell. We will meet on Wednesday, July 15, at the home of Rich Schwartz, 33701 Shackleton – 1:00 p.m. Contact Norton Schwartz for information about the Club: nortlynne@cox.net or 481-2459 to talk with him. Visitors and new members are welcome. If you think the book might be interesting, read it and come to Rich's house.

—Mary Crowl

LIBRARY NEWS

Library Kicks off Summer Reading Program

The 2009 Summer Reading Program began on June 22 at the Dana Point Library. This season's theme is "Home Run Reader" sponsored by Angels Baseball Foundation. Team members can come to the ticket booth at the library to register, receive their reading log and win prizes just for reading. Parents reading to children will be eligible for prizes also. (*Library needs teen volunteers to join the team.*)

Special Programs will be featured on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. for children ages 4 and up as follows:

- 7/2 Buster the Balloon Guy: performs comedy with magic & zany Balloon creations
- 7/9 The Magic of Abbit the Average: magic show
- 7/16 Swazzle in Watercolor: puppet show
- 7/23 Learning is fun Enterprises: Aesop's Fables a musical pantomime
- 7/30 Parties Fantastic: in a Musical Barnyard Extravaganza
- 8/6 Found Objects Juggling Show
- 8/13 Craig Newton's Music Fest
- 8/14 Closing Day for the Season: last day to get prizes for reading

A Weekly Story time with the Sunshine Readers will be held on Tuesday July 31 at 11:00 a.m. A Pajama Story times will be held on Monday, July 31, at 7:00 p.m. **Please note our weekly programs will be held in the Sea Terrace Park adjacent to the library. Bring your blankets and come early for parking.** All programs sponsored by the Friends of the Dana Point Library and the National Charity League and Women's Club of Dana Point. For more information call the Dana Point Library 949-496-5517.

Adult Reading Program: Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome to participate in our adult summer reading program. Come to the Information Desk to pick up a reading log and keep track of books that you read or listen to on audiobook. For every book read you'll receive an entry into a drawing for a variety of prizes.

We're also excited to have a program aimed specifically at adults. Brother Yusef, known blues guitarist, joins

us for a night of “traditional” finger picking and slide guitar playing with the contemporary feel of urban blues, will be joining us Friday, July 17 at 7 p.m. He is a regular performer at Downtown Disney. To hear a sample of what is in store, visit his website at www.brotherlyusef.com. This performance is free to the public and refreshments will be provided. This performance is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Dana Point Library. The Dana Point Book Club meets the second Wednesday of the month from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. The book of the month is available at the checkout desk. In July the book club will be reading *Mistress of the Art of Death* by Ariana Franklin and, in August, *The Spellman Files* by Lisa Lutz.

—Judy Pasek

EMERITUS PROGRAM



Attention Film Buffs

As previously reported, Saddleback College’s Emeritus Program will be presenting “Film As Literature” on Mondays from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. beginning August 24 and running for 10 weeks.

The cost for the entire course is \$3. Our new Clubhouse will be completed by that date and we expect the class to be well attended by Niguel Shores residents.

The Emeritus Committee has met and will have application forms for Saddleback College available at the July 4th celebration. These need to be completed prior to enrollment in the aforementioned program. There will also be catalogs and application forms available in the Niguel Shores office after July 4th. Any questions? Please call me.

—Bunny Ross

WOMEN’S GOLF

Our 17th Annual Memorial Tournament will be held on July 13. All members and past members should have received their invitations by mail. The tournament will be held at Aliso Creek followed by luncheon at the Fountains. If you have not received an invitation and would like to join us please call golf captains Lee Sweeney 661-5924 or Judy Boitano 661-9495 or call lunch hostesses Val Mitchell 582-8311 or Eileen McDonald 249-8905. The cost of the luncheon is \$26. Checks should be made out to and sent to Val Mitchell as soon as possible.



We had a very fun Fun Day this month when the team score for each hole was determined by the color of a flower. There were many cheers or groans depending on the luck of the draw.

After a delicious barbecue lunch at the golf course, Val Mitchell announced the winners. The winning team was Chris Beaver, Judy Boitano, Liz Kelch and Marlene Lynch.

Low Gross was Marlene Lynch.

Low Net was Liz Kelch.

Closest to the pin on #6 was Victoria Siegfried.

Closest to the pin on #8 was Liz Kelch.

Longest drive on #9 was Val Mitchell.

—Irene McDonald

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A CAUTIONARY TALE: IS YOUR FIREPLACE SAFE?

We had a gas leak out at the street. Thank goodness for my neighbor who smelled gas and called the gas company. It was about 6:30 p.m. (during the Lakers Game, of course) when there was a knock on the door. A very nice young man from the Gas Company explained about the leak. He said he had already fixed it and, since it was on their side of the meter, there would be no charge to me. That was good news. Then he said he wanted to check all the gas appliances in our house. He did a very thorough job.

To my surprise, he informed me that both of our gas fireplaces were in violation because they did not have blocks to keep the dampers from closing completely. He handed me a "Notice of Hazardous Conditions" which I dutifully signed. We would have to get this fixed. The next morning I headed to Home Depot. They told me I could use "C" clamps on the fireplace dampers and that would do the job. I bought two "C" clamps and thought that would be the end of it. Later that day, I happened to mention this incident to the Architecture Committee and was strongly encouraged to write an article for the *Seashore News* so that other homeowners would be aware of the necessity of having damper blocks in their gas fireplaces. Naturally, I wanted to give all of you the rule or code (city, county, state?) requiring these clamps. I looked on the "Notice" but it wasn't listed there. I would have to do some sleuthing to find it. Little did I know the bureaucratic labyrinth that lay ahead.

First step: I went to the Dana Point Building and Planning Department. They were so nice and helpful but could not find any regulation or code requiring a damper block. Still they kept looking. In fact, I was with them for almost an hour but it was for my community of Niguel Shores, a righteous cause in my mind. (Aren't I a good neighbor?) But, we came up empty.

Second step: Feeling challenged to find a code or regulation that I could pass on to you, I next hit the Internet. As I am not very computer literate, I spend a frustrating two hours and came up with nada. Then, I went to the NSCA office and

asked the wonderfully competent Karen for help. She found the State Fire Marshall's Office which included the listing "Fireplace Standards." I figured I had hit the jackpot with this number and came straight home and made a phone call.

Third step: The people at the State Fire Marshall's Office were very nice (once I got through to a human being). They informed me that each county had its own codes and, then, gave me the number for the Orange County Fire Marshall.

Fourth step: I promptly called the Orange County Fire Marshall and had a great talk with Nick in Division Three. He searched every codebook he could find. Then, he went to the Building Code Books and searched some more. We were on the phone for over 30 minutes and became quite friendly. (I will probably send him some cookies.) When, after searching and searching, he still came up with nothing, he said he would call the Gas Company himself and would call me back if he got any information.

Fifth step: Next (Am I exhausting you with all of this?) I called the Gas Company. I reached a very helpful Service Representative named Sharon who had absolutely no idea what I was talking about. I explained that I had received a standard "Notice of Hazardous Conditions" form with Box 8 marked with an "X" (gas logs in fireplace and damper not permanently blocked open). She said that she would refer this to her supervisor and I would get a call back within 48 hours. Sharon and I talked for about 20 minutes. (I'll probably send her cookies, too.)

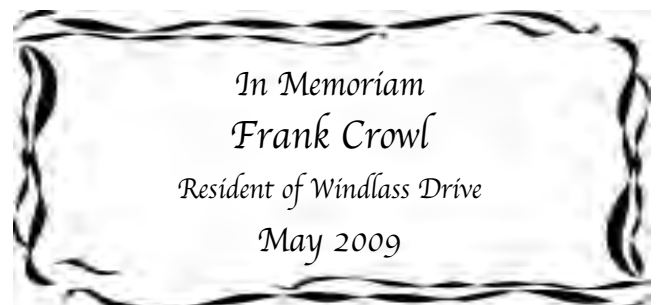
Sixth step: Finally a Gas Company supervisor, Mike, called me. He said (yes, you guessed it) there is NO written code or regulation regarding damper blocks.

So, what does this mean? Does the law require damper blocks? No. Does that mean there is no safety hazard if your gas fireplace does not have a damper block? That is less clear. Indeed, Mike strongly recommended that I use the "C" clamps and encourage all my neighbors at NSCA to do the same. So, in closing, I am encouraging all of you who have gas log fireplaces to be a big spender and buy the \$1.89 "C" clamp. Just to be safe.

—Your diligent neighbor, Marilyn Moon

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR:

Patriot, ex-Marine, Sailing Teacher, Skiing Teacher, Father and family man, Business Executive and Active Supporter of our Marine Corps: Jim O'Neill

Jim was born and grew up in Cleveland where he went through high school and then on to Notre Dame in South Bend. He was lured by a group of friends to abandon Notre Dame after a year and one-half and joined the Marines—went to Parris Island, Geiger, Camp Lejeune in the 2nd Tank Battalion and spent some time in the Mediterranean with the 6th Fleet in the 1950s and ended up at Guantanamo Base in Cuba with a last short time in Florida. It was a total of six years with the U.S. Marines in which he reached the rank of sergeant. Back to Cleveland, Jim finished college and eventually took a job with Roadway Express as a labor relations manager in that nation-wide trucking firm. He agrees that his experience in the Marines was valuable in dealing with the Teamsters Union as, he says, you're not intimidated by anybody after six years in the Marines. Jim spent 32 years with that company during which time he was transferred to Southern California and retired here about ten years ago as a vice president. He had married Deidre, a Cleveland girl, had two sons who are grown and here in California with their families and a daughter who is back in Cleveland. Jim lost his wife a few years ago and has since married Kathy whom he met while living across the way in Monarch Beach. They both sold their houses and bought the lovely home they have now on Windjammer.

Jim's interest in the Marines led him to visits to Camp Pendleton once he was retired and eventually to volunteering with the Marine League, an organization of former Marines who support the active troops and also to volunteering with a group that supports the wounded Marines at Camp Pendleton. This group raises money to assist those Marines and their families. A golf tournament at the Base which donated to the Wounded Marine Group \$150 per participant was recently held at which Marine League members worked, served lunch and offered other services to make the tournament a success. Several Niguel Shores residents played in the tournament. Wounded Marines are retrained to continue serving if their condition permits. There is a special barracks for them near the Naval Hospital on the base. The Marine League also sponsors awards to Marines completing rigorous leadership courses who are



Jim O'Neill as a young Marine in the 1950s

elected by their fellow trainees as “the Marine who you would most like to serve next to in combat.” The chosen Marine is presented by the Marine League a special combat knife in a leather carrier with his name engraved on the blade as an award. These courses are offered by the Advanced Infantry Training Battalion to experienced Marines, mostly NCOs, who volunteer for the leadership training. The League also provides funds for families to visit wounded Marines who are at Bethesda in Maryland. Jim O'Neill was recently awarded an honor (see photograph) by this group for his contribution to its efforts.

As the heading says, Jim O'Neill, a veteran sailor on Lake Erie where he had a 40-foot sailboat and a sailor of other waters, was a volunteer sailing teacher at the Youth & Group Facility in Dana Point Harbor. He continues to be an avid skier, has a time-share in Utah and goes several times a year to various ski resorts. He recently sold his beloved bright red Corvette and wonders why... Oh, I almost forgot, he plays a good game of golf, too. Thanks, Jim, for all that. You do know how to enjoy life.

—Mary Crowl



Jim O'Neill receiving an award from Major Michael Pitts, Commanding Officer of the Training Battalion for his contributions.

Springtime

Springtime in Niguel Shores means longer daylight, stunning sunsets, warmer nights, blooming flowers, and serenades by migrating birds. However, at one of our Niguel Shores homes springtime means the return of summer visitors that resume housekeeping in the birdhouse they have used for the last four years. On Colima Bay, in Joan Beyer's patio, male and female house wrens are again raising a family. Joan, her neighbors and friends have sat around her patio table, no more than six feet away from the post mounted birdhouse, enjoying refreshments and snacks while they watch the wren parents dart in and out of the birdhouse feeding the chirping chicks inside. Even the wrens know this a great community to raise a family and enjoy the good life.



—Karl Kuhn



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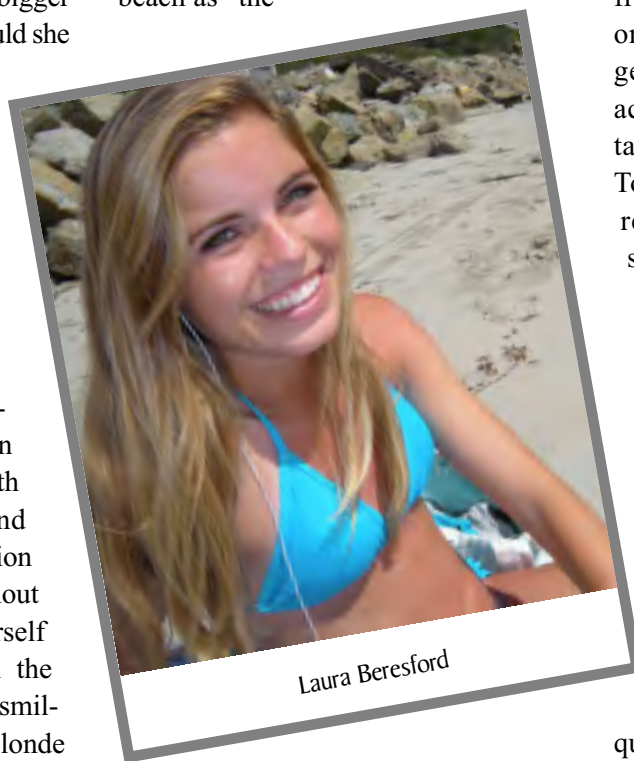
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Teens Talking

You're consistently in the peak of your physical strength, you have the body of a chiseled God, and the stamina of an Iron Man; what more could you ask for? Any elite cross country runner can tell you if you want to be the best, you're going to have to be described as having the above traits. Well, I have one runner on my mind, but body of a chiseled God, I sometimes mistake my best friend for an eight year old child. Then I take a step back and think to myself I have bigger muscles than she does, so how could she possibly have the strength and stamina to run better, faster, and harder than me?

Laura Beresford lives a couple streets up from me and is going into her junior year at Dana Hills. The summer going into her freshman year all she wanted to do was run. Run to the beach, run down to the community pool, run to lunch, and even better, she dragged me along with her. That summer she found herself having a burning passion for running long distances without ever slowing up, pushing herself past her body's limits, and all the while she never once stopped smiling. Laura is a green-eyed, blonde haired girl who weighs under a hundred pounds and can run three miles in 17:36, and what's even crazier is she can run that three miles and still manage to keep a huge smile on her face. "Running is very painful, it's very stressful, but I absolutely love it and could not live without it; that's why I smile when I run," comments Laura. Along with being a talented athlete, Laura shines in the classroom as well. She has obtained a 4.0 GPA both freshman and sophomore years at

Dana. "I try my hardest in everything I do. Whether it's running or school I try my very best," explains Laura. She is definitely no ordinary girl. She trains with her Dana Hills cross country team daily and not only takes her running very seriously, but her tanning as well. If you don't see Laura running around the windy streets of Dana Point, you can almost always find her with friends relaxing on the beach at Strand or Salt Creek. Laura describes the beach as "the



Laura Beresford

one place where I can go and relax and not have to worry about running or school."

In the past two years, Dana Hills cross country has opened up endless opportunities for Laura to showcase her running abilities. In the past season, Laura and her team won Division I California State Championships, which also included beating out competitive schools for CIF and League titles. After State, Laura and her team were invited to attend Nike Cross Nationals in

Portland, Oregon. They competed against teams all over the country and proudly returned home as tenth in the nation. As any runner can tell you, competing in the Nike Cross Nationals would be a dream come true for any cross country enthusiast. Laura translates the whole Oregon experience as "the best four days of my life; Nike flew us up to Oregon and we stayed in hotels for free, we ate food for free, and they even provided us with free running shoes and attire." Not only did Nike provide them with gear but gave cross country girls across the nation an opportunity to take their running to the next level. To top off all the achievements and rewards of Laura's sophomore season, she even met her running idol, Shalane Flanagan, at the Nike Cross Nationals in Oregon. Laura describes her as "an amazing runner and I aspire to be like her someday".

To finish the interview I looked Laura in the eyes and asked her what cross country really means to her, why she finds pleasure in counting her footsteps every day. Laura smiled and looked at me and quietly said in her shy voice, "Cross country is so hard that nothing in life could be tougher. It provides me with the hard work and motivation that will push me through my life and keep me in the right path. The right path that will take me places I want to go." In the end, cross country takes Laura on a three mile path, from start to finish. In life, cross country takes Laura by the shoe laces and ties her up in success, friendships, and a never ending desire to succeed.

—Colleen McNaught

The Bridge

I know it's not much to look at but it's ours! Our Niguel Shores Association Bridge across PCH is one of only two private bridges that span the coast highway in California. The other one, I hear, is somewhere in Northern California. I am prompted to write about the bridge because it has recently undergone its regular



check-up (or structural evaluation as our SSN staff engineer, Karl Kuhn, would write) and was found in excellent health. This is always good news because, if not, it would be our responsibility to fix it. So, here for posterity are photos of our bridge as it stood in 2009.

—Mary Crowl

Bridge deck 4-09. Photo by Mary Crowl



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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday Sunday																																																																																												
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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		JUNE <table border="1"> <tr><td>Sun</td><td>Mon</td><td>Tue</td><td>Wed</td><td>Thur</td><td>Fri</td><td>Sat</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</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					AUGUST <table border="1"> <tr><td>Sun</td><td>Mon</td><td>Tue</td><td>Wed</td><td>Thur</td><td>Fri</td><td>Sat</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</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						
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 See Calendar
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 9:30 am, 2nd Thursday
 10:00 am, 2nd Tuesday
 10:00 am, 1st Friday
 9:30 am, 2nd Wednesday
 1:30 pm, 4th Monday

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BEACH CURRENTS

NIGUEL SHORES REAL ESTATE REPORT
BY **CONNIE MCKIBBAN**

JUST LISTED BY CONNIE



33445 SPINNAKER DRIVE



IN ESCROW
BY CONNIE

33892 MANTA COURT



IN ESCROW
BY CONNIE

23601 VERRAZANNO BAY



IN ESCROW
BY CONNIE

23611 TAMPICO BAY



JUST SOLD
BY CONNIE

23861 TARANTO BAY

2009 REAL ESTATE UPDATE FOR NIGUEL SHORES

21 HOMES CURRENTLY FOR SALE—PRICE RANGE FROM \$739,000 TO \$9,997,000.

9 HOMES CURRENTLY IN ESCROW—LIST PRICE \$689,500 TO \$2,250,000.

13 HOMES SOLD AND CLOSED—PRICE RANGE FROM \$592,000 TO \$8,000,000.

(INFORMATION PER MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE AS OF 6/15/09)

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