

# Seashore News

December 2024

Published Monthly by Niguel Shores Community Association

Issue 612

Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays! Be Joyful! Be Grateful!

**TOY COLLECTION FOR  
MARINE FAMILIES**  
December 1 to 17  
NS Clubhouse Lobby

**WALK TO THE RITZ,  
ENJOY THE LIGHTS,  
TOAST TO THE SEASON**  
Tuesday, December 3 at 4:30  
Meet at NS Cabrillo Gate

**MEN'S CLUB BREAKFAST  
WITH DHHS CAROLERS**  
December 3 at 8:30 a.m.  
NS Clubhouse

**CHRISTMAS MARKET**  
Unique merchandise,  
Cookies, Pictures with Santa,  
Food Trucks - and Snow!  
December 8 from Noon to 4 p.m.  
NS Beach Bluff

**NIGUEL SHORES HOLIDAY  
LIGHTS CONTEST**  
Lights on, starting now!  
Three streets with highest percent  
of lighted homes will win a holiday  
party with neighbors!  
Judging - December 13.

**DANA POINT ANNUAL BOAT  
PARADE OF LIGHTS**  
December 13, 14, 15  
Starting at 6:30 p.m.  
Dana Point Harbor

**PICKLEBALL HOLIDAY  
PARTY**  
December 11  
from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
NS Clubhouse

**WOMEN'S CLUB  
HOLIDAY PARTY**  
December 12  
from 6 to 8:30 p.m.  
NS Clubhouse

**TOY COLLECTION PICKUP**  
Greet Marines and Marine Vets  
picking up our toy donations.  
December 17 at 10:00 a.m.  
NS Clubhouse Lobby

**GARDEN CLUB  
HOLIDAY POTLUCK**  
December 16 at 11:00 a.m.  
NS Clubhouse

**PAGE TURNERS  
PARTY**  
December 19 at 1:00 p.m.  
NS Clubhouse

# THANK YOU NIGUEL SHORES!

ONLINE & IN PERSON DONATIONS EXCEEDED **12,000** MEALS!

**A NEW RECORD** FOR THIS YEARLY EVENT! THANK YOU!!!



Kathy Samuel

949-444-1674

kathysamuel.com

DRE# 00832012

FT First Team

LP LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL



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*NSCA is not responsible for any work done nor are we recommending any of the advertised companies*



# FROM THE HELM



## The Spirit of Christmas in Niguel Shores

At the holiday season, Niguel Shores transforms into a vibrant display of Christmas spirit, bringing our community together in celebration and joy. The twinkling lights adorning homes, festive decorations, and cheerful gatherings create an atmosphere that embodies the warmth and camaraderie we cherish in our neighborhood.

Every year, I am reminded of how special our community is during this time. Whether it's neighbors helping each other string lights or the shared laughter at holiday gatherings, Niguel Shores truly shines as a place where the spirit of giving and togetherness thrives. This season is an opportunity to connect with one another, whether by



extending a helping hand, sharing a kind word, donating a toy or gift card to cheer someone, or simply appreciating the beauty of our surroundings.

I encourage everyone to take part in the many festivities and traditions that make this season so magical. Let's support our local charities, participate in holiday events, and, most importantly, be there for each other.

Thank you for making Niguel Shores such a wonderful place to call home, not just during the holidays but throughout the year. Wishing you and your loved ones a season filled with peace, joy, and lasting memories.

—Mark Russell, NSCA President

## GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

### Looking Forward to 2025

We are planning projects for the coming year to maintain and improve the common area. Here is some of the work that will be completed.

We will be doing **street seal coating** on sections of Garibaldi, Porto Allegro, Porto Bello, Porto Cristo, Porto Fino, Porto Nuevo, Via Capri, Vista Grandi, Vista D'Oro, Gourami Bay, Mercator Isle, Nauticus Isle, Amundsen Bay, Atlantic, Bothnia Bay, Casandra Bay, Coral Bay, Danzig Bay, Ionian Bay, Kara Bay, Marmara Bay, Taranto Bay, Tasman Bay, Bluehill Bay, Colmia Bay and Timor Bay.

We will be **milling and overlaying** sections of the street surfaces of Porto Verde, Abalone, Cockleshell, Dasya Cir., Dosina, Gelidum Cir., Padina Cir., Spindle Cir., and Vista D'Onde.

We have **concrete repairs and replacements** planned for sidewalks damaged by tree roots and ground shifting. We are continuing the **slope repairs** on Windjammer and Brigantine. We will replace a section of the **perimeter wall** along Selva that has failed.

The Board will continue to review and assess the need for new tree planting and removals throughout the community on an annual basis. These projects will be funded through the Association's reserve funds. The Board is committed to maintaining the common areas in first-class condition to maintain property values in the community.

*Best Wishes for Your Holidays from the NSCA Staff.*

—John Muller

### ARE YOU A NEW RESIDENT?

We like to welcome new residents in the *Seashore News*. We ask your permission to do this by filling out your name and neighborhood on this form and returning it to the office or emailing your information to us at [seashorenews@hotmail.com](mailto:seashorenews@hotmail.com).



NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

NEIGHBORHOOD \_\_\_\_\_

(Villas, Sea Terrace I, Sea Terrace II, Garden Homes, Berkus Homes, Broadmoor Homes, Custom Homes, Breakers Isle Homes)

Thank you from the *Seashore News* Staff!

### OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The office will be closed on the following days:

**Christmas Eve**, Tuesday, December 24

**Christmas Day**, Wednesday, December 25

**New Year's Eve**, Tuesday, December 31

**New Year's Day**, Wednesday, January 1

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

### 2024 Review

It's been a busy construction year in Niguel Shores for the Administration Office and the Architectural Committee. Activity between January 4 and November 8 of 2024:

- 133 Final Applications approved
- 17 Remodel Applications approved
- 7 Applications disapproved
- 7 Remodel Applications currently under review

**Why the Process?**—It's important to note that every exterior modification requires a review, even though it may be a seemingly small project behind a gate or a wall.

While this may seem trivial, it works to keep the organized theme of each area of the community intact, maintaining the all important ocean views and privacy of existing homes when structural changes occur around them.

Over the decades each of the tracts in Niguel Shores were built by a different developer—each with different lifestyle characteristics and an overall design compatible with the envelope of the lot sizes.

When a structural modification is requested, especially a complete remodel, an important consideration is the compatibility of its design with the original concept of that particular neighborhood. The approval process was implemented to ensure that a project is evaluated in comparison with homes in that same neighborhood.

The few remaining residents who purchased homes here in the 1970s will testify a measure of control has been necessary to maintain and improve the lifestyle we enjoy in Niguel Shores.

Another reason for the application process is to correct non-conforming construction that occurred in the past. This includes property line violations, slope encroachment, or other oversights that must be corrected when those residences apply for a change.

**Design Workshop**—Our Design Workshop is a perfect way to eliminate roadblocks and guide you through the process early on. Contact Karen Decker in the Administration Office at (949) 493 0122 with any questions you may have.

**Exterior Modification Forms**—Application forms for exterior home modifications can be found on our community website [niguelshores.org](http://niguelshores.org). At the top of the home page, select "Forms" and then under Architectural Committee Forms, select the appropriate exterior modification form (Preliminary Application, Change Order Application, Final application).

—Mike Stively

## RECREATION COMMITTEE

Happy Holidays to all from your Recreation Committee! Thank you for sharing in our fun events throughout the year. Save room on your calendar for just a few more.

**Christmas Market—Sunday, December 8, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.** Bring family and friends to our annual Christmas Market at the NSCA Beach Bluff. Browse 40 booths of unique merchandise. Take pictures with Santa Claus. Enjoy cookies, carolers, food trucks, and snow! Everyone welcome at this jolly event!

**Holiday Lights Contest.** Start decorating the day after Thanksgiving on November 29, and light up Niguel Shores.

**Holiday Lights Contest Judging—December 13.** The top three streets with the highest percentage of lighted homes will win a holiday soiree with neighbors.

—Recreation Committee

## TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

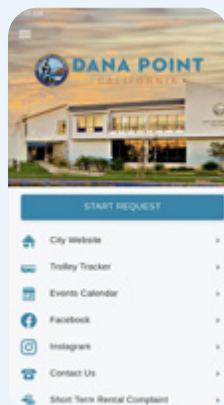
### Dogs in the Community

Being a dog owner comes with a lot of joy, but it also comes with responsibilities. In a community like ours, where we share the paths and greenbelts with others, one of the most important responsibilities is picking up after your dog. While this may seem like a small task, it has a big impact on the environment, public health, and your community. Here's why it's essential, and how it benefits everyone.

### FYI – YOUR PHONE CAN HELP

#### 911

Your cell phone has a built-in ability to call for help in emergencies. Even if you are out of battery charge or in a spot with no cell service, you can still dial 911 for help.



#### REPORT TO DANA POINT

You can connect to our city, request information, or report a problem. Go to the App Store on your phone and get REPORT TO DP.



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Why It's Important to Pick Up After Your Dog

- **Public Health**—Dog waste carries harmful bacteria, parasites, and viruses that can spread diseases to humans and other animals. Picking up after your dog reduces the risk of disease and keeps public spaces safer.
- **Protecting the Environment**—Left unchecked, dog waste can wash into storm drains, polluting waterways and harming wildlife. Cleaning up after your dog helps keep the environment clean and prevents water contamination.

- **Respect for Your Community**—No one wants to step in dog poop, and leaving waste behind can make neighborhoods and parks less enjoyable for everyone. By picking up after your dog, you show respect for your neighbors and help keep public areas clean.
- **Preserving Dog-Friendly Spaces**—Failure to clean up after your dog can lead to stricter regulations or even the loss of dog parks and other pet-friendly spaces. Responsible dog ownership ensures these spaces stay available for everyone to enjoy.

—Traffic & Safety Committee



*Hang up the holly, light the candles, enjoy the holiday season,  
and see how many of these memories ring silver bells for you!*

- ❄ Playing a Shepherd or an Angel in a Christmas pageant
- ❄ Attending a Nutcracker performance
- ❄ Reading *A Christmas Carol*
- ❄ Watching *A Charley Brown Christmas* or other holiday specials
- ❄ Baking sugar cookies topped with lots of sprinkles
- ❄ Reciting *Twas the Night Before Christmas*
- ❄ Hiking to gather pine cones and greenery
- ❄ Making ornaments from felt and sequins
- ❄ Sending holiday greeting cards
- ❄ Hunting for the perfect Christmas tree
- ❄ Caroling house to house
- ❄ Arranging tinsel Mom's special way
- ❄ Putting the star on the treetop
- ❄ Writing a letter to Santa
- ❄ Singing *Frosty the Snowman*
- ❄ Lighting Menorah candles each night
- ❄ Making gifts we knitted, crocheted, or sewed
- ❄ Touring the holiday lights
- ❄ Building a Gingerbread House
- ❄ Knowing the words to *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*
- ❄ Wondering if Santa will find our house
- ❄ Wishing for a new bike
- ❄ Waking up soooooo early on Christmas morning
- ❄ Pulling treasures from a stocking
- ❄ Spinning a Dreidle
- ❄ Feeling joyful giving a gift
- ❄ Attending worship services
- ❄ Enjoying the warmth of candles aglow and a fire on the hearth
- ❄ Hearing beautiful carols sung by a choir
- ❄ Singing *Silent Night* near the holy infant's manger
- ❄ Enjoying a traditional holiday meal with family
- ❄ Phoning faraway loved ones
- ❄ Traveling to visit family and friends
- ❄ Remembering dear people and times from the past
- ❄ Sharing good times with those we care about the most

# CLUBS

## WOMEN'S CLUB

*Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.*

—William Arthur Ward

Holidays are a time to find gratitude in life's many blessings—and one of these blessings is living in Niguel Shores. Not only do we reside in a beautiful beach community, but we live amongst wonderful neighbors and have events and clubs, such as our Women's Club, that provide opportunities for new friendships to develop and grow.



New members were welcomed at a mixer in October and our luncheon in November.

### **NIGUEL SHORES WOMEN'S CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY**

**Thursday, December 12**

**6 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Niguel Shores Clubhouse**

*Women's Club and Men's Club members and a guest are invited.*

**Good Food, Drinks, Music, Games,  
Prizes and a Photographer!**

**Women's Club:** Please bring a Hearty  
Appetizer to share.

**Men's Club:** Please bring wine, beer, or seltzer.

**Delicious Desserts and Plentiful Drinks  
provided by Women's Club.**

Tickets \$10 per person.  
Ticket pre-sale starts December 2  
in Niguel Shores office.

Space permitting, tickets  
also available at the event.

If you wish, bring an  
unwrapped toy for children  
of our local Marines.



Our **New Member Mixer** in October provided a chance for new and current members to mingle. **Carla Perin** and **Adrienne Ruben** planned the event, created an amazing spread of charcuterie, drinks and treats, and decorated in a Halloween theme with witches and pumpkins. President **Laurel Yocca** spoke to the group and shared what makes the Women's Club so special to our neighborhood. Thank you to the many women who have taken on leadership roles in the Women's Club to provide social activities and events, education, hospitality and comfort to other members. Special thanks to **Dot Wall** for

### *Women's Club Social Activity*

**WALK TO THE RITZ**

**Tuesday, December 3**

**4:30 Meet at the  
Niguel Shores Cabrillo  
Gate**

*We will walk to the Ritz  
Carlton, enjoy the beautiful tree, decorations, and lights,  
then head to the hotel bar to toast the holiday season!*

**Questions:** Cathy (949) 903-9966, Gigi (508) 259-4014,  
Karey (949) 330-3450



# CLUBS

taking charge of hospitality, always wearing a welcoming smile; **Rita Rudner** for generously donating proceeds of her book sales to the Women's Club towards our philanthropies; **Leslie Moore** for setting up, maintaining, and helping others "connect" on the club's *shoreswomensclub* Instagram.

At our November meeting, **Joy Baseluos** from **Rise Against Hunger** explained how this organization works worldwide to fight hunger in communities with high rates of food insecurity. For more information on this wonderful organization, please refer to *riseagainsthunger.org*.

## Holiday Festivities

The Women's Club will be celebrating the holidays in December with a **Walk to the Ritz** on **December 3** and our **2024 Annual Holiday Party** on **December 12** from **6 to 8:30 p.m.** See the announcements on page 6 for more information.

The Women's Club wishes everyone a beautiful holiday season filled with many blessings.

—Karey Palmer

## MEN'S CLUB

### November Recap

November was a fun and intellectually stimulating time for the 100-plus members of the Niguel Shores Men's Club. We enjoyed two morning meetings following our traditional schedule. The membership is still contemplating alternate scheduling for 2025, which may include a few evening events to substitute for one or more morning meetings. The Men's Club Board is considering an online survey and a membership vote on this topic.

Our first November meeting took place on Election Day. The featured speaker, **Isaiah Douglass** of **Swan Bitcoin**, spoke non-stop about Bitcoin and cryptocurrency. We all learned much from this Certified Financial Planner. Some of us went home and got on the internet to study *The Bullish Case for Bitcoin* by V. Boyapatti, recommended by Mr. Douglass. A few really smart audience members called their brokers and bought Crypto as soon as our meeting adjourned. As you may know, Crypto started an upward trajectory while Mr. Douglass was talking that hasn't stopped yet. A tip of our ball cap to Club VP **John Yocca** for recruiting and scheduling Mr. Douglass. Nicely done, John.

At our second November meeting, we enjoyed a fine breakfast prepared by our own Chis/Wall Breakfast Team, then heard from **Deborah Diep**, Director of the **Center for**

IN MEMORIAM

*Blair McDonald*

September 5, 1934–November 3, 2024  
Longtime resident on Gourami Bay

President of Niguel Shores Men's Club  
Member of Men's Golf Team

Blair is survived by his wife Irene, three daughters,  
and six grandchildren.

He is remembered with love by all his family.

**Demographic Research** at Cal State-Fullerton. The Center specializes in the demographics of Orange County. Boy did we have a lot to learn.

### December Events

This month, the Men's Club hosts our final morning meeting of 2024 on **December 3**. As is our tradition, we welcome the **Dana Hills High Choir** to join us for breakfast and serenade the group with Christmas Carols. Our wives and significant others are also invited to join us for breakfast and the fun performance. After the Choir's performance, our President, **Geoff Dunlevie**, will take a few minutes to recognize and reward the ongoing contribution to our quality of life in the Shores by our highly regarded Maintenance Staff, headed by Bob Everson. Thank you, gentlemen, for your fine work.

No more Club meetings this year, but our friends in the Women's Club are inviting us to their **Annual Holiday Party** on **Thursday, December 12** at **6:00 p.m.** in the Niguel Shores Clubhouse. \$10 per person ticket pre-sales are available in the office, or tickets can be purchased at the door. Men's Club attendees are encouraged to bring beer, wine, or hard seltzer to share. The hosts will provide all the food and other goodies. Should be fun, especially if you dress in the spirit of the season. We are all looking forward to this big holiday social event.

That should serve as the grand finale of 2024. Looking forward to more fun, fellowship, and mental stimulation in 2025. Happy Holidays. Merry Christmas.

—Tim Moore



# CLUBS

## GARDEN CLUB

**Holiday Party**—Celebrate the season at our Annual Holiday Party (a potluck) on Monday, **December 16**, at **11:00 a.m.** in the **Clubhouse**. Members are asked to bring an appetizer, salad or dessert. Those wishing to participate in a gift exchange should bring a garden-related gift valued at around \$20.

**Toy Collection**—The club is partnering with both the Men’s and Women’s Clubs in gathering toy donations for the children of Marines at Camp Pendleton. Members wishing to participate are asked to bring an unwrapped toy(s) or gift card to our December meeting.

**Forget-Me-Not**—We extended our friendship and holiday remembrance by donating Forget-Me-Not ornaments, created by our members at our November meeting, to seniors in the Dana Point Senior Meals-On-Wheels program at the Dana Point Community Center. Francine Stout and Chris Daley guided members in making the garden related ornaments.

**Looking Forward**—We will begin the New Year at our January 20 meeting at 11:00 a.m. in the Clubhouse. Our guest is Beekeeper **Bev Krassner-Bulas**, who will speak to the importance of bees for a healthy planet and what we can do to insure their survival.



Members create holiday ornaments for DP Senior Center.

**New Members Welcome**—We always welcome new members to the Garden Club. Membership is open to all residents of Niguel Shores. You do not need to be a gardening expert to join. Our meetings are varied and may comprise a speaker, workshop, garden related projects or a field trip. Refreshments are served at each meeting. Dues are \$25 per person per year, and \$5 per guest visit. To join, sign-up forms are in the Niguel Shores office. Please contact **Sandi Stauffer** at [sandistauffer@comcast.net](mailto:sandistauffer@comcast.net) with any questions. We hope that you will join us.

—Judi Palladino

## ACTIVITIES

### BRIDGE

#### Spirit of the Season

I had written two and half pages on the meaning of Christmas, but after my wife read it, she shortened it to this: Christmas is almost upon us. It is a time of goodwill to all. Remember the famous line from *A Christmas Carol*, “God Bless Us Everyone!”



#### Our Winners

October and November brought new winners in our weekly Bridge Club Games.

- **October 16:** Terry Liebman showed us what it takes to make first place; Mike Oliva was over a thousand points behind him to squeak in second; Sandy Nelson slid in closely to secure third.
- **October 23:** Betty French, our fearless leader, came in first; Terry Liebman had to settle for second; Bob Ruben was a close third.
- **October 30:** John Shaw, who is leaving us for Chicago, came in first; Bill Imbriale, who is staying here,

came in second; Linda Dinn, a close friend of John Shaw, pulled into third and she too is leaving, going back to the windy city. Word is they are coming back in January!

- **November 6:** Terry Liebman, who keeps winning regularly, is holding on to first; Lanny Barnard, who is returning to Utah, captured second; meanwhile back at the club, Maria Girard took third.
- **November 13:** Patty Hollis, this year’s most improved player, stormed into first place; Jim Pinola reserved second place soundly; Bill Imbriale slid down to third.

Please remember to sign in for the coming week and remember we now start at 10:30. If you are interested in playing, please call **Bob** or **Betty French** at (949) 312-2556 or visit us on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

—Bob and Betty French

—Mike Oliva

# ACTIVITIES

## PAGE TURNERS

We do not read a book as a group in December. Instead we have our bi-annual joint meeting to socialize and just have fun. All three groups will meet **December 19 at 1:00 p.m.** to enjoy a host of “goodies” baked by various members and engage in various activities that will include a blind book exchange. That activity always gets very interesting as there is a lot of “stealing” and furtive hiding of popular books which the current holder of the book wants to keep from being given up!

Our book club consists of three groups. One group meets the fourth Monday afternoon of the month and the other two groups meet, separately, the fourth Thursday afternoon of the month. If you are



Page Turners group leaders meet to plan the December holiday party.

## SPORTS

### TENNIS

We are again in the holiday season here in the Shores. The newly surfaced courts are open and are wonderful. Our community should be very proud of the new amenities. Penni and I would like to give the Amenities Committee a big Thank You for your efforts in making these new improvements possible.

Penni, myself and the tennis players of the Shores wish all our residents a big Merry Christmas. Remember, keep your racquets moving and “Live Life Happy, Wild and Free.”

—Don Baer



Merry Christmas from Don and Penni

IN MEMORIAM

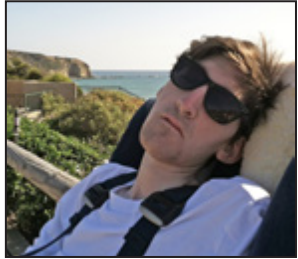
*Jimmy Lloyd*

September 9, 1992 - October 26, 2024  
Niguel Shores resident on Timor Bay since 2013

He loved the ocean and his trips to the Bluff for sunset.

Predeceased by his father Jim.

Survived by his mother Sue, brother Jeff, and his Labrador Ruby.



thinking of joining a book club, we welcome your inquiries. For the Monday group, please contact me at [fozimec@cox.net](mailto:fozimec@cox.net) and for the Thursday groups contact **Steve and Ann Morris** at [samwrsi@cox.net](mailto:samwrsi@cox.net) or Lisa Buchner at [lisbuchner47@gmail.com](mailto:lisbuchner47@gmail.com). See this space next month for information on the book we will be discussing in January, *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride.

—Frances Ozimec

### PICKLEBALL

#### Courts Open

Well, we have good news. The pickleball courts have been resurfaced and are once again open for play. Hope our good weather continues and we can get lots of games in before the holidays are upon us!

#### Party Time!

The annual **Pickleball Holiday Party** will be held this year on Wednesday, December 11 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Clubhouse. If you are interested in attending and haven't already signed up for the email list at [niguelshores.pb@gmail.com](mailto:niguelshores.pb@gmail.com), please do so and keep up to date on all our activities.

Hope to see you at the party and on the courts!

—Barb Barber



# Artists Among Us

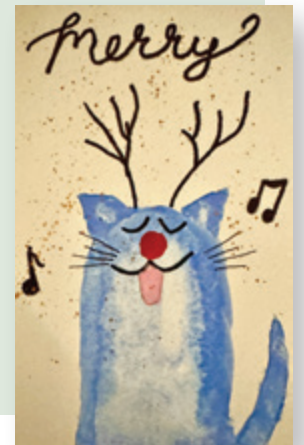
“Holly Jolly, Merry and Bright, Falala ...”

These cheery greetings come from **Gay Powers** who enjoys creating personal cards for family and friends at Christmas. Gay has been a Niguel Shores resident for more than twenty years. She raised three sons and a daughter here on Windjammer Drive right above the park. Her family now has grown to include two granddaughters and another grandchild on the way.

Gay is a faithful member of the watercolor group who paint together weekly at the home of Meg Wilson. As you can see from her uniform in the pictures, Gay comes directly to the gathering from the hospital where she is a medical social worker. She also does volunteer work in our Dana Point community as well as providing online patient therapy. When asked about her interest in painting, Gay said she has a family connection to art through her mother, who painted in oils doing portraiture. Gay's Christmas cards and other projects are delightful fun art work inspired by her internet search for topics and watercolor instruction.

For anyone interested in participating in the watercolor group, they meet on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. All levels invited. The group expects no prior skill and the choice of subject is up to the artisan. Materials are available for newcomers to try, or you can bring your own. Send an email to [seashorenews@hotmail.com](mailto:seashorenews@hotmail.com) for more information.

—Meg Wilson







# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From Your Niguel Shores Committees, Clubs, Staff, Board, and Resident Santa Claus!

Board of Directors

Architecture Committee

Communication Committee

Finance Committee

Landscape Committee

Recreation Committee

Rules Committee

Traffic and Safety Committee

View Preservation Committee

Garden Club

Women's Club

Men's Club

Bridge Club

Page Turners Book Club

Pickleball Group

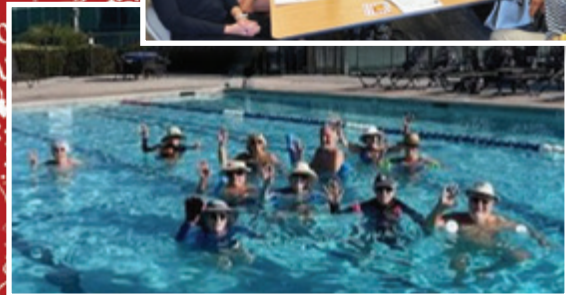
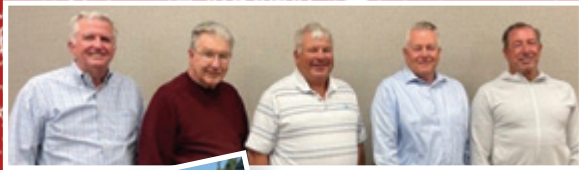
Tennis Group

Water Aerobics Group

Seashore News Staff

Office Staff

Maintenance Staff





# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Our NSCA Recreation Committee is always at work planning community events like the upcoming **Christmas Market** at the **Bluff** on **December 8 from Noon to 4 p.m.** In addition, Niguel Shores residents are also great at finding their own ways to gather for recreation,

community work, charity, and fellowship. Last month, a large group of friends met for the Niguel Shores **4th Annual Turkey Day 5K**. This month, our community is invited to participate in a **Toy Collection for Marine Families**.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TURKEY DAY 5K



Since 2020, a group of Niguel Shores residents, their families and friends have celebrated on Thanksgiving morning with a walk/run through the Shores, down PCH, and back to the Bluff for potluck refreshments and awards. Beginning with five families during COVID, the **Turkey Day 5K** concept started as a small, non-competitive, dog and stroller friendly alternative to get fresh air and fitness. Now in its fourth year, the Turkey Day 5K numbers have grown much larger but the intent is still fun, fitness, and fellowship. Participants wear logo T-shirts, festive tutus,

socks, hats, and costumes, and medals are awarded with lots of laughter and cheers. This year's event sports a pink logo with some of the registration proceeds helping young friend Jackie Kelly's battle with cancer. **Carey Smith**, one of the organizers, writes, "The course map has been tweaked throughout the years, and more Niguel Shores friends and families have joined the fun, but the potluck at the finish line continues as a great way to ring in the turkey day holiday in the morning before everyone goes separate ways to give thanks and enjoy a meal with family or friends."



# TOY COLLECTION FOR MARINE FAMILIES

**N**iguel Shores residents are all invited to assist the **Marine Corps League South Coast Detachment 22** in a **Toy Collection** for Marine families at Camp Pendleton.

**Tina Fornadley**, your Niguel Shores neighbor and a longtime volunteer with the League says, “We owe so much to all the servicemen, servicewomen, veterans and their families who give so much for our freedom. It is an honor to volunteer with the Marine Corps League South Coast Detachment 22.”

In the holiday spirit this month, our **Women’s Club**, **Men’s Club**, and **Garden Club** are joining Tina in helping to collect new, unwrapped toys for Marine children and gift cards for single Marines who are often alone at the holidays. A donation box is located in the Clubhouse Lobby where everyone can drop off donations from now through December 17.

Check out all the charitable work of Marine Corps League South Coast Detachment 22 at [marinecorpsleaguesouthcoast.org](http://marinecorpsleaguesouthcoast.org). Over the years, the organization has helped Marines and Marine veterans with medical bills, homelessness, scholarships ... the list goes on. Tina reports that the League’s latest golf tournament at Tijeras Creek provided active Marines the chance to play and enjoy dinner free. In addition, the group presented a check for \$15,000 to help a veteran whose son is fighting cancer. At their previous golf tournament, two double amputee veterans were given \$5,000 each.

Tina is shown in the photo above with **Nelson Coburn**, Commandant of Marine Corps League, and several women

and men Marines who picked up toys that Niguel Shores donated last Christmas.

This year, on **December 17 at 10:00 a.m.**, a group of Marines and Marine veterans will again be at the Niguel Shores Clubhouse to say “Thanks” for your donated toys and gift cards. You are invited for refreshments and to show appreciation for their service.



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## SEASON OF GIVING ... TO PANHANDLERS?

During the holidays, we are thankful for what we have and want to help those less fortunate, but what is the best way to do this? Should we give a quick handout for the short term, or should we donate to an organization that assists those in need instead? There are pros and cons to whichever decision we make. Hopefully, the following ideas may help to decide.

**Root cause issues**—Giving directly to an individual does not address the root cause of their problem such as housing needs, mental illness, addiction or systemic poverty. Supporting organizations that address these issues can be an effective way to promote lasting change because they offer long-term solutions such as job training, housing assistance, mental health services, and access to health care.

**More effective resource allocation**—Because organizations and non-profits can make donations go farther through bulk purchasing, partnerships, expertise, and both public and private funding, your dollars can help more individuals.

**Potential for enabling**—Some panhandlers may be in a vulnerable or volatile state, and a handout of cash may unintentionally enable behaviors that are not conducive to recovery or long-term solutions. Our cash may fund an addiction or encourage a continued reliance on panhandling and avoiding professional help. Out of kindness, we might offer cash but it

may be more beneficial to seek out organizations that provide wider solutions.

**But**—Not all panhandlers are homeless or dealing with addiction. Some may simply be in a tough situation due to temporary factors, unexpected expenses, or just the high cost of groceries. While organizations are a good source of assistance in the long term, we may be able to help with someone’s immediate needs such as providing a meal, some groceries, or filling their gas tank. It is generally considered better to offer needed items instead of cash. We can carry a few of these in the car to give out (water, non-perishable food, clothing, hygiene products, a toy, a book). Another good option is to volunteer at a local organization, shelter or a nonprofit. We can also advocate for systemic change by supporting public policies that address issues of concern.

**A Personal Decision**—It is ultimately a personal decision about how to make the most impact for those in need. If we choose to give directly, we do so with compassion and the understanding that we are making a gesture of kindness even if it doesn’t fix all the challenges an individual might be facing. The box below contains a list of Orange County Organizations suggested by the city of Dana Point that you may want to consider supporting in a manner best for you.

—Jenny Rose

INFORMATION HELPLINE	HOUSING / FOOD & CRISIS INTERVENTION	YOUTH HOMELESSNESS AND SERVICES	DOMESTIC ABUSE & PREVENTION	
<p>Dial: 2-1-1 or (888) 600-4357 - 24/7 Visit: <a href="http://www.211OC.org">www.211OC.org</a> Information, referrals and assistance to food, shelters and human services with a comprehensive, updated database.</p>	<p><b>Family Assistance Ministries (FAM)</b> Services: Food pantry, housing, emergency assistance, case management, satellite sites. 1030 Calle Negocio, San Clemente (949) 492-8477   <a href="mailto:family-assistance.org">family-assistance.org</a></p>	<p><b>Stand Up for Kids - Orange County</b> Street outreach, mentoring, case management (714) 356-5437   <a href="http://standupforkids.org/orangecounty">standupforkids.org/orangecounty</a></p> <p><b>Casa Youth Shelter - Los Alamitos</b> 24-Hour Hotline: (800) 914-2272 Office: (714) 995-8601   <a href="http://casayouthshelter.org">casayouthshelter.org</a></p>	<p><b>Laura's House - Program Services</b> Hotline: (866) 498-1511   <a href="http://laurashouse.org">laurashouse.org</a></p> <p><b>Human Options - Program Services</b> Hotline: (877) 854-3594   <a href="http://humanoptions.org">humanoptions.org</a></p>	
EMERGENCY SHELTERS	<p><b>Families Forward (Families Only)</b> Services: Housing programs, food pantry, case management, counseling. 8 Thomas, Irvine (949) 552-2727   <a href="mailto:info@families-forward.org">info@families-forward.org</a> <a href="http://families-forward.org">families-forward.org</a></p> <p><b>Serving People In Need (SPIN)</b> Services: Move-in funds for rapid rehousing, case management, street services and outreach. 151 Kalmus, Suite H-2, Costa Mesa (714) 751-1101   <a href="mailto:info@spinoc.org">info@spinoc.org</a> <a href="http://spinoc.org">spinoc.org</a></p>	<p><b>Community Service Programs - Santa Ana</b> Youth Shelters / Emergency Support (949) 250-0488   <a href="http://waymakersoc.org">waymakersoc.org</a></p> <p><b>Build Futures - Huntington Beach</b> Homeless Housing for ages 18-24 (714) 907-7358   <a href="http://buildfutures.org">buildfutures.org</a></p> <p><b>Project Hope Alliance - Costa Mesa</b> Housing / services for children and families (949) 772-7863   <a href="http://projecthopealliance.org">projecthopealliance.org</a></p>	<th>MENTAL / BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</th>	MENTAL / BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
<p><b>Human Options - Domestic Violence</b> Hotline: (877) 854-3594   <a href="http://humanoptions.org">humanoptions.org</a></p> <p><b>Laura's House - Domestic Violence</b> Hotline: (866) 498-1511   <a href="http://laurashouse.org">laurashouse.org</a></p> <p><b>Armories - Seasonal Only (Mercy House)</b> Fullerton and Santa Ana Locations (714) 836-7188, ext. 131 or 105   <a href="http://mercyhouse.net">mercyhouse.net</a></p> <p><b>Friendship / Emergency Shelters</b> (949) 494-6928   <a href="http://friendshipshelter.org">friendshipshelter.org</a></p>	<p><b>South County Outreach (SCO)</b> Services: Housing, food pantry, homelessness prevention, support services. 7 Whatney, Suite B, Irvine (949) 380-8144   <a href="http://sco-oc.org">sco-oc.org</a></p>	<p><b>CRISIS HOTLINES</b></p> <p><b>National Domestic Violence</b> (800) 799-7233   <a href="http://thehotline.org">thehotline.org</a></p> <p><b>National Runaway Safe Line</b> (800) 786-2929   <a href="http://1800runaway.org">1800runaway.org</a></p> <p><b>Suicide Prevention</b> (800) 273-8255   <a href="http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org">suicidepreventionlifeline.org</a></p> <p><b>National Human Trafficking Hotline</b> (888) 373-7888   <a href="http://humantraffickinghotline.org">humantraffickinghotline.org</a> Text "HELP" or "INFO" to 233733</p> <p><b>National Center for Missing &amp; Exploited Children</b> (800) 843-5678   <a href="http://missingkids.org">missingkids.org</a></p> <p><b>Children of the Night Rescue</b> (800) 551-1300   <a href="http://childrenofthenight.org">childrenofthenight.org</a></p>	<p><b>OC Healthcare Agency / Adult Mental Health</b> 5 Mareblu, Aliso Viejo - (949) 643-6901 <a href="http://ochealthinfo.com/bhs">ochealthinfo.com/bhs</a></p> <p><b>Mission Hospital Behavioral Health Services</b> Mission Viejo - (949) 364-1400 Laguna Beach - (949) 499-1311 <a href="http://mission4health.com">mission4health.com</a></p> <p><b>South County Family Resource Center</b> 22481 Aspan St, Suite B Lake Forest (949) 364-0500   <a href="http://socfr.org">socfr.org</a></p> <p><b>Western Youth Services (Primarily 18 and under)</b> 26137 La Paz Rd, Mission Viejo - (949) 595-8610 <a href="http://westernyouthservices.org">westernyouthservices.org</a></p> <p><b>OC Links - Information &amp; Referral</b> (855) 625-4657   <a href="http://ochealthinfo.com">ochealthinfo.com</a></p> <p><b>National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI)</b> (800) 950-6264 or Text "NAMI" to 741741</p>	
HOMELESS TRANSITIONAL LIVING	<p><b>Gilchrist House (Women / Women + Children)</b> (949) 492-8477   <a href="http://family-assistance.org">family-assistance.org</a></p> <p><b>Terra Nova / One Stop Ministries (Single Parents)</b> (949) 458-2425   <a href="http://onestepministry.org">onestepministry.org</a></p> <p><b>Mercy House (All Ages / Needs)</b> (714) 836-7188   <a href="http://mercyhouse.net">mercyhouse.net</a></p> <p><b>Orange County Rescue Mission</b> (714) 247-4300   <a href="http://rescuemission.org">rescuemission.org</a></p> <p><b>OC Gateway to Housing (Families)</b> (949) 631-7213   <a href="http://ocgatewaytohousing.org">ocgatewaytohousing.org</a></p>		<th>SUBSTANCE ABUSE</th>	SUBSTANCE ABUSE
			<p><b>OC Healthcare (Alcohol &amp; Drug Abuse)</b> (714) 954-2900   <a href="http://ochealthinfo.com/bhs">ochealthinfo.com/bhs</a></p> <p><b>Substance Abuse/Mental Health Services Administration</b> (800) 662-4357   <a href="http://samhsa.gov">samhsa.gov</a></p>	

## Wellness – Happy Holidays for Some, Holiday Blues for Others

I hung up the dish towel and deemed the kitchen clean enough. The kids slept in their rooms, my husband had headed upstairs, and even the cat had called it a night and was purring sleepily on the couch. The house was quiet except for the dog snoring on her bed.

On that December night many years ago, I ducked outside for a few minutes by myself to take in the twinkling star-filled heavens above. It had been a cold windy day, which left the sky crisp and clear. Due to the late hour, and also because there were fewer lights here then, the sky was darker and I was awed seeing all the brilliant stars. Beautiful!

Being out there in the dark and cold conjured up memories of many Decembers gone by, and how my family would celebrate the holidays over the years with lights, music, cookies, and so many favorite traditions. I remember that backyard moment under the starry skies to this day.

My memories were happy ones, but for some of us, the holidays aren't necessarily a very happy experience. When everyone is giddy with holiday cheer and you aren't feeling it, life can be tough.

Feeling sad or alone at this time of the year is not uncommon and, according to several studies, is on the rise. The stress to be cheery, give the right gift, and have the finances to do so can be overwhelming. Knowing that you're supposed to look happy



*To Your Health! Sharon Stewart RN, Wellness Coach, [Sharon@SharonStewartRN.com](mailto:Sharon@SharonStewartRN.com)*

even when you don't feel like it usually results in feeling lonely and isolated. Imagine the stress of gathering around the table with people you may not really enjoy, but because you are expected to, you do it anyway.

In fact, exaggerated expectations during the holidays are often the underlying cause of feelings of inadequacy and depression. Also those who suffer from mental health problems year-round feel this even more acutely. Physical manifestations of the holiday pressure are also more prevalent, with heartburn and heart attacks leading the way. We all tend to eat more, drink more, sleep and exercise less, and become dehydrated—none of which is good for our overtaxed holiday bodies.

This holiday season, take care of yourself. Nourish and hydrate your body properly, get enough sleep, keep moving, and when asked to volunteer for the myriad holiday events, remember what Anne Lamott said when I heard her speak: “No is a complete sentence.” We can politely say, “No, thank you.” (After all it is the holidays!)

If you know someone who's suffering from the pressures of the season, reach out to them. Give a call, have a cup of tea together, gain some perspective. The positive effects go both ways: By extending your thoughtful concern and friendship, you lend support to someone in need; and by caring for yourself, you can give even better care to those who will benefit from your love and kindness—and that's the best holiday gift of all!



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# Pet Parade



## PET OWNERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

### More Owned Pets Than Ever Before

- 78% of pet owners acquired pets during the pandemic
- 67% of American homes include a pet
- Pet ownership has increased more than 20% since 1988
- 95% of American pet owners consider their pets to be family members
- 35.7% of households own cats; 53% of households own dogs (However, there are more cats than dogs as the average number of cats in the home is more than 2 and the average number of dogs is less than 2.)
- 4.5% of households have another type of small animal as a pet

### Pets by Generation

- 35% of pet owners are Millennials (born 1981–1996)
- 32% of pet owners are Generation X (born 1965-1981)

- 27% of pet owners are Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964)

- 6% of pet owners are in the Silent Generation (1928-1945)

### Millennials and Veterinary Care (from a Banfield study October 15, 2016)

- 77% of Millennials have a more favorable view of their veterinarian if they discuss the health benefits of the human-animal bond
- 25% of Millennials talk to their veterinarians about the health benefits of pet ownership
- 92% of Millennials are as concerned about their pet's health as they are their own health
- More Millennials would rather spend time with their pet than with their spouse, parents and friends, combined.
- 86% of Millennials would risk their own life to save their pet

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#### 33682 HALYARD DRIVE, DANA POINT

2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths | Approx. 1,499 Sq. Ft.

This turnkey Niguel Shores beach cottage offers a single-level, low-maintenance lifestyle. The home features a versatile bonus room, a private backyard with a spa and fruit trees, a modern kitchen, and updated bathrooms.



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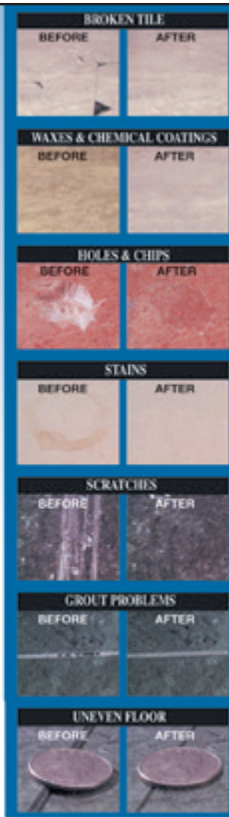
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# MARKET UPDATE



## ACTIVE LISTINGS

The active listing inventory in the past couple of weeks decreased by 124 homes, down 3%, and now sits at 3,516, its lowest level since mid-Aug and its largest drop of the year. In Oct, 21% fewer homes came on the market compared to the 3-year average before COVID (2017 to 2019), 743 less.



## DEMAND

Demand, the number of pending sales over the prior month, decreased by 114 pending sales in the past two weeks, down 7%, and now totals 1,458. Last year, there were 1,223 pending sales, 16% fewer. The 3-year average before COVID (2017 to 2019) was 2,139, or 47% more.



## MARKET TIME

With demand falling faster than supply, the Expected Market Time, the number of days to sell all Orange County listings at the current buying pace, increased from 69 to 72 days in the past couple of weeks. The 3-year average before COVID (2017 to 2019) was 85 days, slower than today.



## CLOSED SALES

There were 1,622 closed residential resales in September, down 2% compared to September 2023's 1,647 and down 14% from August 2024. The sales-to-list price ratio was 98.9% for Orange County. Foreclosures accounted for 0.1% of all closed sales, and there were no short sales.

*May you always have a shell in your pocket  
and a little sand in your stocking!*

SEAS AND GREETINGS,  
*Chris & Kathy Zoch*



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NIGUEL SHORES

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