

Seashore News



September 2018

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Issue 537

FROM THE HELM

As you are enjoying the September issue of the *Seashore News*, I ask all to extend CONGRATULATIONS to the Communication Committee, responsible for our monthly newsletter that has received numerous awards over the years. Most recently, *Seashore News* was recognized with a 2018 National Newsletter Award from Neighborhoods USA (NUSA). In 2009, the newsletter earned a regional Certificate of Excellence from the Community Associations Institute (CAI) and, in 1998, CAI singled us out as regional Newsletter of the Year. Good work, Communication Committee—and certainly well-deserved recognitions!

As Labor Day approaches, our summer activities in Niguel Shores are winding down, but we hope all residents took the opportunity to enjoy the Recreation Committee's special events like Food Truck Night, Island Fever Festival, and Band by the Sea.

The Finance Committee is working very hard with the various NSCA Committees on the 2019 budget. A special thanks goes to our Finance Chairperson Sue Kichline and Committee member Rick Palmer for taking over some of the budgeting processes that would normally be completed by the Niguel Shores Finance Manager. As reported previously in the *Seashore News*, our long-time Finance Manager Ivy Hsia retired from her position at Niguel Shores after 32 years, so the extra

assistance from Sue and Rick on financial matters during this period of change is greatly appreciated!

Effective August 27, our new Finance Manager Yuliya Cernaskis joined the staff at Niguel Shores. Yuliya comes to us with an extensive background in HOA financial management, and I hope all will welcome her to the Shores. Please feel free to stop by the office to introduce yourself and extend a friendly welcome to the newest member of our staff.

Those of you who travel on Stonehill Drive may have noticed several trees that fell down and damaged our block wall. This project is underway for repairs, and hopefully (with City approval!) will be completed soon.

Our Maintenance staff has installed a majority of the new lighted street signs, and work may be completed throughout all of Niguel Shores by the time you receive this issue of the newsletter.

Safety in the workplace is a priority for Niguel Shores and we are happy to offer a CPR class on September 21 at 3:00 p.m. Several members of the Board and Staff will be receiving their certification or a certification renewal at that time. If residents wish to join the class, the cost is \$45. You can register with Blayke or Matt in the Office.

With September should come some cooler days and nights, and a good time to join friends and neighbors at the Bluff or in the various activities of our Niguel Shores clubs.

—Jeannie Sticher



BACK TO SCHOOL!



From kindergarten through college, our local schools have opened their doors for the 2018-2019 academic year. We send best wishes for a successful school year to our students, parents, advisors, and teachers.

Whether young or old, we all have special memories of back-to-school. Bright yellow #2s with as-yet unblemished erasers, brand new unscuffed shoes, sturdy backpacks with

hidden side pockets . . . the lunch box, the ruler, the pencil case, the specially chosen outfit . . . the playground, the classrooms, the kids . . . the teachers.

Take a look inside this issue on pages 8 and 11 for stories about some of our residents who are very familiar with school, having devoted their careers to education, and see what they and their spouses are doing now.

As the sun sets on
SUMMER and rises on the
FALL,
it is the perfect time to consider your next
REAL ESTATE MOVE.

NIGUEL SHORES | Market Update

	2017	2018
Units Closed	41	27
Average Sales Price	\$1,367,039	\$1,417,043
Median Sales Price	\$1,380,000	\$1,350,000
Avg Price/Sq. Ft.	\$898.45	\$847.92



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Street Sign Dolphin Vandalized:

As I was writing my article this month I looked back to my article from 2017 and saw that I had written about the new picnic tables at the bluff getting vandalized when someone named “Max” decided to carve his name in one. This was done after they had been installed for only a few short months. One year later here is my article about some other vandalism to the newly replaced street signs. The Maintenance team is currently going through the entire community and installing new street signs with lights on them for better visibility of the street names. As they are doing this they are also installing new poles and dolphins as needed. We have already had one street sign ripped off and broken in half and this vandalism (see photo) happened to one of the dolphins.



Street Sign (Dolphin) Vandalism

It saddens me, but I must ask that you talk with friends and family and explain that damaging other's property is against the law. It is very costly to the Association, funded from the pockets of each homeowner within the Association. Let's try to be a little more considerate of Association property and save yourself money.

Renovation of the Slopes: As part of the ongoing Master Landscape Plan, the current slopes being renovated are the Capstan Drive (along Windlass Drive) and Sextant Drive (along Binnacle Drive) slopes. This year we have completed the slopes and parkways from the PCH bridge to Stonehill Drive along Niguel Shores Drive and the slopes along the Sea Terrace II park below Vista D'Onde and Vista D'Oro. As previously mentioned the goal is to

complete the Master Landscape project by 2020, so we will be moving quickly to get this accomplished. Again, I want to thank you for your patience and understanding during these slope renovations and all the NSCA landscaping projects.

Tree Trimming: The tree trimming throughout the community should begin towards the end of September, run through October and be finished some time in December. Although we have several view complaints, the fall months are the

time of year when our community trees are trimmed. Once the tree trimming is completed the trees will not grow as much during the winter months and then you can expect them to come back during the spring and Harvest will start over again with the same process next fall. Since Niguel Shores has over 1,650 trees throughout the community, your patience is greatly appreciated during this process. In addition, as they are trimming you may want to be aware of the locations and if there is a tree close to your driveway or where you park your car, please move it to allow the trimming to move forward. If there is a car in the way, the tree will be skipped and then the tree trimmers must come back and trim another day, causing delays.

Office Closure: The management office will be closed Monday, September 3, 2018 for the Labor Day Holiday. As always there will be no construction allowed on this day.

“Have a Wonderful Labor Day Holiday”

—From the Niguel Shores Staff

—Marla Miller

The NSCA Board of Directors Action Summary for August is posted on the Niguel Shores website at www.niguelshores.org.

The last approved General Session Minutes are posted on the Bulletin Board across from the NSCA Office entrance. In addition, the General Session and Executive Session agendas for the next Board Meeting will also be posted on the Friday prior to the next meeting.

THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018 (3rd Wednesday).

Be Prepared ~ You May Save a Life!

CPR/AED/FIRST AID TRAINING CLASS

Friday, September 21
at 3:00 p.m.
in the Clubhouse
\$45 per person



Sign up in the Niguel Shores Office today!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MAINTENANCE

If you are up early and see a little blue Fiat driving around Niguel Shores, you know who **Ray Russomanno** is. Ray starts his mornings here at 3:45 a.m. making sure the offices, clubhouse, grounds and beach bluff are ready for another day of work and enjoyment.

Ray began at Niguel Shores part time in March 2014, and was promoted to full time in August 2015. He was selected as Employee of the Year in 2014, despite being part-time and not even having worked a full year. He loves the friendly residents and the people he works with in the office and maintenance staff, and he especially likes working all the special events and parties our community holds. Among the maintenance staff, Ray is best known for telling tall tales and his great sense of humor.

Ray was born and raised in Marlboro, New Jersey, the son of Italian parents. When they decided to move to California right before Ray's senior year of high school, Ray opted to stay in New Jersey to graduate before joining them here in 1989. He then attended Saddleback College. After college Ray moved with his wife and three stepchildren to Flint, Michigan until he was tired of the cold, and decided to return to Southern California.

Prior to starting at Niguel Shores, Ray was a server at Luciana's Ristorante, where he was well known by Niguel Shores residents for providing great service and a quick wit. He remains friendly with the many residents he met while serving them at the restaurant.

Ray is very athletic. He played baseball at Saddleback and now works out at 24 Hour Fitness every day and runs many of the local beach stairs, especially 1000 Steps in Laguna Beach.

He lives in San Clemente and is happy taking care of his parents with his brother, who all live nearby. Celebrating their recent 50th wedding anniversary, his parents are heading to Italy for two months. Ray confirmed he is a New York Giants, New York Yankees and New York Knicks fan. Proud of his Italian roots, he is also a fan of The Sopranos TV series about New Jersey mob families. He noted that his father's baseball coach appeared on the show and that his family name Russomanno was a character's name. He liked hearing his name so much he would replay the show just to hear it again and again. This may have been one of Ray's notorious tall tales but it was a good one. I enjoyed chatting with another of our hard-working Maintenance Department who keep Niguel Shores an extremely well-maintained community.



Ray Russomanno

—Geoff Dunlevie

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

We hope you noticed our announcements that an **AED-CPR-FIRST AID class** will be conducted in the Niguel Shores Clubhouse on **Friday, September 21 at 3:00 p.m.** This is a great opportunity to learn, hands-on, the emergency steps in potentially saving a life. Don't assume "George" will be there to assist in an emergency. YOU can do this. Sign up in the NSCA office.

WOW! Labor Day, back to school, end of summer. Well, yes to the first two, but NOT to the last. The long hot summer still has plenty of heat left over as we move into September and October. And with that heat continues one of the worst fire seasons California has ever experienced. Heat, low humidity, extremely dry conditions, and the coming of the annual Santa Ana winds all remind us to be guard, be vigilant, and BE PREPARED.

YES, we live in the Shores near the ocean, away from the Cleveland National Forest, far from the Inland Empire, BUT we are NOT exempt from the dangers of fires in our own community. Every home should have an evacuation plan and additional safety measures around your house to BE PREPARED for the possibility of fires "in our own backyard."

Many of these safety measures are the same precautions as for earthquakes: Have evacuation plans. Prepare an emergency supply kit with important documents, medicine, personal identification, and some cash. Discuss and practice the plan with your family.

Here are some other steps you can take to possibly save your home should you need to evacuate quickly, BUT these are things you do ahead of time, NOT if the fire is already raging in the neighborhood: Remove firewood near the house. Clean porches, decks, and gutters of dried leaves. Trim trees near the house. Move patio furniture and cushions. Replace or repair shingles and roof tiles that are loose or missing. Keep garden hoses connected to wet down things that can be ignited by fire's embers floating in from blocks away. Most of the homes in the Shores are close to our neighbors and, even with composite roofs, embers can ignite the wood under overhangs and trim.

Here's another often overlooked step: If the electricity is out, do you know how to open your garage door to get your car out? If you don't, call a handyman or ask your neighbor or someone on your street to show you, but the first thing to do is pull the red handle/cord hanging down from your door inside the garage to release the electronic door system. Then lift the door by hand. If you can't, leave the car and get out of the house any way you can. If you are replacing your garage door and/or opener, look for a replacement opener that has a back-up battery or is battery operated.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Happy Labor Day, back to school, a wonderful end of summer and greeting of fall, BUT give some thought AND ACTION to the preparations that insure your family and home are safe.

—Kent Wellbrock

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY

Gate Entry:

Last month, in addition to a heavy flow of residents going back and forth, over 27,000 guests and service providers entered our community through the Mariner Gate. Each one had to be individually screened for access and control reasons. This means that the attendant's involvement with the heavy traffic volume at the gate does not allow much time for other responsibilities as would be ideal. Consequently, we are asking for everyone's help to lighten the workload at the gate so that we can maintain the efficient and courteous level of service that we have become used to.

The first thing is to keep our guest and service lists up to date. Next, when expecting new guests or service persons, give them the address of the main entrance point to the community, which is the Mariner Gate at **33510 Mariner Drive, 92629**. Once there, the guest can be assisted and directed toward the address of your house

As many of us know, you can't depend on GPS to correctly direct anyone into the main portion of the community. It's very likely that the various navigation systems will incorrectly direct them to the Selva or Cabrillo gates. On a regular basis, frustrated first-time visitors fail to read the warning signs and attempt to tailgate through these locations only to have the spikes pop up and ruin their tires. **Remember, the address for the Mariner gate is 33510 Mariner Drive, 92629.**

Your guests or service persons are your responsibility, so please remind them to clearly display their passes on their dashboard. Vehicles parked in common areas without the pass properly displayed, will be subject to being cited and possibly towed away.

Neighborhood Electric Vehicles:

Golf Carts (Neighborhood Electric Vehicles) must be operated by a licensed driver. Recently there has been a rash of incidents where these vehicles were being driven by folks without a proper license. The unlicensed vehicle operator may be subject to a serious citation and have the concerned vehicle impounded.

—God Bless . . . Tim Murphy

RECREATION

Many thanks to Chris Zoch for bringing us our Island Fever Festival. It was great to see everyone enjoying the good food and tropical vibe.

We hope you also enjoyed our end of summer Concert at the Bluff. We changed it up this year with a more interactive band, Caliber, to make it one of our favorite events. Thank you to all who participated!

Upcoming Events:

Labor Day BBQ – September 2, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for our famous BBQ celebration. This is a free event in which we provide the hot coals and you bring whatever you would like to barbecue on the grill!

NSCA Talent Show – Saturday, September 29, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Where is our talent? Can you sing, dance, play an instrument, or tell jokes? Do you have an unusually talented pet? Then let's make a night of it in the Clubhouse and have some fun. Shine up your entertainment skills and don't forget to send in your audition tape by September 10 to Maria Elena Banks at mariaelena@mebanks.com.

Halloween Party – October 28, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for our annual Halloween Party. Wear your best costume, participate in the parade, games, and eat pizza! \$5 Entry Fee.

—Maria Elena Banks

Food Truck Night Down at the Bluff



NIGUEL SHORES MID-YEAR FINANCIAL UPDATE

AS OF JUNE 30, 2018

The Niguel Shores Finance Committee is comprised of seven volunteer homeowners and meets on a monthly basis to review, monitor and make fiscal recommendations on financial issues such as budgets, expenses, investments and reserves. The current members of the Finance Committee are Sue Kichline (Chair), Martin Dedrick, Jim Eckstaedt, David Goldberg, Chris Lockwood, Rick Palmer and Jeff Kessler. The Niguel Shores General Manager, Finance Manager and CFO attend the Finance Committee meetings. The Committee annually provides owners a mid-year update on the financial results to date including comments on expected year-end variances from budget and ongoing projects. The update includes revenue earned and expenses incurred compared to budget thru June 30, 2018.

Our community is thriving due to our hard-working dedicated staff and all the committee volunteers who continually aim to keep spending within the budgeted amounts. Their efforts make Niguel Shores a fabulous place to live.

The Finance Committee welcomes questions and feedback on this mid-year update and invites you to submit comments/questions to the attention of the Finance Committee Chair at mmiller@niguelshores.org.

NIGUEL SHORES INVESTMENTS

The Niguel Shores investments are reviewed by the General Manager, the Finance Manager, the Board CFO and the Finance Committee. The old Investment Sub-Committee responsibilities were folded into Finance Committee to avoid duplication of efforts.

NSCA's Investment Policy dictates that funds must be invested in instruments that are either obligations of or guaranteed by the US Government, such as Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC) backed bank accounts, money market funds and certificates of deposit. Comerica Securities, Inc. is used to assist in identifying appropriate investments to protect principal while maximizing returns.

The budgeted income from investments for 2018 is \$66,161. Based on results through June 30 and projections for the balance of the year, it is anticipated that full year 2018 interest income will exceed this budget target. The current investment portfolio of \$4,792,856 includes \$1,113,175 in checking and money market accounts to cover short term expenditures.

REVENUE UPDATE

2018 Budget	Earned as of June 30, 2018	\$ Remaining Anticipated Revenue
\$3,375,988	\$1,702,960	\$1,673,028

The major revenue items include quarterly assessments, bank interest income, newsletter commercial ads, as well as document response (ownership transfer), architecture, gate access fees and late charges. Document response fees, bank interest income, gate access fees and newsletter commercial ads are expected to exceed budget. Collection fees and late charges are lower than estimated due to fewer delinquent accounts. Overall, we anticipate revenue to meet the budget for year-end 2018.

MAINTENANCE BUDGET UPDATE

2018 Budget	Spent as of June 30, 2018	\$ Remaining
\$577,021	\$272,771	\$304,250

The Maintenance budget is reviewed and monitored monthly to ensure the needs of the community are met and that costs for repairs and expenditures are reasonable and within budget guidelines. As the community ages and the amenities and infrastructures are subject to increased usage, the Maintenance Committee and our maintenance staff are always faced with new and unique challenges.

The maintenance staff consists of the Facility Manager, three full-time and one part-time employees. They perform many daily and special projects which include both operating and reserve items.

The actual expenditures for the first six months of this year are currently \$18,885 under budget and it is anticipated that we will end the year at or below the planned budget (although we constantly face the possibility of unplanned expenditures).

LANDSCAPE BUDGET UPDATE

2018 Budget	Spent as of June 30, 2018	\$ Remaining
\$965,288	\$477,643	\$487,645

The primary expense in the Landscape Budget is the Harvest Landscape Maintenance contract. This contract renews again on January 1, 2019 and for the past 2 years has had less than a 1% increase. In doing our due diligence we are seeking pricing with a few other landscape contractors, as well as Harvest, to ensure the pricing is competitive. This contract covers landscape maintenance, including but not limited to mowing, edging, cleaning, weeding, drains, color changes, tree trimming and various other duties.

Water is another large expense in the overall landscape budget. Due to the lack of rain this past year the water expense will likely exceed the budgeted amount. On

a positive note, we did prepare by upgrading our watering systems, reducing the heavy water use for turf and working with SCWD to find many other ways to create cost savings.

The landscape budget includes other expenses such as pest control, sprinklers, tree removal/replanting, routine planting and slope maintenance.

The budget is managed by the General Manager with feedback and updates provided by the Landscape Committee. The Committee representatives review their specific area and report any items of concern. The Landscape budget is currently on track for 2018.

The Master Landscape Plan which focuses on the large-scale slope renovation and irrigation upgrades is not included in this budget but is a part of the Reserve section of this report.

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY BUDGET UPDATE

2018 Budget	Spent as of June 30, 2018	\$ Remaining
\$389,998	\$191,129	\$198,869

Patrol services account for over 90% of the Traffic and Safety budget, with spending for fobs, decals, surveillance equipment and access control software accounting for most of the remainder. Thus far in 2018, expenses are as expected, and full year results are also anticipated to be at or close to budget.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET UPDATE

2018 Budget	Spent as of June 30, 2018	\$ Remaining
\$1,443,681	\$729,393	\$714,288

General and Administrative (G&A) expenses include payroll and employee benefits for the staff as well as legal expenses, insurance, taxes, printing, postage, computers and other services required to manage the Association. Legal expenses, Furniture & Equipment and Recreation Activities were all slightly over budget thru June while Office Salaries, Employee Health Insurance, IT & Computer Equipment and Contingency Expenses were well below budget. Most of these were timing issues where expenses were (or will be) incurred in a different period than budgeted. All expenses are anticipated to be less than, or not significantly exceed, the budgeted amounts.

NIGUEL SHORES RESERVE STUDY UPDATE

A review of the Association's reserves is required every three years by an independent contracted consultant. The independent consultant specializes in performing reserve analysis and provides recommendations. The last independent study was completed in 2015. In

2018 an updated study will be prepared by an independent consultant. The Niguel Shores General Manager, Finance Manager and representatives of the Finance and Maintenance Committees also provide input to the consultant during the analysis. During the interim years, the independent consultant working with the Niguel Shores General Manager, Finance Manager and representatives of the Finance and Maintenance Committees prepares a high-level reserve review. The final report will be distributed to Association Members in the fall.

The purpose of the reserve analysis is to identify certain assets in the common areas of Niguel Shores that will need to be repaired or replaced within a defined timeframe. Since the cost to repair or replace these assets may be expensive, the reserve analysis identifies and determines the cost to repair or replace and determines a financial plan to accumulate the needed funds.

A partial list of assets identified in the reserve analysis: street resurfacing, fencing, lighting/electrical, pool, tennis courts, irrigation, slope repair and master landscape.

Reserve funds, excluding Breakers Isle, spent from January 1 to June 30, 2018 were \$318,944. The funds were primarily used for improvements in the irrigation system and landscape.

As of June 30, 2018, the balance in the reserve funds, excluding reserves for Breakers Isle, was \$3,674,981. As of June 30, 2018, the balance in the Breakers Isle reserve was \$113,269. The Breakers Isle reserve covers vehicle entrance area, gate house, vehicle gates, and fencing, but is not limited to these items.

—Sue Kichline



We would like to hear from you!

Send your comments and suggestions to seashorenews@hotmail.com

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Kent Wellbrock (*Emergency Preparedness*)

WOMEN'S CLUB

To all the ladies of Niguel Shores: Are you interested in joining the Women's Club? We are a friendly group promoting friendship, fun and service to our community. Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in the Clubhouse. A social time starts at noon followed by a luncheon at 12:30 p.m. and a special program. We also walk together and share other activities throughout the year. In August, for example, a group of us visited the Laguna Festival of Arts, had a lovely lunch at Terra Restaurant on the grounds of the Pageant of the Masters,

attended "The Secret Lives Art Talk," and enjoyed listening to artists share their stories and passions with the audience.

Our first luncheon meeting of the 2018-2019 season will take place on **Thursday, September 13**. Our guest speaker will be **Lyndcee Barragato**, a young lady who started the local nonprofit "Just Like Me," a foundation to enrich the social lives of special needs students.

For membership inquiries please contact barbgoffman@cox.net.

—Catherine Bitran

Meet Our New Women's Club President, Terry Link

Mike Link describes his wife Terry as "intelligent, hardworking, organized and a natural leader." Anyone who knows her would certainly agree.

After a friend invited her to a Women's Club luncheon a few years ago, Terry quickly became involved in the club's activities. She was drawn to the group because of the talented women who make up the membership and maintain the traditions of the club while also keeping it "fresh and fun."

Terry, her six Board members, and over a dozen standing committees plan interesting, informative monthly meetings and host numerous seasonal programs, outside activities, and special events. They donate a portion of the proceeds from their Home Tour and 4th of July Hot Dog Lunch to special causes in the local area. Terry emphasizes that the Women's Club welcomes new members and makes a special effort to greet newcomers so they will feel a part of the group from their first meeting.

Sharing a little of their personal history, Terry and Mike Link told us they moved to Niguel Shores in 2014 from previous residences in El Niguel Heights and Nellie Gail Ranch. They had been looking for a home where they could retire, and Mike had always been interested in Niguel Shores, so when a realtor friend told them about a home on Danzig Bay, they jumped on it.

Mike and Terry met fifty years ago in Lake Tahoe as teenagers. Their relationship continued even when Mike went off to USC and Terry left for San Diego State. They married after college and began their lives together in San Francisco. Mike's Marketing degree led him to a career as a sales and marketing executive. Terry finished her undergraduate work at SDSU and then earned her teaching credential at CSU Long Beach and her Master's Degree in School Administration from Pepperdine. She began her



Terry and Mike Link

teaching career at a San Francisco all-girls parochial school.

Mike's job eventually took them to Chicago and then to Boston, both very positive experiences. Another career move brought them back to California in Studio City. In 1990 they purchased the home in El Niguel Heights where they raised their two children, Becky and Timmy. Becky now lives with her own family in Temecula, and

Tim is nearby in Laguna Niguel. Terry and Mike have two granddaughters, Makayla and Madison.

The Links both retired in 2017. Mike's forty-seven-year career included corporations such as Black and Decker, Moen, and Brasstech of Newport Beach. Terry taught for 25 years and eventually moved into school administration, serving as Assistant Principal at St. Margaret's School in San Juan Capistrano and Principal at St. Anne's School in Laguna Niguel. Just prior to retiring, Terry also served as an educational consultant with Houghton-Mifflin.

Since retiring, both Mike and Terry have had no trouble finding worthwhile activities to keep them involved. In addition to playing golf (which he certainly finds worthwhile) Mike joined the Men's Club and also volunteers with *Mentor Up*, a church group working with middle and high school boys who do not have dads living at home. Along with her Women's Club activities, Terry's pastimes include walking, reading, gardening, and Bible Study.

The Links most definitely enjoy life here in Niguel Shores. Mike is especially happy that they were able to make living here a reality in their retirement. Terry said she immediately felt right at home in the community and very welcome.

Terry invites all interested residents to the season's first **Women's Club Luncheon Meeting on Thursday, September 13, at 12 noon in the Clubhouse.**

—Patti Staudenbaur

CLUBS

MEN'S CLUB

On Tuesday, August 7, the Morris/Wollin team served another breakfast surpassing all expectations. As we are in the electoral season, we heard from two of the candidates for the South Coast Water District—**Bill Green and Dennis Erdman**—both incumbents running for re-election to the board.

They also exceeded our expectations. Roy Dohner said it exquisitely: “Just wanted to say that you and your (South Coast Water District) team (including Sonja Morgan) did an excellent job at the NSCA Men’s Club Meeting. With only a week of reserves in the Water District coffers, you highlighted the potential danger our community faces in case of a major earthquake cutting off our water supply. This makes the case for building the desalination plant. However, current and pending major investments exceeding \$200 million puts the debt issues into perspective, considering the size of your customer base. The presentation emphasized the importance of properly managing our water supply, related sewers and treatment facilities which most of us take for granted. Thank you for the work you do for our community.”

Dennis Erdman and Bill Green made a thorough, enlightened presentation of where we are in augmenting our limited water resources in time of drought. They demonstrated professional technical skills working for the benefit of the District and our community. We learned that eighty-five to 100 percent of our water is imported through aging and vulnerable infrastructure. As built and operated, this provides us with a seven-day supply of water. Two \$100 million projects are addressing the need for reserves.

First, a well designed and well conceived environmentally effective slant drill desalination project at Doheny Beach. Second, a major upgrade of the seventy-year-old sewer treatment system, including redoing the tunnel from Monarch Beach to Aliso Beach. If you google the Dana Point tunnel, you can read the particulars. And to address another concern: No, SCWD is not feeding us recycled product as drinking water.

Our excellent August 21 breakfast was provided by the Roberts Team. Even though our program coordinator, Cdub, tirelessly works miracles putting together a continuous array of interesting speakers and political candidates, the originally scheduled Levin and Harkey each separately backed out of the meeting. But Cdub has many tricks in his bag and brought us a speaker with outstanding credentials and a non-political mantra: **Volker K.H. Sonntag M.D.**

Dr. Sonntag built his life and practice as a neurosurgeon on the premise of hope, honesty, hard work, and humility. His four H’s took him from a post-World War II German displaced person camp to a preeminent American medical practice. Along the way he learned English by watching the Mickey Mouse Club and flipped hamburgers to get through medical school. Dr. Sonntag provided an inspirational morning and a welcome relief from all things great and small in Dana Point politics.

September 4 will bring breakfast by the Clark team led by Al Glatt and Bob Baker (assisted by Steve Morris) and a return to Dana Point politics with all eight candidates for Dana Point City Council on the agenda.

—Robert F. Saint-Aubin

IN MEMORIAM

*Timothy Gray
O'Connor*

passed away on July 24, 2018

Husband of Kathy,
Father, Grandfather, and Great-Grandfather.
Resident of Windjammer since 1997.
A local surfing legend
who will be greatly missed.

IN MEMORIAM

*Mary Jo
Conaway*

May 3, 1934 to August 16, 2018

Wife of Charles Conaway.
Resident of Capstan Drive since 1972.
Member of the Women’s Club since 1977.
Our sincere condolences
to family and friends.

CLUBS

GARDEN CLUB

While the officers of our unique Niguel Shores Garden Club have been diligently preparing an exciting year of club events and presentations, they also expressed hope that all of you have had a wonderful summer pulling weeds out of your gardens—oops!—I mean, had a wonderful summer enjoying your gardens.

So, here we go with our first meeting of the new season on **Monday, September 17**, at the Clubhouse. Our topic will be “Butterflies in the Garden.”

Not yet a member and would like to join us for interesting meetings, valuable garden talk, great field trips, and fine refreshments? Please go to the office and ask the staff for an application which is located in the Garden Club file. Please fill out all the information on the application and have it put back in the club file. An officer of the club will contact you.

We are all looking forward to another wonderful year!

—Karl Kuhn

In the Garden—Everyone has a secret remedy for protection from mosquito and insect bites when outdoors, but does anything really work? Wearing a bug repellant that contains DEET can help, and if you want to go all-natural, there are essential oils that can reduce your chances of being bitten. Try oils of lavender, tea tree, Greek catnip, thyme, soybean, citronella, eucalyptus, or neem. Dilute the oil in water and put the mixture into a small spray bottle to carry in your gardening bag. You should opt for light clothing and avoid perfume, alcohol or rigorous exercise if you know you’re venturing into a mosquito-heavy area because they are drawn to body heat, moisture and certain scents.

—information condensed from *ocvector.org* website

ACTIVITIES

PAGE TURNERS

September finds Page Turners returning to their monthly meetings for significant, in-depth discussions of the books they voted to read in the upcoming months from September through June.

The September selection is Harvard-educated Celeste Ng’s second award-winning novel, *Little Fires Everywhere*. To paraphrase the *Princeton Book Review*, this is a compelling story that takes an in-depth (there’s that word again!) look at family relationships, especially between a mother and her children. In addition, it examines parenthood, class, race and inter-racial adoption. The book “takes unerring aim at upper-middle-class America’s blind spots . . .” Interestingly, the author grew up in Shaker Heights, Ohio—the scene of the novel. She writes, “In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned—from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses . . .” The book should provoke an interesting discussion when the Monday and Thursday afternoon groups meet September 24 and 27 respectively.

For information on the Thursday group contact Steve and Ann Morris at samwrsi@cox.net and for the Monday afternoon group, Frances at fozimec@cox.net.

—Frances Ozimec

REALLY SERIOUS BOOK CLUB

The Really Serious Book Club gathered for their August meeting at the home of Mary Crowl who led the discussion on *State of Resistance* by Manuel Pastor. The book revealed California as a muddled and financially troubled state for many

governors and administrations, until many small movement groups coalesced to give strength to Governor Brown’s administration. Brown’s administration now has millions in reserve funds, a forward look on immigration, social services, education and climate change measures that lead the country and are in conflict with Trump administrative policy to the extent that California has 25 lawsuits against Federal Government measures in all of these areas. We have already been successful in a few and many others are pending. Other states have joined us in some of the actions. Governor Brown supported the Paris Climate Accords, no small measure since California is the fifth largest economy in the world. Absorbing migrants, expanding educational opportunities and housing costs were discussed.

The next meeting will review *The Truth about Animals* by Lucy Cooke. If you would be interested in joining our book discussions, email Norton Schwartz at Nortlynnne@cox.net.

—Norton Schwartz

BRIDGE CLUB

The Bridge Club meets each Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Niguel Shores Clubhouse. We welcome new players and only ask that you have a basic working knowledge of the game. If you are interested in joining us, please call Mary Ann at (949) 489-9999.

Our Latest Winners:

July 25: 1) Jack Bernard, 2) Lee Farrell, 3) Mary Ann Theisen
August 1: 1) Frieda Baskin, 2) Sandy Youdbulis, 3) Mike Oliva
August 8, 1) Karen Oerele, 2) Helen Campbell, 3) Jim Pinola

—Jim Pinola

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Meet JoAnne and Jack Webb, who live on Halyard in the Sea Terrace Townhomes. On the road to where they are today, they encountered some detours, but there's a very happy ending, as you will learn when you read on.

JoAnne's mom, Mary Ellen, was an original owner here in Niguel Shores, purchasing her Sea Terrace home back in 1975. JoAnne loved our community but was looking for a life beyond our gates after graduating from San Diego State. She became a teacher with the San Diego Public School District and then decided, at the age of 24, that it was time to "see the world."

She applied for an international teaching position with the Department of Defense and ended up in Okinawa, Japan, where she taught for two years. Not quite done with her "world tour," JoAnne moved on to Germany, where she taught for three years at an Army-based school. It was there that JoAnne met her first husband. After several years overseas, they decided to return to the United States.

JoAnne continued her teaching career in Texas, where she earned a Master's Degree at the University of Houston. The couple then moved to Chicago and JoAnne continued to teach there for several years.

In 1987, JoAnne and her husband decided it was time to come back to California, and they found a Niguel Shores home in the Villas. JoAnne continued her teaching career, this time for Santa Ana Unified. When JoAnne's marriage ended, she and her daughter Kristin began searching for a new home and, fortunately, she found the perfect place on Halyard to raise her daughter in a wonderfully safe and fun environment where they both felt very comfortable.

Single for a couple of years, JoAnne continued to be active and involved, especially in outdoor activities. She took advantage of our tennis courts and played often. She also decided to take up bike riding—and this is where our story grows even more interesting. In 2001, JoAnne's daughter Kristin worked at a local restaurant where a handsome group of bicycle riders would gather regularly. Kristin found one gentleman particularly interesting and told him her mom was a bike rider, recently single. She wondered if he might like to meet her.

When Kristin told him about her bicycle-riding mom, he decided to take a chance. He gave Kristin his telephone number and suggested her mom should call him if interested. It took a couple of weeks but, as you have already read, JoAnne likes adventure, so she decided to give Jack a call.

At first, their relationship was just bike riding, "not real dates" according to JoAnne. On their first meeting, they rode from Dana Point Harbor to the San Clemente Pier. They continued to get together for rides over the next several months until finally Jack decided it was time for a "real date." As you

probably guessed, the date went very well. In June of 2006 they were married.

Originally from Michigan, Jack earned his Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and mathematics from Central Michigan University and later an MBA from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut. Upon graduating from high school, Jack went directly to work for Dow Corning Corporation where he continued his career for 38 years, earning both his degrees while working full-time at Dow Corning. In 1986, Jack relocated to Irvine with Dow Corning as General Sales Manager for the western region. He eventually retired in 2000 and was enjoying life in California after having purchased a wonderful home in San Clemente.

When they married, JoAnne left Niguel Shores and moved to Jack's San Clemente residence. She enjoyed the town and the beautiful ocean view from Jack's home, but after a few years she told Jack, "I'm sorry, but I miss Niguel Shores!" And so they began the process of a complete remodel on the two-story townhome on Halyard.

In planning the remodel, they wanted to make the home "their own" by giving it an open feeling for entertaining and providing an outdoor area for family activities complete with a fountain, patio, and putting green. They were also thinking ahead to the future and installed an elevator so that even as they age (gracefully, of course) they will be able to enjoy the home.

Their initial passion for biking did not end once the relationship blossomed. They continued to ride and have enjoyed numerous long-distance biking vacations throughout the United States, Europe, and the Canadian Rockies. That first ride to the Pier in San Clemente pales in comparison to some of the bicycle adventures they have enjoyed since then—rides usually averaging between 25 to 35 miles per day!

Jack and JoAnne love the community of Niguel Shores and are active in various clubs and committees. Jack chairs our Traffic and Safety Committee and is a member of the Men's Club. They both belong to the Garden Club. JoAnne is involved in water aerobics, still plays tennis, and volunteers for our 4th of July children's festivities. They commented on the number of truly wonderful people whom they have met here in the community. JoAnne's daughter and granddaughters live close by and come often to visit. Jack's three sons, Stephen, Jason, and Scott, all live in Texas with their families, but come out at least annually and love it here as well.

Happily, JoAnne and Jack have made Niguel Shores their permanent home base on their route to the next round of life's adventures.



—Patti Staudenbaur

ACTIVITIES

LIBRARY

This is a partial list of Dana Point Library programs for September, 2018. See the full schedule with descriptions at www.niguelshores.org. All events are held free in the Community Room unless otherwise noted. Walk-ins welcome.

CHILDREN

Toddler Storytime – Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Storytime – Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Read to a Dog – First Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. Held in children's area.

Lego Club – Wednesday, September 12, 3:00 p.m. Legos provided.

Bilingual Storytime – Second and fourth Saturdays, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. In Spanish and English.

Nature Connections to Literature – Saturday, September 15, 11:00 a.m. The Traveling Naturalists read about animal characters and bring live animals. Limited to 40 kids (with an adult).

Crafts with Stories – Saturday, September 22, 2:30 p.m.

Sunshine Readers Pajama Storytime – Monday, September 24, 5:30 p.m. For kids of all ages with an adult. Pajamas encouraged!

Family Movie Matinee – Saturday, September 29, 2:00 p.m. Popcorn served.

TWEENS AND TEENS

Fab Lab – Tuesdays, September 11, 18, 25, 4:30 p.m. Projects for grades 7+.

Anime and Manga Club – Thursday, September 13, 5:00 p.m. Episode 1 & 2 of *Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood*. Ages 13+.

Library Resources for PSAT/SAT – Saturday, September 15, 3:00 p.m. Materials for PSAT or SAT. For teens and parents.

Dungeons and Dragons – Thursday, September 20, 4:00 p.m. Ages 7-12. Beginner friendly!

ADULTS

Write On Writer's Group – First and third Tuesdays, September 3 and 17, 5:00 p.m. Share and improve your craft through peer critiques.

Basic Computer Skills – Tuesdays, September 4, 11 and 18, 9:00 a.m. Learn vocabulary, using a mouse, email and internet searching. Registration required. Call 949 496-5517.

Memory Club: Brain Boosters – First Thursday, 1:30 p.m.

Gentle Readers Book Club – Second Thursday, 10:30 a.m. *Letters from Skye* by Jessica Brokmole available at the service desk.

English Class – Monday, September 17 and 24, 1:00 p.m. and Friday, September 21 and 28, 11:00 a.m. Register at esl.danapt@gmail.com.

Coloring Club – Fridays, 10:00 a.m. Materials provided. Held at the adult tables.

Travel Club – Third Sunday, 2:00 p.m.

Foreign Film – Fourth Sunday, 2:00 p.m. 2017 *Bye Bye Germany*.

Seaside Book Club – Fourth Monday, 10:30 a.m. *The Last Castle* available at the service desk.

Author Lorraine Passero – Sunday, September 30, 2 p.m. Presentation on history of Dana Point and local artist, author and pioneer Clara Mason Fox.

—Karla Sanders

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS to staff the library bookstore. We sort, price, and shelve materials in categories. The best part is that we all love books, have a great time working together, and donate our income to many library projects. Our contributions have paid for new furniture, partial cost for new skylights, and the recent soundproofing of the Community Room. We also sponsor special library events for children and adults. Come join the fun! Contact Juliette Ravanelle at jravenelle@icloud.com or Lisa Buchner at lisabuchner@cox.net.

FAMILY FUN SPORTS

Calling DHHS Dolphin Fans!

Football season is officially open! Our own Dana Hills Dolphins have already played their first three games against opponents Los Amigos, Lincoln, and Saddleback. Come out and cheer the team on Friday nights this month: September 7 vs Laguna Beach (away); September 14 vs Irvine (home); September 21 vs Ocean View (home); September 28 vs Laguna Hills (away). Games begin at 7:00 p.m.

SPORTS

WOMEN'S GOLF

The Niguel Shores lady golfers met on August 13 at The Ranch for a 9-hole round. After several days of warm weather, the temperature cooled a few degrees and we had a little breeze on some of the holes, so it was a pleasant morning for our five golfers. Judy Boitano, Val Mitchell, Irene McDonald, Catriona Sigsby and Cindy Carmichael played a fivesome with Catriona winning low score of 37, Val winning longest drive, and Judy and Val tying at 18 for low putts.

We welcomed Cindy back after a short absence. She and her husband are off to Morocco for vacation, and India Rouse and husband are setting sail on a cruise. Julie and husband are in Hawaii (golfing). We wish them all safe and happy travels and look forward to their return.

President Marlene Lynch opened the meeting and welcomed our social members who are so faithful to lunch with

us each month—Ceacy Johns, Chris Beaver and her lovely daughter Linda, Joanie Beyer, and Ruthie Stahl with her friend Michelle.

Marlene also thanked Lee Sweeney for her help as Treasurer, Brenda Tuckley for the Minutes, and Julie Patton for her articles in the *Seashore News*. And a big thank you to Irene McDonald who confirms the tee times each month, calls the golfers, and also makes our luncheon reservations.

Corresponding Secretary Chris announced the birthday girls for August—Liz Kelsch, Val Mitchell, and Lee Sweeney. Happy birthday to our ladies. May you all be blessed with good health and enjoy every day!

Our next game is **September 10**. Please contact Irene if you wish to have your name added to the roster (949) 481-3035.

—Julie Patton

TRAVEL TALK — INTO AFRICA

A few years ago, filled with evocative images of Hemingway's Africa, my wife and I set off to Tanzania for a *safari* (*journey* in Swahili). We soon found ourselves out of our comfort zone, swept from an orderly suburban life into a wild, unpredictable adventure where "survival of the fittest" was everywhere evident.

After an overnight in Nairobi, Kenya, we flew to Dar es Salaam and then boarded a bush flight to our first camp in Tanzania's Selous Nature Reserve. With curiosity and some trepidation, we arrived at Mbuyu Safari Camp, which turned out to be a delightful site on the shore of Lake Nzerekela adjacent to the Rufiji River.

We stayed in a substantial tent on a raised wood deck with comfortable beds, a hot water shower and—wonder of wonders—a flushing toilet. Only later did we learn that an employee spent most of his time pumping water to provide us with these luxuries! The excellent staff lavished hospitality on the guests thanks to the proprietor, Sal, an expatriate American. Adventure filled the camp and animals from the wild were ever-present. For safety, a rifle-toting Askari guide escorted us to and from our evening meal, and more than once we were reminded that the bush is a dangerous place.

Nighttime brought the sounds of Africa (some a little closer than we would have liked) with elephants beating the bushes next to our tent and, at 3:00 a.m. in the silence of the night, the sound of a giraffe munching the tree tops above our tent—a noise that came right out of Jurassic Park.

On our outings each day we were surrounded by nature's incredible variety—not only large animals but also exotic birds, unusual trees and mysterious plants. One memorable



turn on the safari trail brought us to the Nzerekela lakeshore where we surprised a Noah's ark of animals drinking in the early morning: zebra, giraffe, warthog, wildebeest, hartebeest, impala, Cape buffalo. A spectacular thrill!

Our local guides led us to amazing sights and offered a wealth of information about

the flora and fauna. However, our initial perception of this Disney-like vision, where animals appeared almost on cue, was shattered

one morning when we confronted a huge crocodile that had snared an unwary, fully-grown wildebeest by the leg as it drank in a waterway. We watched in morbid fascination and considerable discomfort as the poor animal tried to pull itself out of the water with the crocodile still clamped on. Eventually the crocodile rolled and broke the wildebeest's leg but for some reason let go. The wildebeest then dragged itself onto the shore, hobbled a few yards, then collapsed.



The next day we found a tree full of vultures and four hyenas in a mud pool so sated they could barely move. The only thing left of the wildebeest was its head. Welcome to reality, welcome to Africa.

Finally, we began to understand that we were witnessing a microcosm of life in the wild where the animals, birds, trees, and plants were all part of a massive ecosystem including inter-relationships and adaptations all the way through the chain, with survival being the ultimate goal.

Boating the Rufiji River in a small outboard, we dodged hippos rising and sinking in mid-stream and viewed birds like the bee eater that nests in sand banks. We watched Nile crocodiles slide off the bank at our approach and spied elephants, giraffes, and water bucks drinking at water's edge. Throughout our stay, we heard the hippos' spectacular grunts when coming ashore at night to graze, and we observed elephants swimming across the lake to forage—amazing sights.

On a bush walk with our armed guide, we learned how the omnipresent acacia thorn tree survived the predations of voracious giraffe herds because of stinging ants that live in the galls of the trees' thorns—a perfect example of mutual dependency and survival in nature.

Our early morning drives in an open rover included breakfast laid out at beautiful spots on the lake or amongst the magnificent baobab trees with chattering birds above us. One late afternoon, a baby zebra, separated from its mother,



stood helpless on the lakeshore with no hope of survival as crocodiles advanced from the depths. Nature's reality, again, front and center.

Our second camp, the Mwangusi Safari Camp, was on a sand river in the Ruaha National Park in central Tanzania, a 90-minute flight from the Selous in a four-seater plane. A dry landscape, the Ruaha teemed with animals, particularly lions. Night brought the roaring of lions and the howling of wild dog packs on the hunt.

Our host, Chris, gave us some experiences not for the faint of heart. In an open jeep, we faced-off a huge male lion and were almost charged by a substantially tusked elephant. Another game drive introduced us to a pride of lions that had just butchered a warthog and were still feasting. Lionesses and cubs were lying around until an interloper lioness tried to join the party and was aggressively driven out, no party crashers allowed. While this was going on, a wily jackal grabbed some of the party fare and carried

it away. Later, two lionesses took a young cape buffalo out of a herd at a water hole and dragged the animal to a brush area where their cubs, hiding from predators, were given a lesson in how to eat prey.



We witnessed wild Africa in what was, to us, the ultimate experience. On our last drive we noted ten species of animals including giraffe, impala, baboons, zebra, eland, warthog, elephant and leopard plus eighteen bird species including helmeted guinea fowl, ostrich, hornbill, love birds, Egyptian geese, herons, fish and snake eagles—all truly breathtaking in their natural settings. That evening found us around a campfire dining under the stars at a communal table with other guests—darkness all around and the sounds of wild beasts afoot.

—Ian Mackinnon, *Write On! at Dana Point Library*



CUISINE CORNER

South of Nick's – Laguna Beach

First let me say that if you've never been to one of Nick's restaurants, you should plan to go. You'll be in for a treat. Nick's and South of Nick's are arguably the best dining in San Clemente and Laguna Beach. Start with Nick's and you'll get a "taste" of what I'm talking about. Then try South of Nick's for an upscale south-of-the-border experience.

Those who are already fans of South of Nick's in San Clemente can now enjoy similar food and style at their new Laguna Beach location. If you remember where The Big Fish restaurant was, atop The Collection off PCH, you will now find South of Nick's, which opened approximately one month ago.

My wife and I frequently go to breakfast at Nick's in Laguna Beach on Saturday mornings so when we heard about Laguna's new South of Nick's we decided to check it out. Assuming we would find a crowd, we were surprised to be the first patrons greeted as the doors opened. Soon, however, the restaurant was full, as is typical of any Nick's location.

The new décor at South of Nick's in Laguna is beautiful beach contemporary with seating arranged for ocean vistas, including a large bar in the center and an open kitchen to the rear of the restaurant. Great seating for a party of ten is available at a large round table against the windows with ocean viewing. Nice views for four are available at booths 43 and

44. The best view in the restaurant is available for a party of six in the front corner of what they refer to as "the patio."

The "South" in their name designates "South of the Border" type food, but it's high end Mexican cuisine—not your typical taco stand. I would recommend Filet Mignon Ranchero or Short Rib Tacos from the House Specialties section of the menu, or the Filet Mignon Taquitos for an appetizer. Their fish is also excellent. You really can't go wrong with anything you order, but be sure to leave room for Butter Cake—it's the best! Menu items change, so I suggest you go on line for more detailed lunch and dinner descriptions. You'll find that both South of Nick's locations have excellent food, great service, and a pleasant environment.

South of Nick's in San Clemente is on El Camino Real just before you get to Del Mar. The newly opened South of Nick's in Laguna Beach is at 540 S. Coast Highway. In Laguna Beach, there is valet parking off PCH under The Collection building. I recommend the valet for \$6.00 as summer rates for parking at the lot off Glenneyre Street are \$.75 for every 10 minutes.

They open daily at 11:00 a.m. I highly recommend making reservations. One final tip: Remember to take a bottle of wine—no corkage fee for the first bottle.

—Bill Walkup

PET PARADE

COMMON CAT CONCERNS

For all you cat lovers, I would like to point out three common cat concerns—itching, coughing, and the threat from coyotes.

ITCHING: Itchiness in cats is not always obvious. They may over-groom themselves in plain sight or when you are not around. Cats have very rough tongues and can cause themselves a lot of damage from constant licking. If they incessantly lick themselves, they can even pull out their hair. To determine if your cat is suffering from itching problems, look for bald patches (frequently found on the belly, head or inner thighs) as well as broken hair tips and scabs.

Itching is most commonly caused by allergies to fleas. Don't be fooled if you do not see any fleas. Cats are such good groomers that they eat the fleas as soon as they feel a bite.

Less common causes of itching include allergies to pollen and external mites. A skin scraping by your veterinarian may be necessary to rule out mites as the cause of your cat's itching.

The best treatment for itching is strict flea control, often with oral monthly flea medication. It is also important to institute flea control in the environment and to treat all other pets in the household. Some of your other pets may be covered with fleas but look fine because they are not allergic and do not react to fleas on their skin.

Occasionally cats will need medication to stop an allergy, like a cortisone injection. Antibiotics, administered orally or by injection, also may be warranted depending on the severity of the problem.

COUGHING: Persistent coughing is common in cats and sounds like a human cough. The cough comes from the chest and is usually dry, possibly coming in fits that last a few minutes.

Note: Vomiting in cats (often caused by hairballs) can look like coughing and is commonly mistaken for coughing.

However, the difference is that with a hairball-induced cough, there is an abdominal component as if the pet wants to bring something up from deep in the belly. Showing your veterinarian a video of your pet coughing may help distinguish between vomiting and coughing.

Sometimes coughing in cats can be accompanied by gagging, sneezing, or nasal congestion. This indicates an upper respiratory infection or, less commonly, an allergy. Infections causing the cough can be bacterial or viral. We do not medicate viral infections, but we do use antibiotics if we suspect the infection is caused by bacteria.

Coughing can also be caused by idiopathic feline airway disease (also called feline asthma) stemming from an allergy to something in the environment. Asthma in cats can be very serious, even life threatening, just as it is in people. Sometimes the cough sounds wheezy. This condition is diagnosed by a physical exam and chest x-ray, and then treated with steroids, inhalers and bronchodilators. The prognosis for recovery is good if the condition is caught early and kept in control.

Heart disease is the most serious cause of coughing. If a cat's heart is abnormal and is not pumping blood correctly, then fluid can accumulate on or around the cat's lungs. A heart problem may be revealed by a physical exam as the heart can sound abnormal. We also use chest x-rays to confirm this diagnosis. Several heart medications are available, yet the prognosis for recovery is variable. The success of the treatment depends on the type and severity of the heart condition.

COYOTES: We do have coyote problems in Niguel Shores. Coyotes can be out on the prowl at any time of the day or night—and cats do not have much chance against them. The safest place for your cat is indoors. —Dr. Susan Davis



SAFE AT HOME: Mary and Hal Schaffer live in the home of two senior felines: Napua, a domestic short hair born to a feral mom of mixed ancestry, and Baby, an orange tabby adopted from the San Clemente-Dana Point Animal Shelter. Napua enjoys exploring the neighborhood, but Baby is more of a homebody. Napua and Baby both spend their nights safely inside, which is exactly where Mary and Hal like them to be.



COMFORTS OF HOME: Making themselves oh-so-comfortable in the residence they share with Suzanne Enis are London (left) and Paris (right).



NO PLACE LIKE HOME: This is Louie, Sandy Homicz's cat from long ago—a stay-at-home fella who really knew how to relax. No itching, no coughing, and no scrapping with coyotes!



CURL UP AT HOME WITH A GOOD BOOK: 6-year-old Nemo Kuhn is settled in a cozy bed ready for a good story before taking a nap. So, Nemo, we recommend this fascinating book for cats and cat lovers of all ages. It's the #1 best-selling item at the Festival of Arts gift store this summer—a beautiful book of stories and paintings by Dana Point resident and gallery owner Laura Seeley titled "A Cat Never Tells." Her lyrical language and charming illustrations convey the warm human-animal bond and highlight concerns like keeping cats indoors.

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TALL SHIPS FESTIVAL

September 7-9

Location: 24200 Dana Point Harbor Drive, Dana Point For more info: www.oceaninstitute.org/tall-ships-festival

In celebration of California's rich maritime history, the Ocean Institute annually hosts a fleet of historic tall ships that sail into Dana Point Harbor. This extraordinary event takes place each year the second weekend in September. History comes alive, as crews from each ship, along with historical re-enactors, engage the public in cannon battles, pirate adventures, mermaid encounters, ship tours, and much more.

Tall Ships Festival Adventure Pass

September 9 and 10, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Includes: All day admission to the Festival – Tours of the Brig *Pilgrim*, *Spirit of Dana Point*, and all visiting vessels – access to vendors, food, pirate encampments, exhibitions, crafts, activities, Beer Garden and live music. TICKETS: \$10/adults (15+) • \$8/child (ages 3-14)

Family 4-Pack \$30

TALL SHIPS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday

Sails 'n Ales (6:00 – 9:00 p.m.): Cider and Craft Beer tasting, music, mermaids and prime view for Parade of Sail!

Sunset Parade of Sails (4:00 – 7:30 p.m.) Work with the crew hauling up sail or simply sit back and enjoy spectacular demonstrations of skill and survival!

Saturday and Sunday

Under the Sea Mermaid Breakfast (9:00 – 10:30 a.m.)

Our special mermaid friends deliver a one-of-a-kind breakfast experience. Meet our mermaid friends, make a fun mermaid craft, enjoy pancakes, and watch our mermaids swim underwater! Family fun for all mermaids at heart. Be sure to book your ticket in advance as this event sells out every year.

Festival (10:00 am-4:00 pm): Tall Ships tours, pirate adventures, mermaid encounters, unique vendors, Sierra Nevada Beer Garden, and more await for you at the 34th Annual Festival. For a full list of activities, please visit www.oceaninstitute.org/tall-ships-festival.

Cannon Battle Sails (4:30 – 7:30 p.m.)

Come aboard the *Spirit of Dana Point* and the armada of ships as they set sail to engage in the Festival's most exciting and captivating experience. Join the crew as they harness the power of the wind to maneuver and position themselves to gain the advantage.

Kayak Harbor Tour

Ocean Institute - 2400 Dana Point Harbor Drive

September 21 • 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

This program includes: 2 hour interactive tour around the Dana Point Harbor, a history of the harbor and its unique ecosystem, admission to the Ocean Institute, Ocean Institute baseball cap and bag. All experience levels are welcome. Must be at least 12 years old to participate. Guests under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Admission: \$40.00 per person. Call 949-496-2274 or email oi@oceaninstitute.org for more information.

Classic Car & Motorcycle Show

Dana Point Lantern District

Del Prado between Violet Lantern and the Pacific Coast/Del Prado Archway

September 23 • 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Enjoy the display of hundreds of custom and classic cars, a motorcycle display, awards, great entertainment and food selections. Come for the cars and stay for the great dining and shopping. For information call 949-496-1555 or email Ashley@danapointcetchamber.com.



9th Annual Lobster Fest

Doheny State Beach, Dana Point

September 8 • 4:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Join the fun at the best beach party of the summer. Tickets can be purchased for a variety of options such as individual all you can eat entry, send a Marine a ticket, full tables of 10 or an individual VIP table single seat. Admission Prices include gourmet appetizers, no-host bar, fresh east coast lobster, smoked tri-tip steak, live music and dancing.

For Information go to DanaPointLobsterFest.org

Whale Walk and Talk

Dana Point Interpretive Center - 34558 Scenic Drive

This walk focuses on the offshore visitors that can be seen from the Dana Point Headlands. It is designed to introduce participants to whale "seasons". Participants will also learn about Gray Whales, who migrate past us in the winter and spring months, and Blue and Humpback Whales in the summer months. In particular this walk focuses on the types of marine mammals we see, how to identify them, where to look for them, and how to responsibly view marine wildlife. RSVP to DPNaturalResources@danapoint.org or 949-248-3527

BEACH CURRENTS

REAL ESTATE REPORT FOR NIGUEL SHORES

By **CONNIE MCKIBBAN**

SEE MY FULL PAGE MONTHLY AD IN HOMES & LAND MAGAZINE FEATURING MY LISTINGS IN NIGUEL SHORES

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