

Seashore News

September 2026

Published Monthly by Niguel Shores Community Association

Issue 633

Sounds of Summer



Great tunes filling the air, laughter shared with friends and neighbors, a beautiful sunset with crashing waves in the background—the summer sounds of Niguel Shores!

As something new this year, the Events Committee introduced **Third Thursday**, featuring local musicians at the Bluff during sunset time. The response was so enthusiastic that the series is extended into September! Come down to the bluff on **September 17** and enjoy one more **Third Thursday** evening of live entertainment.

Music resounded at other summer events, too. **DJs** added to the fun at our Memorial Day, In-N-Out Burger Night and Fourth of July celebrations, while **Band by the Sea** returned in August and once again proved why this is such a popular Niguel Shores tradition.

And we're not finished yet!

Country Meets the Coast—A Hoedown at the Bluff

We'll keep the live music going over Labor Day weekend with a BBQ and country hoedown! Join your friends and neighbors at the Bluff beginning at **5:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 6**, for **Country Meets the Coast—Boots, Band & BBQ!**

Dust off your cowboy boots, grab your hat, and get ready to line dance as the five-piece **Big City Hillbillies** bring country music to the coast.

The Shores barbecues will be fired up, so **BYOB—Bring Your own barbecue food** to throw on the grill,

along with your beverages and everything you need for dinner.

There is **no admission charge** for this special event. However, Bluff tables will be available through an advance paid reservation system. Reserved tables may be selected and paid for in the Niguel Shores office while availability lasts. Prefer to keep it casual? As always, the grass area is open to everyone at no charge. Just bring your own chairs or blankets and find a spot to enjoy the music.

Good Vibes

Music has an incredible way of bringing people together, and that's what these evenings are really about. The Bluff remains the heartbeat of Niguel Shores—a place where neighbors become friends, families gather, and we're reminded just how fortunate we are to call this community home. Add some live music, familiar songs, a beautiful sunset, and there's nothing better than summer at the Shores. **We'll see you at the Bluff!**

—Joy Justus



KATHY SAMUEL LUXURY REAL ESTATE

TOP 1%

Real Estate Agents in California

#1

Monarch Beach Homes Sold

371+

Keys Handed Over

\$399+ MILLION

Closed Transactions



SOLD 840 Gainsborough \$5,995,000



IN ESCROW 29 Marbella | Monarch Beach



SOLD
33492 Abalone \$4,200,000



IN ESCROW
33568 Halyard | Niguel Shores



SOLD
24232 Porto Nuovo \$2,350,000



SOLD
29862 Running Deer \$2,000,000



SOLD
16 Saint John \$1,750,000



SOLD
33 Wimbledon Ct \$1,580,000



SOLD
19 Tennis Villas \$1,450,000



SOLD
29396 Christiana Way \$1,435,000



SOLD
29466 Christiana Way \$1,125,000



KATHY SAMUEL
949-444-1674
DRE 00832012
Kathy@KathySamuel.com
www.kathysamuel.com



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

FROM THE HELM

Important Topics for September

Search for New General Manager

The Board is actively leading the search process for a **new General Manager for Niguel Shores**. (See the e-blast dated August 14 and posted on the NSCA website for more information.)

As the most important decision this Board will make, our focus is on the identification of the best long-term candidates—not the quickest solution—and we expect the process to take 90 days. In terms of immediate actions, we are:

1. **Identifying an interim GM for 90 days** and our goal is to have someone in place in early September.
2. **Recruiting a fulltime GM**, working through a professional recruiter and industry sources. Our goal is to have a new GM in place by December 1st.

We'll keep you abreast of progress in the monthly Board Meetings, the *Seashore News* and community-wide e-blasts.

May Financials are posted—The NSCA Monthly Financial Statements for May are available and posted on the website. June and July have been delayed due to the work necessary to redo our 2025 audit and will be available after approval by the Board at the September meeting. After September we will be caught up and back on a regular schedule.

Interim Architectural Manager—The volume of applications for home renovations in the Shores doesn't seem to abate, so we are pleased that **Matt Northrop** has stepped in as **Interim Architectural Manager**. Matt supported the Architectural Committee (AC) for seven years and is well positioned to hit the job running. (See announcement in the AC report in this issue for more info on Matt's interim role.)

Meeting with the Orange County Sheriff—The Board met with Captain Frank Gonzales of the Orange County Sheriff's office during our Executive Session on August 14 to discuss safety concerns and approaches relative to e-bikes and other forms of motorized bikes. The discussion was an open exchange of issues, ideas and best practices used in other communities. For a link to the **OC Sheriff's Department E-bicycle/Motorcycle Enforcement Guide** which frames the definitions and guidelines for each classification, please see the electronic *Seashore News* on the NSCA website. We'll keep you posted as we formulate next steps.



Clubhouse Streetscape under Construction

Have you noticed the landscape activity along Niguel Shores Drive in front of the clubhouse? We are excited to be moving forward with another element of our new plant palette, and this one is important: The area is front and center as residents and visitors come through the Mariner gate. While it will take a few weeks to finish, the photo renderings with this article illustrate the vision for this area.

As we sign off for this month, we want to say **Thank You** for your continued engagement as we tackle issues and opportunities here in Niguel Shores. Have a safe and fun Labor Day weekend with family and friends.

—Your NSCA Board of Directors

LANDSCAPE PLANNING OPPORTUNITY



The Landscape Committee and the Maintenance Crew are revitalizing the area on Niguel Shores Drive in front of the Clubhouse where the utility boxes and our community event banners are located.

They would appreciate having a group of volunteers willing to provide input and review design concepts with design professionals regarding the installation of gates or supports that can accommodate the community banners and enhance the appearance of this area. The volunteers will present the proposed project to the Board for consideration and approval.

Please contact Matt Northrop in the office if you are willing to work on this small but important project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

Introducing Our Interim Architectural Committee Manager

Niguel Shores residents will already recognize a familiar face stepping into a new role: **Matt Northrop**, our Community Administrator, is now serving as **interim Architectural Committee Manager**.

Matt joined the Niguel Shores staff in 2009, and while many residents know him for his work on communications, landscape, information technology, view preservation, and *niguelshores.org*—not to mention fielding everything from vehicle access questions to coordinating committee meetings—he's no stranger to the Architecture Committee itself. Matt sat in on AC meetings from 2014 to 2021 as Staff Liaison, and has filled in on architectural administration over the years as needed, giving him a solid foundation as he steps into this interim role.

We are well equipped to handle the Architectural Committee's duties during this transition, and the team is working hard to ensure it remains smooth and seamless for all homeowners with projects in review. Please join us in welcoming Matt to this expanded role as he helps guide homeowners through the architectural review process.

—John E. Chis

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Seashore News Award

The *Seashore News* has been recognized as an outstanding community newsletter by **Neighborhoods USA**. Our print edition was a finalist in their nationwide newsletter contest. Congratulations go out to all those who help to create and distribute our "award-winning" newsletter each month.



Welcome Aboard

We welcome **Karey Palmer** to the Communication Committee. She's been writing *Seashore News* Women's Club articles for the past three years, plus contributing feature stories like last month's "Lifeguard" article that so many people enjoyed. Karey brings a positive outlook and fresh, forward-looking ideas to the committee that will help our newsletter and website remain relevant and interesting for the whole community.

—Sandy Homicz

EVENTS COMMITTEE

THIRD THURSDAY—EXTENDED INTO SEPTEMBER!

September 17 from 5:30 p.m. to sunset at the Bluff

- Live music, sunset views and time with friends and neighbors
- No admission charge
- Come down, grab a spot and enjoy one more Third Thursday!



COUNTRY MEETS THE COAST—BOOTS, BAND & BBQ!

September 6 starting 5:00 p.m. at the Bluff

- **LIVE MUSIC:** Five-piece country band Big City Hillbillies.
- **LINE DANCING:** Dust off your cowboy boots and grab your hat!
- **BBQ:** Shores grills will be fired up for you to BBQ your own food.
- **ADMISSION:** FREE!
- **RESERVED TABLES:** Large tables \$150; Small tables \$120
- **Table reservations help offset the cost of the band and festivities while keeping admission free for everyone.**
- **NO TABLE? NO PROBLEM!** The grass area is open to everyone at no charge. Bring your own chairs or blankets and enjoy the music.
- **Reserved tables may be selected and paid in the Niguel Shores office while availability lasts.**



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Watch your inbox for an upcoming **Community Survey** via email blast. We're looking for resident feedback as we—

- Explore fresh ideas for the holiday season.
- Begin planning the 2027 events lineup.
- Find out what you love—and what you'd like to see next!

—Events Committee

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Turf Reduction—Members of the Landscape Committee are happy to report that the Turf Reduction Project has been completed. As water rates increase, our new areas with drought-resistant plants should be a benefit to our community. We will continue to replace plants throughout the community implementing the new plant palette as our budget allows.

Clubhouse Planting—The Clubhouse landscaping project continues. You will be noticing those changes in the coming weeks. This area is designed to complement the other newly planted areas around the Clubhouse. The project was approved and included in our 2026 Landscape Committee budget.

Volunteers Needed—We depend on our community volunteers to identify areas of concern in their assigned areas. The following areas need representation:

- Sea Terrace Townhomes I
- Sea Terrace Townhomes II
- Selva & Coast Highway
- Clubhouse and Community Park

Join Us—The Landscape Committee is looking for additional members. The committee meets the second Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m. for approximately one hour. Members regularly inspect the landscaping in their assigned areas of the community and provide a brief report prior to the meeting. Committee application forms are available in the office or on the Niguel Shores website at niguelshores.org.

—Landscape Committee

MAINTENANCE

September has arrived, bringing some of the year's best weather and a little more space at the beach for all of us to enjoy. As we continue to make the most of our beautiful amenities and open spaces, please remember to be safe and considerate of those around you. It has come to our attention that some of our facilities aren't being used quite as intended lately. For instance, the Bocce Ball courts are specifically for bocce only, so we ask that you refrain from using them as a dog run or a place to lounge with towels. Similarly, while our multi-use court is great for many sports, please avoid hanging on the basketball hoops—we have a wonderful new rope jungle in the play area designed exactly for that kind of fun!

With the growing popularity of E-bikes, we've noticed more people riding through the park, behind the tennis courts, and even on the grass at the Bluff. For everyone's safety, please keep the riding to the streets and off our greenbelts. We also had a neighbor share a story about children playing on the handicapped pool lift chair while parents

were nearby. The lift is a very expensive and essential piece of equipment, so we kindly ask parents to keep a close eye on their little and big ones. It's important to remember that we are all responsible for the safety and actions of our children within the community.

On a much more positive note, the Committee is thrilled to congratulate our very own **Al Glatt** for winning **Volunteer of the Year**! Al truly goes above and beyond for our community, and we are so lucky to have him. When you see Al, or our talented maintenance staff who work so hard to keep Niguel Shores looking beautiful, please be sure to give them a warm thank you for everything they do.

—Geoff Dunlevie

COMMITTEES—WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE

Niguel Shores committees are composed of homeowner volunteers who help with the running of our community. They report directly to the Niguel Shores Board of Directors. Their volunteer work enables Niguel Shores to keep HOA fees low, and to assure matters are handled in the best interests of the community. Committees welcome new members who may have experience or talents beneficial to the committee's specific work. Applications are available in the office.

Architecture Committee

Chair: John Chis

Meetings: 9:00 a.m., 1st and 3rd Monday of the month

Communication Committee

Chair: Sandy Homicz

Meetings: 10:30 a.m., 1st Friday of the month

Events Committee

Chair: Joy Justus

Meetings: 12:00 p.m., 2nd Tuesday of the month

Finance Committee

Co-Chairs: Jim Eckstaedt & Jeff Goldfarb

Meetings: Vary

Landscape Committee

Chair: Vicki Sheff

Meetings: 9:00 a.m., 2nd Tuesday of the month

Maintenance Committee

Chair: Art Staudenbaur & Phil Salzman

Meetings: 9:00 a.m., 3rd Thursday of the month

Rules Committee

Chair: Bob Russell

Meetings: Vary

View Preservation Committee

Co-Chairs: Kathy Jones & Dianne Young

Meetings: 12:00 p.m., 3rd Monday of the month

Clubs and Contacts

If joining a Niguel Shores special interest club appeals to you, reach out to one of these key people or leave them a note in the office to contact you. This is a great way to meet neighbors who share a common interest with you.

Book Club

Frances Ozimec, Lisa Buchner, Steve and Ann Morris

Bridge

Bob and Betty French, Mike Oliva

Garden Club

Marietta Hannigan, Judi Palladino

Historical Club

Mary Crowl, Heather Harding, Emily Beck

Men's Club

John E. Chis, Geoff Dunlevie

Water Aerobics

Frances Ozimec, JoAnne Webb

Women's Club

Joy Justus, Catherine Bitran

Writer's Club

Sandy Homicz, Mary McKay, Sharon Stewart

ANNOUNCING A NEW CLUB

THE NIGUEL SHORES HISTORICAL CLUB

Open Membership – Join Us

Membership in the Niguel Shores Historical Club is open to everyone interested in the unique history of our community. You are invited to join the club as a Founding Member and enjoy special events and programs, like last April's Champagne Legacy Tea or the upcoming Historical Happy Hour. Membership dues support our mission to collect and preserve the history of Niguel Shores.

Membership Fees and Form

Annual Membership in Niguel Shores Historical Club is \$25 per person / \$30 per family. Pick up a membership form in the office.

Stay in Touch

Our email is NSHistoricalClub@gmail.com for questions and/or more information about our activities, events, and quarterly programs.



Historical Happy Hour with Richard Henry Dana!



Our fall event for members is a **Historical Happy Hour** on **October 20** in the Clubhouse from **4:30 to 6:30 p.m.** with refreshments and a special visitor from the 1800s—the sailor who inspired our city's name.

Bob Minty, local maritime historian and Dana Point Historical Society Board Member, will appear as **Richard Henry Dana**, namesake of our city and author of *Two Years Before the Mast*. Minty's dramatization immerses us in R. H. Dana's 1834 trip from Boston to California on the brig *Pilgram*—a vivid tale of adventure and discovery that is sure to interest all ages.

RSVP for the **Happy Hour** by sending an email to NSHistoricalClub@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing all interested residents on October 20 for this unique event.



CLUBS

MEN'S CLUB

At the August 4 Men's Club meeting **South County Water District Directors Bill Green and Rick Erkeneff**—both long-time Men's Club members—hosted SCWD senior district staff to discuss the upcoming **Dana Point Desalination Plant**.



SCWD speakers at Men's Club in August.

Assistant General Manager and Chief Engineer **Marc Serna** presented long-term project plans, with construction beginning this year. Finance Director **Erica Castillo** confirmed secured grants and loans provide solid funding, and she explained anticipated subscriber cost increases over the next three years. General Manager **Rick Shintaku** outlined cost-sharing negotiations with local water districts and noted potential water sales to non-participating neighboring cities.

During the Q&A, NSCA Board Vice President **Steve Stewart** noted that our association's recent water cost increases significantly exceed the roughly 10% annual hikes presented by SCWD. In response, Mr. Shintaku expressed surprise and immediately offered to meet with our NSCA Board to review our costs and explore potential adjustments.

For our evening meeting on August 18, our scheduled speaker, **Senator Tony Strickland**, was called to Sacramento for a vote. So, we seamlessly shifted to the park for a fun evening of shuffleboard, cornhole, and bocce. **The Baker/Glatt Cooking Team** provided a wonderful spread, ensuring a great time for all.

September Evening Meetings

Our September line-up features evening meetings, starting at 5:30 p.m. As an added bonus, we are extending a warm

invitation to spouses, Niguel Shores residents, and guests.

- **September 1**—OC Lifeguards Chief **Jason Young**, who grew up in the Shores, will discuss his role managing life-guard operations and administration for OC Lifeguards, which oversees the beaches in closest proximity to Niguel Shores (Salt Creek, Strands, and Monarch Beach).
- **September 15**—We welcome **John Gabbard**, **Dana Point Mayor** and Men's Club member, who will provide an update on current city developments and the latest on the Harbor Redevelopment.

—Geoff Dunlevie

GARDEN CLUB

A New Club Year Takes Root

While the rest of the calendar insists the year is winding down, ours is just getting started. Welcome to a brand-new Garden Club year—fresh soil, fresh ideas, and (fingers crossed) fresh tomatoes to brag about next August!

Of course, a new year doesn't just happen on its own. Like any good garden, our club doesn't just happen either. It's tended, season after season, by the members who show up, dig in, and help things grow. And right on cue, September marks the start of another club year doing exactly that.

We'll meet on **Monday, September 14 at 11 a.m.** in the **Clubhouse** with a full preview of what's ahead: a month-by-month look at the speakers, workshops, and special events we have planned for the year. It's the perfect chance to mark your calendar before the season gets away from us. In addition, we'll be joined by **Launa Gould**, a District leader of California Garden Clubs, Inc. who'll discuss the history of garden clubs in California and the positive impact they've had on communities throughout the state.

Whether you're a longtime member or just getting your hands dirty for the first time, September's meeting is the place to start. Come reconnect with fellow gardeners after the summer, hear what's growing this year, and get inspired for the season ahead. See you on September 14.

Membership

New members are always welcome—no gardening expertise required! **Dues are \$35 per year and guests are \$5.** To join, sign-up forms are in the Niguel Shores office.

—Judi Palladino



Launa Gould of California Garden Clubs presents award to our former Garden Club President Nadine Allen.

CLUBS

WOMEN'S CLUB

There's a Place for You at Niguel Shores Women's Club

The Women's Club is open to all Shores women—and we'd love to welcome new faces as well as returning members as we begin our new club year this month.

We are a group of approximately 140 residents ranging age from our 40s to 100 (yes, really!). We are homeowners and renters, longtime Niguel Shores residents and brand-new neighbors, women with children and grandchildren and women without. We are married, single and widowed. **In other words, there is no one "type" of Women's Club member. There's a place for you here.**

Our annual membership is \$125, which includes monthly catered luncheons with time to socialize plus presentations from interesting speakers. This year, we have an incredible lineup of speakers, along with plenty of opportunities to get out, have fun, and meet other women in the community.



Women's Club painting at Harwood House.

Women's Club September Social Event



ART CLASS — IMPRESSIONS OF THE COAST

Tuesday, September 15 or 22

11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

at

THE HARWOOD HOUSE
34100 Amber Lantern

\$55 includes materials and instruction.

Guests leave with a finished painting to enjoy.

Refreshments available for purchase.

RSVP to your Evite. Call Karey for details: (949) 330-3450

We also offer a variety of optional social activities—think community outings, art classes, movies, holiday celebrations, wine get-togethers and more. Participate as much or as little as your schedule and interests allow.

Let's Have Lunch

We are kicking off our **2026–2027 year** on **Thursday, September 10**, with a catered luncheon, **noon to 2 p.m.** in the **Clubhouse**—and **YOU ARE INVITED!**

Not sure you're ready to join? Come meet us first! Walking into a new group can be intimidating, so we invite you to **try us out** on **September 10**. For a \$25 visitor fee to cover catering, you can attend the luncheon, meet some of our members, and see what the Women's Club is all about. We'll make sure someone is there to welcome you, introduce you around, and help you feel comfortable.

Whether you've lived in Niguel Shores for decades or just unpacked your boxes, the Women's Club is an easy way to meet more of the wonderful women who live right here in our community.

Come and get a little more connected to Niguel Shores. We'd love to have you!

If you want to join, or attend the September luncheon, or learn more, please contact our Membership VP, **Catherine Bitran**, at (310) 614-4431 or catherinebitran@me.com. **RSVP** no later than September 3 for the September luncheon. **We hope to see you there!**

—Joy Justus

THE HISTORY OF OUR BELL

Editor's Note: Many thanks to our Historical Club for the following stories from Niguel Shores archives giving the history behind our El Camino Real bell.

Have you stopped to investigate the cast iron bell located near the entrance to our tennis courts? There is a fascinating story behind that bell. Briefly . . . it was one of the original bells installed up and down California's first highway, El Camino Real (Royal Highway), in the early 1900s. It was donated to Niguel Shores by **Dale Baltimore**, founder and first president of the **Men's Club**.

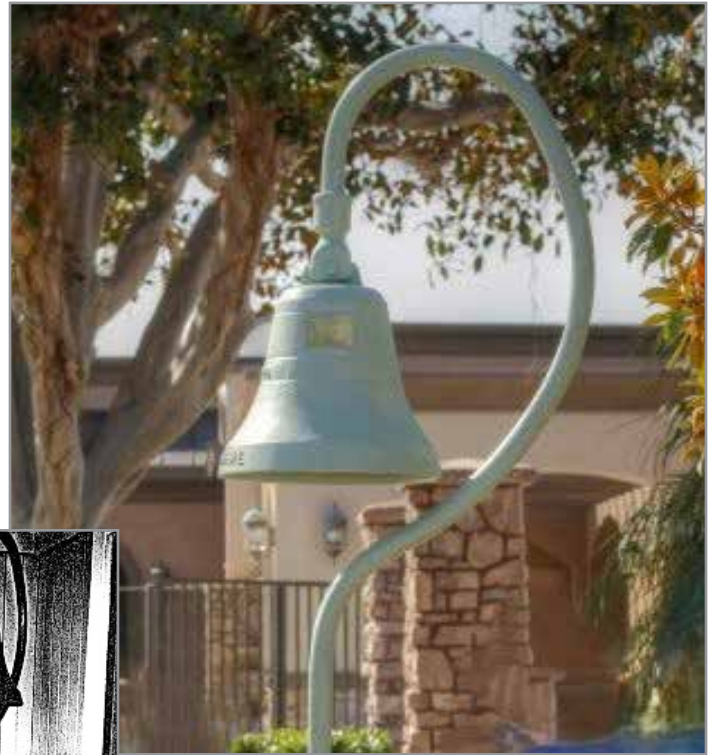
—Karl Kuhn (December 2016)

The year was 1892. Mrs. Anna Pitcher initiated an effort to mark the route of California's first highway, El Camino Real (Royal Highway or Kings' Highway), the highway from San Diego to Sonoma linking 21 missions founded by Father Junipero Serra.

Mrs. A.S.C. Forbes and the California Federation of Women's Clubs adopted the initiative and decided to mark the route with distinctive bells. Mrs. Forbes designed the 85-pound cast iron bells. The bell has the dates 1796 and 1906 and A.S.C. Forbes copyright notice. The 1796 date refers to the founding of the first mission and the 1906 to the placement of the first bell.

The first bell was unveiled in 1906 at the Plaza Church near Olvera Street in Los Angeles. Between the years of 1906 and 1913, the installation of 450 bells marked the route of the original highway. Due to relocation and rerouting of the highway, most of the original 450 bells had disappeared by 1933 when the State of California took over maintenance of the bells. In 1960 the State began a restoration program, installing new bells that are fabricated using the original 1906 molds.

Dale Baltimore, founder and first president of the Niguel Shores Men's Club, owned one of the original bells. In memory of Dale and Helen Baltimore, the Baltimore family gave the bell to Niguel Shores in 1995. It was first installed by the old club house and later moved to its present location near the tennis courts.



Dale Baltimore in 1995 with the original El Camino Real bell from 1913, the year Dale was born. Dale passed away in 2003, when he and the bell were both 100 years old. His memory goes on here in Niguel Shores thanks to his donation of the historic bell.

2013 [was] the centennial year for the bell. There was a plaque on the supporting pipe to commemorate its first installation in 1913. After 100 years, the old bell was in need of a little refurbishment. The Niguel Shores Maintenance Department wanted the bell to celebrate its one hundredth birthday with a fresh new look. The bell and its support pipes were brought to the maintenance shop where several layers of paint were removed. The plaques, which were difficult to read, were acid washed and polished several times and then waxed with a special monument wax. George Cooley even worked the small details with an electric tooth brush. Some welding repair was necessary on the support pipe. The original paint specification was researched and found to be available from Dunn-Edwards. A professional painter was hired to apply the paint. The bell has been reinstalled by the tennis courts, looking as good as new and ready for another hundred years.

—Jack Christiansen (December 2012)

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

No need to search beyond our gates for something to do. Our clubs and individual residents' activity groups offer many ways to get together, have some fun, use your talents, and be involved in something interesting right here at home! Are you looking for a game of Poker or Mahjong or Bridge? Are you a budding artist? Have you ever thought of writing something? Or are you looking for a night out with friends? This page is for you ...

WATER COLOR SESSIONS

at Meg Wilson's

33601 Windjammer Drive

Mondays from

6:30 to 8:30

No painting skill or equipment required.

We provide paint/ paper/ brushes/ books to guide your work.

Come and discover your inner talent!
RSVP if coming (714) 742-4387



RESERVE A SPOT NOW and
STEP OUT FOR FUN IN OCTOBER

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO WRITE?

You may not call yourself a "writer" but you may have a story to tell, or knowledge to offer, or memories worth sharing. If you'd like to put these into printed form for family, friends, or the public, we invite you to visit the writing group that meets on Tuesday afternoons twice a month in Niguel Shores.

We are **California Writers Circle**, and have been meeting since 2010 to read, discuss, and offer suggestions on improving each other's work. Our members include Niguel Shores residents Mary, Sandy, Sharon and Steve plus others from outside the community. Some individuals are published authors, others are writing for their own enjoyment. All levels and interests are welcome to visit a meeting and see if writing is something you'd enjoy. For more information, send an email to CaliforniaWritersCircle@outlook.com.



Our members' works appear in several anthologies available on Amazon.

Women's Club

Sunset Happy Hour



Thursday, October 1 — 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
at DANA POINT YACHT CLUB

\$45 covers grazing table and 2 glasses of wine.
Additional beverages for purchase.

Respond by September 24:

Send \$45 via Venmo@Carey-Smith-25
or Drop off a \$45 check to 23792 Hobart Bay
Refunds will not be available.

Men's Club

OKTOBERFEST

Don't miss this ever-popular night of German food,
drink, dancing, and oom-pa-pa enjoyment!

Saturday, October 10 — 5 to 8 p.m.

Tickets \$20 per person

Order online at <https://oktoberfest.niguelshoresmensclub.org>

Questions: Eric Eckes (949) 887-8285

Niguel Shores Men's Club

Oktoberfest 2026

Saturday, October 10th
5:00pm to 8:00pm
Clubhouse

~ German Food & Beverage ~
~ Live German Music & Dancing ~

Tickets: \$20

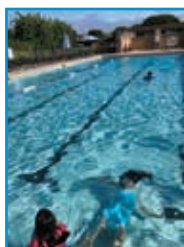
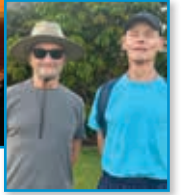
Order Online:
<https://oktoberfest.niguelshoresmensclub.org>
Questions: Call Eric Eckes @ (949) 887-8285



AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Summer in the Shores

Summer 2026 brought plenty of chances for outdoor fun, water sports, arts and crafts, and grand celebrations. There were neighborhood get-togethers, grand parties, food trucks, barbecues, and sunset gatherings at the Bluff. Here are some memories—but you can see lots more, plus a wonderful video covering our 4th of July, in the galleries posted on niguelshores.org.



ACTIVITIES

BRIDGE

September is named for *septem*, a Latin word meaning “seven,” and is the seventh month in the Roman calendar. However, we know it from the Gregorian calendar as the ninth month—a time when we celebrate Labor Day and school is back in session.

Stop by the Clubhouse on Wednesdays this September if you are interested in joining our Bridge group. We welcome new players.

Our recent winners:

July 22: The ladies are at it again. Taking first place by a large margin was Patty Hollis; in second was Mary Biegel; in third was our Arizona vacationer Carolyn Goldberg.

July 29: The clubhouse was in use by someone else, possibly more important than our Bridge group.

August 5: Bob French, husband of our fearless leader Betty, came i first; Muriel Kraszewski was secone; Glenda Wilson rounded it out at third.

August 12: Terry Liebman secured first; his wife Patti was close behind at second; Mr. Bob Ruben secured third.

If you are interested in playing Bridge woth us, please call Bob or Betty Frence at (949) 312-2556. We start at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and are done by 2 p.m.

—Mike Oliva

PAGE TURNERS

Our book club resumes monthly discussions in September, beginning this month with *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamall. This novel won the most votes of all 24 books in our recent voting to choose the nine books we will read this season. Set in Iran, the choice is probably very appropriate considering the present happenings in that part of the world. One reviewer wrote: “The novel explores the intertwined yet divergent lives of two Iranian girls as they grow into adulthood and experience different social classes, political leanings, and dreams. Spanning from 1950 Tehran through the 1979 Iranian Revolution to the US in 2022, the novel is a textured but hopeful exploration of the bonds of friendship and loyalty among women, the shaping influence of class and culture, and how the changes in government have impacted Iranian women from 1950 onward. Other themes include jealousy, guilt, and redemption and the protectiveness of mothers.”

If you are interested in joining the book club, you are welcome to contact one of the coordinators for more information. We have three groups all reading the same book each month. One group meets the fourth Monday afternoon



of the month and the other two groups meet the fourth Thursday afternoon. For the Thursday groups, contact **Steve and Ann Morris** at samwrsi@cox.net or **Lisa Buchner** at lisa-buchner47@gmail.com. For the Monday group, myself at fozimec@cox.net. New members are always welcome.

—Frances Ozimec



CUISINE CORNER – PIZZA!

Editor's Note: Seashore News is doing a “Pizza Crawl” to investigate pizza options in our local area. We welcome your input, too! If you have a favorite pizza place or want to comment one the ones we report, send a note to SeashoreNews@hotmail.com.

We begin with Dana Point's **aPizza Doho** on PCH. Did you know that at least six individuals build your pizza in the kitchen at **aPizza Doho**, and six to ten more at the front of the house prepare the pizza for eat-in or take-out dining?

To learn who oversees the preparing, baking, and serving, meet **Marcos Costa**, owner. New Jersey born, he began his restaurant career at age 16 as a dishwasher. By college, he was waiting tables and planning a move to California, where his hospitality career began at the Ritz Carlton. Over the next 30 years, he built his experience as managing partner working with David Wilhelm in restaurants at Pelican Hill, Fashion Island and locally at Glasspar Sea Food.

Marcos' dream to own his own restaurant came true in 2022 when he and two partners purchased a closed restaurant on PCH. His goal of bringing a “New Haven” pizza to Dana Point materialized, and this month marks four years at **aPizza Doho**.

The restaurant's reputation grew quickly based on a welcoming staff and its unique pizzas, combining a home cooking style with colorfully named pies. Co-owner and chef **Chris Christian** created over a dozen unique pizza choices, including specials such as Vampire (with extra garlic) or Bee Sting (with hot honey). As an ode to surfers, there is Southwest Swell or Endless Summer. The current favorite is Burrata, “light, fresh with garden tomatoes, Burrata cheese and garlic oil.”

As dough stretchers and sauce preparers work in the kitchen, two staffers in the front tend the hot oven that holds up to twelve pizzas, while another prepares to move those pizzas to platters or boxes. Costas has as his team goal, “to give you great pizza and have you enjoy it.”

Hot Tip: The Monday Special offers ½ off pitchers of beer, ½ off wine, and ½ off the Burrata, Margherita or aBeetz pizza (in -house or take out). Plus there are great salads and desserts too. Try the Tiramisu!

—Susan Courtney

PICKLEBALL

Is Padel a Threat to Pickleball Ascendancy?

I am sure, like me, many of you have heard of Padel, a fast-paced sport that shares elements with squash and tennis that is mostly played as doubles. In countries like Mexico, where padel was founded, it is among the most popular sports, of course after Soccer. Countries in Europe and Africa, where there are virtually no Pickleball courts, Padel has taken hold. So, is there an existential threat to Pickleball's growth in America?

No, not for another decade or so. So long as the Boomers exist, Pickleball is not going anywhere. Last year, over 24 million Americans played Pickleball, according to the US Tennis Association (USTA), up from about 4 million in 2020. That's a phenomenal growth.

While last year, Padel drew one million players domestically, according to USTA. However, USA Padel, the sports governing body in America, said its club and individual memberships grew by about 50% YoY in 2025. The demographics primarily comprises GenZs, Zellinals and Millinials to some extent while the Boomers continue to embrace the low barrier to entry of Pickleball and the game's light banter, camaraderie and loads of fun in the Kitchen.



Not to be outdone, some Padel clubs have saunas and bars on the sidelines and the sport has its own social aspects that are attracting lots of young people. For 20-and-30-year-olds, who prefer to live in big cities, Padel courts are proliferating in places like LA, NYC, Miami, Philly, etc. In our neighborhood, San Clemente has a few padel courts. It's a fun sport, so go and hit Padel in San Clemente or even in Laguna Woods.

Notwithstanding the hot and humid weather, Picklers of the Shores continue to crowd our beautiful Pickleball courts and form long lasting friendships even across state boundaries with our summer birds from Arizona!

—Tarun Anand

WATER AEROBICS

You'll find a group of fitness-minded residents exercising in the pool each weekday morning from 9 to 10 a.m. with various residents leading the water aerobic routines. It's fun, and healthful, and all are welcome to join in. H2O Aerobics with Dippy Dolphins MWF / H2O Aerobics with Music TTH.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Sunday
	1 8:00 Men's Club 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor)	2 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor) 10:30 Bridge	3 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor) 10:00 Women's Club Board Meeting	4 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor) 10:30 Commun- ication Committee	5
					6 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Country Hoedown Music BBQ
7 Office Closed No Construction Labor Day	8 9:00 Landscape Committee 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor) 12:00 Events Committee	9 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor) 10:30 Bridge 6:00 NSCA General Session Board Meeting	10 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor) 12:00 Women's Club Luncheon TENNIS COURTS CLOSED 12:00 to 3:00 PM for Cleaning	11 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor)	12
					13
14 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor) 11:00 Garden Club AC DEADLINE – 12:00	15 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor) 5:00 Men's Club 1:00 Historical Board Meeting	16 9:00 Rules Committee 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor) 10:30 Bridge	17 9:00 Maintenance Committee 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor) 5:30 Third Thursday Live Music at the Bluff	18 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor)	19
					20
21 9:00 Architecture Committee 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor) 12:00 View Preservation Committee	22 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor)	23 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor) 10:30 Bridge STREET SWEEPING	24 1:00 Page Turners TENNIS COURTS CLOSED 12:00 to 3:00 PM for Cleaning	25 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor)	26
					27
28 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor) 1:00 Page Turners 4:00 Finance Committee AC DEADLINE – 12:00	29 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor)	30 9:00 H ₂ O Aerobics (No Instructor)	NSCA BOARD and LIAISONS to NSCA COMMITTEES PRESIDENT: Marietta Hannigan – Architectural, Events 1st VICE PRESIDENT: Steve Stewart – Architectural, Maintenance 2nd VICE PRESIDENT: Craig Bushnell – Landscape, View Preservation TREASURER: Joy Sowell – Finance, Rules SECRETARY: Steve Rhorer – Communication		
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ACCOLADES FOR SHORES “KIDS”



From Niguel Shores Neighbor to Golf Cart Entrepreneur

Some of the best success stories start right in your own backyard—and that is certainly true for **Cole Schamber**, owner of **South County Carts (SC Carts, Inc.)**, with locations in Dana Point and Costa Mesa.

Cole and his family—Rhonda, Geoff, and Taylor Dunlevie—moved to Niguel Shores when he was turning 13. By age 16, Cole was tinkering, learning, and falling genuinely in love with everything about these electric vehicles, and in Niguel Shores that passion found a natural home.

He began helping neighbors and friends maintain and customize their carts, turning the family garage into an informal repair shop that quickly became the go-to spot for anyone on the street with a cart that needed attention.

What started as a hobby fueled by curiosity and hard work gradually grew into something much bigger. With steady encouragement and support from family and friends, Cole turned that garage operation into an actual business—one built on the same values that made neighbors trust him from the start: honest work, genuine knowledge, and real care for the people he was helping.

Today, **South County Carts** is Southern Orange County’s premier privately owned dealership for new and pre-owned Low-Speed Vehicles and golf carts. The company carries top brands including Bintelli, Activ EV, and Voyager, and serves communities across Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, Dana Point, Laguna Beach, and the surrounding coastal areas. Beyond sales, SC Carts offers full-service repair, transport, accessories, and financing—a true one-stop shop for everything cart-related.

What sets South County Carts apart from other dealerships is the same thing that drew Cole’s first customers to that garage in Niguel Shores: no corporate pressure, no hidden fees, and someone who actually knows what he’s talking about. Cole keeps his business privately owned so that every customer is treated like a neighbor, because, for many of them, that is exactly what they are.

This year SC Carts proudly supported Niguel Shores **250th 4th of July Celebration** as a **Gold Level Sponsor** with a generous **\$3,000 donation**. He also provided golf cart transportation for the **Women’s Club Home Tour** in April. His willingness to give back to the community where he grew up is a reflection of the strong connection he continues to have with our community.



Cole Schamber at opening day of South County Carts, and in earlier days with mom Rhonda Dunlevie.



For those of us who watched Cole grow up in Niguel Shores, there is something especially rewarding about seeing where that early passion has led. His journey from a neighborhood kid tinkering in the garage to a successful Dana Point business owner is a story worth celebrating.

Congratulations, Cole. Niguel Shores is proud of you—and we look forward to seeing where your hard work and talent take you next.

—Patti Staudenbaur

Not Your Typical Day at the Beach

Forget lying in the sand under a shady umbrella or chasing waves at the shoreline. Last month **Maisie McPherson, Caroline Lavayen, and Caden Midkiff** spent their beach-time competing in the rigorous **Alcatraz Sharkfest Swim** in San Francisco, swimming over 1.5 miles in



Caden, Maisie, and Caroline

the chilly open waters of San Francisco Bay from Alcatraz to the mainland. Maisie finished third in her age group and Caroline ninth. Maisie and Caroline grew up on the beach here in Dana Point, spending summers in Junior Guards. The parents of these three amazing swimmers are

Karen and Dave McPherson, Cathy and Al Lavayen, and Elle and Dave Midkiff. They all agreed it was a fun race, but were relieved when it was over—and no sharks in sight.

—Sandy Homicz

DANA POINT THIS MONTH



MARITIME FESTIVAL AND CELEBRATION OF TALL SHIPS

Friday, September 11 - Sunday, September 13

Ocean Institute

24200 Dana Point Harbor Drive

Tall ships, marine life, local vendors, food trucks, beer gardens, kids' activities, sailor reenactors! The Maritime Festival has been a beloved community event for the past 42 years, celebrating Dana Point's rich maritime history. For more information, visit maritime-fest.org/.



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Properties Sold	12
Avg. Sold Price	\$4,210,000
Avg. Price Per Sq Ft (sold)	\$1,924.08
Avg. Days on Market:	27

Data per CRMLS as of 8/12/2026



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