Published Monthly by Niguel Shores Community Association
December 1999

Issue 315



FROM

THE

HELM

In this, the last issue of the 1900's, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I wish you a most happy holiday season and a marvelous upcoming New Year. The last year has been very eventful with several projects initiated and some completed. There is still quite a list of priorities to be addressed and completed in the next year and beyond. We look forward to your help.

In the last issue, I made quite a point that a voter's registration form would be included with the Seashore News. Unfortunately most of these forms were missing somewhere in the office (the refurbishment again). This issue should have a voter registration form attached to all newsletters delivered here in the Shores. Even if you have only moved across the street, re-registration is required. I also found out this year, the hard way, that requesting a registration change when you get a new driver's license is not guaranteed to bring results.

You have all received your copy of the 2000 budget and the news on the dues for next year. Too often during the year people miss their payments by a few days and face penalties. Please remember that the dues are due and payable on specific dates. The notice that you receive quarterly is **NOT** a bill. It is only a courtesy reminder. Those of you who utilize the Internet for writing your checks (e.g. Bank

@Home) can actually schedule your bank at the beginning of the year to make these payments automatically on time and save you the pain of a late fee penalty.

Have a GREAT Holiday Season!!

NSCA Board President Andy Boush

No Open Board meeting this month.

STREET SWEEPING MONDAY, December 6

You are requested to have your vehicles off the streets and out of the parking bays. This will allow the sweeper to do a better job.



NOVEMBER BOARD ACTIONS

- Appointed Dick Beaubien as Chairperson of the Maintenance Committee.
- Authorized staff to obtain a contract with A&Y Company, Inc. to repair road/storm drain on Mariner Dr., near Niguel Rd. Cost for the work is \$7,700.
- Accepted the Finance Committee's recommendation to use Robert A. Owens, CPA, for the 1999 audit and tax returns, costing \$3,500.
- Appointed Jerry Milner as Chairperson of the 2000 Nominating Committee for Board candidates.
- Authorized staff to consider other phone companies to provide a pay phone at the Community Center. Pacific Bell has decided to remove the phone because it does not generate enough revenue.
- Accepted Ian Ross' resignation from the Communication Committee.
- Appointed Peter Rask to the Communication Committee.
- Set the 2000 NSCA budget at \$1,900 per home; set the Sea Terrace II Extraordinary Assessment at \$245.49 per home; and set Breakers Isle Extraordinary Assessment at \$458.22 per home. The Board then authorized staff to mail a copy of the adopted budget(s) to the proper homeowners before November 15.

- Authorized staff to have a pine tree on Atlantic Dr. at Tasman Bay removed because of the receipt of a violation notice issued by San Diego Gas & Electric. The tree prevents SDG&E from replacing one of their transformers with a crane. Further, a new 24 inch box pine tree is to be obtained and planted near the existing location.
- Authorized staff to obtain the standard *Instructor's Agreement* from Doris Adams so that she can conduct a watercolor painting class in the MPR for the benefit of NSCA residents. The Recreation Committee supported the watercolor painting class' use of the MPR.

There is an opening for an area representative for the Atlantic Garden Homes area on the

NSCA Landscape Committee.

If you live in this area and would like to apply for the volunteer position, please stop by the NSCA office

and pick up an application.

If you would like to visit a committee meeting first and see how it works, please call Julie in the NSCA office to make arrangements.

TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE

The numbers are changing. The day shift 6:00am to 2:00pm at the Mariner Drive entrance gate, and the swing shift 2:00pm to 10:00pm are equally busy. Peak hours are 8:30am, 12:30pm and 4:30pm. Approximately 500 vehicles use the Mariner Drive entrance gate during each shift, each day of the week. Friday is now the busiest day of the week. How do we know this? The gate sentries actually count each vehicle entering the community.

To those of you who believe the gate sentries are not always busy, read the above. Then, add that to assisting visitors in the guest lane, handwriting each pass, keeping logs, making out reports, and answering the phones during each 8 hour shift — alone. It is a wonder they ever have time to sit down or take a quick bathroom break!

We continue to have many incidents of fence jumping at the beach and the Community Center. In addition we are only aware of those incidents actually witnessed and reported by the patrol officer. Each act puts the Association at risk for potential liability. Please, use your access devices.

The Board is making a concerted effort to enforce Rule 6405 (vehicles with decals cannot park on the street between 11:00pm and 6:00am) in the interest of safety. Emergency personnel fear the streets will not be accessible in the event of a disaster. If you have more vehicles with decals than you have parking spaces, please contact the NSCA office for a parking waiver.

Remember, every vehicle entering the community must have a decal, permit or pass – and that it must be visible to the patrol officer. If not, your vehicle is subject to being towed.

Please take a Notice of Violation citation seriously. Do not repeat violations. Take immediate steps to contact the NSCA office, or take other necessary action. We are here to assist you.

The Traffic and Safety Committee is busy reviewing means of future access control at all gates (both vehicle and pedestrian) in and around the community. The Board has asked for recommendations. If you have any thoughts, please submit them via the Homeowner Request Form system. The committee would be happy to consider your suggestions. Have a safe and happy holiday. Don't drink and drive.



There were eleven Homeowner Requests submitted for November. At the time of the Landscape Committee meeting, six had been completed.

The yearly tree trimming will be completed by the end of November.

The Association received a Violation Notice from SDG&E. SDG&E now has exact rules as to how close you can landscape by their utility boxes. Under these rules we will be removing the large flax at Niguel Road and Stonehill and one pine tree at Tasman Bay. A 24-inch box pine will be planted as close to this area as the rules allow. We hope to improve the area with some plants, such as, flax, geraniums and rhaphiolepis.

This is Dick Wendt's planting status as of October. The Atlantic Garden Homes areas first phase of a three-year planting plan are complete for 1999. Phase two will be done in early 2000. November planting included planting materials on many of the slopes, miscellaneous plants, and 12 tree replacements per contract. Loads of mulch were added to many garden beds.



RECREATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

CHRISTMAS TRAINS

Train lovers of all ages are once again invited to the home of Marion and George Evans to see the Lionel trains set up for Christmas. They will be ready for viewing December 12 through January 7. Cookies and milk will be available for the kids. Please call for a time: 661-3248.



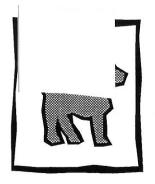
CHRISTMAS GOODIES

Our gardeners, gate and patrol officers make Niguel Shores a more beautiful and desirable place to live. Each year at Christmas residents donate homemade or purchased cookies, candies, breads and cakes as gifts to them. If you plan to give bread or cake, please wrap the pieces individually so they will not break during packaging. Baked goods with soft icing will not package well. Each gardener, gate and patrol officer will receive an assortment of delicious items.

We will be packaging the boxes on Tuesday, December 21. <u>Please bring your goodies to the community center office on Sunday, December 19 or Monday, December 20, or before noon on Tuesday December 21.</u>

Your generosity and support for this community project is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please call Bette Quinlan at 493-9478.

Last year donations were sparse. We hope that you will remember to give baked goodies this year. Thank you!



ANIMAL CONTROL

NSCA enforces certain sections of the OC health, sanitation and animal regulations, including the requirement that an animal be controlled on a leash in the common areas, and while being controlled, the animal shall not be permitted to defecate in the common areas. Should an animal do so, the owner is to immediately remove the evidence. It is disturbing that residents use the greenbelts as a "doggy park" for this purpose. Equally disturbing is the fact that dog owners allow their dogs to relieve themselves on the toys, equipment, and ground cover in the Tot Lot a number of times every single day.

If your animal is restrained on a leash, there is <u>never</u> any reason the animal should be in the Tot Lot.

Our children, infants and toddlers play in the Tot Lot! Please, help protect the health and safety of our children. Keep your animals on a leash in the open areas and keep them completely away from benches, tables, toys, and the Tot Lot!

<u>DANA POINT</u> <u>CITY COUNCIL TV</u> TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

START AT 6:30pm REORGANIZATION MEETING



INFORMATION DECLARATION

Please contact the NSCA office and update your **Information Declaration** whenever your information changes. We must have current household residents' address, and telephone and all vehicle registration information for our database in order to assist you.

Updating your Information Declaration takes just minutes, but can save us hours or save you an unproductive trip. Your Information Declaration can be updated in person or by mail or by fax. We may be able to help you by phone if you use your PIC.

Let us work together. Your cooperation is appreciated.



ART AFFAIRE 1999

Over 150 art lovers turned out to view and purchase the artwork of 20 of our local artists on November 7. Sales were excellent this year, with the show turning a profit of over \$700, out of sales of almost \$4,000. Included in the profit was \$385 from the sale of one of Buck Ewing's paintings. Fran Ewing donated the proceeds of this sale to a Buck Ewing Memorial Fund.

People's Choice awards went to: Frank Turner for Best in Show, Fred Holland, First Place; Pat Desmarais, Second Place; Kay Wittmack, Third Place and Honorable Mention went to Doris Adams, Leslie Rankin, and Carroll Cox.

Now is the time for all artists to begin preparing for next year's show which will again be held in November.

NEW RESIDENTS WELCOME ORIENTATION

All new residents (owners and tenants) are invited to attend an orientation and meeting, presented by the Board of Directors of NSCA and the Recreation Committee. This is a social activity with an emphasis on the ADVANTAGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LIVING IN A COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION. We hope to see you on Saturday, January 22 at 4:00 pm.

WEDNESDAY NOON BRIDGE

Come for fun! Our Christmas party will be held on Wednesday December 8, at 11:00 am. For reservations call Dorothy Knauf at 240-3998.

Winners from mid-October to mid-November were:

OCTOBER 20

1^{ST}	Joan Sullivan
2^{ND}	Gaye Vaughan
3^{RD}	Margaret Costello

OCTOBER 27

1 ST	Irene Nylund
2^{ND}	Mary Apramian
3^{RD}	Gaye Vaughan

NOVEMBER 3

1^{ST}	Doug Campbell
2^{ND}	Gaye Vaughan
3 RD	Helen Campbell

NOVEMBER 10

1^{ST}	Margaret Costello
2^{ND}	Frieda Baskin
3^{RD}	Joan Sullivan

NOVEMBER 17

1^{ST}	Mary Bethard
2^{ND}	Adele Shanta
3^{RD}	Marie Milliker



PAGE TURNERS

Page Turners will not be meeting in December. We hope that all of our members have a happy holiday season!

Our next meeting will be on January 17. at that time we shall review *The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe* or *Voyage of the Dawn Treader* or a book of your choice by C. S. Lewis.

If you have any questions, please call Marilyn Pappas, 496-7072, or Phyllis Tezer, 496-4710.



WRITER'S GROUP STARTING IN JANUARY 2000

If you enjoy writing, then this is the group for you. Even if you have never written a word on paper, we can help you get started. This group is for people who are just beginning, or are more advanced.

We will meet on Tuesday January 11, 2000 from 10:30 am to 12:00pm. Bring anything you have written for discussion and fun.

For more information and location, call Irma Slage at 234-0052.



The NSCA office cannot process or respond to anonymous requests. Please do not submit unsigned letters.

They will be discarded.

The Homeowner Request Form system should be used for all such requests. Your name is not released if you are complaining about a neighbor, but at least

resident of NSCA.
Your cooperation is appreciated.

we know the request came from a



FOR NIGUEL SHORES RESIDENTS

Fitness Class-

Men and Women 9:00 am to 10:00 am Mon., Wed., Fri., at the MPR \$50 per month (12 lessons) or \$6 per class. Call Ian Harris at 497-1282 for details.

Tennis Lessons-

Adults, all levels Monday 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm Wednesday 9:00 am to noon Friday 9:00 am to noon and 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm NSCA Courts. For fees and times, call tennis pro, Jennifer Lyons evenings at 489-1734.

Water Aerobics-

Men and Women 10:00 am to 11:00 am Mon., Wed., Fri., at the Pool. \$28 monthly or \$3 per class. Call Ceacy Johns at 493-8355 for details.

Water Color/Drawing lessons

Men and Women Tuesdays 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. \$10 per 3-hour session. Call Doris Adams at 493-4445 for location and materials needed.

NSCA OFFICE CLOSED IN EARLY DECEMBER

As many residents are aware, the office has been undergoing remodeling work for the last several months. This long project is about to be concluded with repainting and the installation of new carpet and new furniture. To accomplish this final work, the office will have to be closed for a few days.

Check the signs at the Community Center on December 1 for the specific dates this work will occur. Currently, we expect to move the files and furniture out on December 2 and shall move back the new furniture and files on December 6 in time for the Mens Club meeting on December 7. The staff will spend December 6 setting up their workstations and reorganizing the office. The office staff will be temporarily relocated to the Community Center MPR, but will only be able to perform limited tasks for residents. You may be directed to return after December 8 to complete any requests you have made because staff may not have access to the necessary documents.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our staff, we want to thank residents for their patience while the above work proceeds.

Letters are welcome and limited to 200 words typed. Including name, address and phone number of writer. Refer to NSCA Rule #5221,2,3 and 4. Submissions due on the 15th of the month.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

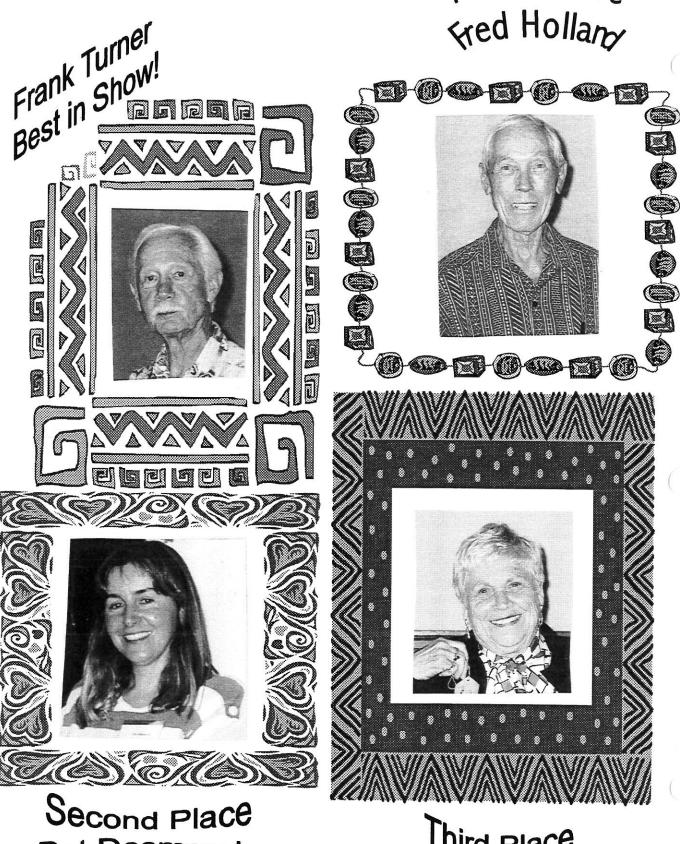
"THANKS"

My recent hospitalization, once again demonstrated, the widespread friendship and personal caring nature of so many people in Niguel Shores. The many phone calls to Mary with expressions of support and hope and prayers for my well being and quick return home were and are greatly appreciated. The countless greeting cards that were sent to me were a very welcome highlight of each day.

Too often sometimes, we tend to consider only our relatives, neighbors and some others in a close circle of friends among those that will sincerely offer spiritual support and to help in any way that they can. It is indeed humbling to realize how many dear friends we have in the Shores. Thank you one and all.

George & Mary Williams

First Place Kred Holland



Pat Desmarais

Third Place Kay Wittmack

WOMENS CLUB NEWS

There will be no monthly meeting in December. We will celebrate the season with our annual Christmas party on Thursday, December 9, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the multi-purpose room of the community center. The telephone committee will contact members.

Marian Pearl has arranged another great outing for the morning of Wednesday, January 19, when we will have a docent tour of the Orange County Performing Arts Center followed by a luncheon at the Center Club in Costa Mesa. Further details will be available in the January Seashore News. Please call Marian at 493-9500 if you are interested in the tour and did not sign up at the November meeting. We will carpool to the Performing Arts Center.

At the November meeting the membership approved a modification of the bylaws to change our fiscal year from May 1-April 30 to July 1-June 30. Dues are \$5 per year.

Our January meeting will provide a special treat. Our program will be presented by a talented couple, pianist and vocalist, who will perform delightful and satirical selections for our amusement.

On Thursday, December 2, the board will meet at 3:00 pm in the MPR to decorate the community Christmas tree. Any donations of ornaments will be joyfully accepted.



WOMENS GOLF

We did it! "Golfin' in the Rain"... In November.... Or some of us did. And we had some winners: low gross- Margaret Banerian; low net –Peggy Bucci and Betty Lewis, a tie; low putts- Margaret Banerian; closest to the hole-Terry Scott; longest drive- Judy Boitano; and winners of the Mystery Game – Liz Kelsch and Gretchen Rask.

As you can tell, this bunch of ladies will have a good time, whatever and whenever. We invite all Niguel Shores women golfers and would—be golfers to join us. A phone call is all it takes.

December festivities include golf on Monday December 13, to be followed by luncheon served at the Fountains at Sea Bluffs. If you have not signed up for golf, please contact Carolyn Hughes (489-0643) or Joan Beyer (496-1428). To attend the luncheon, your check for \$16.80 must be in Gretchen Rask's hands by December 6. Questions about the luncheon should be addressed to Peg Bucci (496-5134). Rain?!?...Duh...we will have a Christmassy good time anyway.... join us.

Save the Date of December 9

The Womens Club will host their annual Christmas party

Community Center Thursday, December 9 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

All Mens Club members and their ladies are invited to attend. Each Womens Club member is asked to bring a plate of hearty hor d'oeuvres.

Finger foods

No Dips Please

There will be no regular Womens Club meeting in December.

MENS CLUB

The Mens Club will meet on the first Tuesday of the month, December 7, and the following Tuesday evening, December 14, for the annual Christmas Dance. There will not be a meeting on Tuesday, December 21.

Come join us for breakfast on Tuesday, December 7, when members of the Dana Hills High School Choir will be with us to help kick off the Christmas holidays with carols.

Toys for Tots: please remember to bring and unwrapped gift, value of \$10 or more, to the meeting on December 7.

All men in the community are invited to participate in the Mens Club. If you are not a member, please come and visit us. Be our guest and sample the club fellowship.

MENS CLUB GOLF

The second round of the Mens Club championship was played at Fallbrook. Format for the tournament was 1-2-3 and first team winners were Bob Enger, John Flynn, Bob Gutknecht and Mickey McLaughlin. Second place team was Joe Sanders, Bob Converse, Jack Sweeney, and George Freundlich. Third place honors went to Lee Writer, Bob Scott, Bob Munz and Hal Therolf. Closest to the pin was Bob Gutknecht and Carl Printz.

The next challenge was Meadow Lake. Only four players shot under 100. All the rocks on the course caused this phenomenon. In any case, winners in "A" flight were George Allaman and Bob Munz. In "B" flight, it was the original sandbagger Jack Sweeney and second was Bob Borland. In "C" flight, winners were Jack Christiansen and John Buehler. There was no closest to the pin, that is, no one got on the green!

"Anytime a golfer hits a ball perfectly straight with a big club, it is in my view, a fluke."

Quote from Jack Nicklaus.

NIGUEL SHORES MENS CLUB ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BALL

This year our annual event will be held at El Niguel Country Club on Tuesday December 14 For information, call Club President Jack Sweeney 661-5924.



LIBRARY NEWS

Children's Library: December will feature a very joyous season of events. Mrs. Santa Claus will bring in the holidays on December 9 at 4:00 pm with a holiday sleigh project, a puppet show and music for the after school bunch. Be sure to sign up as craft programs get filled fast.

Holiday Story times: Story times will continue on Wednesdays at 10:30am for toddlers and pre-schoolers through December 22.

"The Holidays, a Very Magical Time" will feature professional magician Tony Daniels on Wednesday, December 15 at 7:00 pm.

These programs are free. For questions or sign-ups, call the library at 496-5517. 'Tis the season for thanks to the Friends of Dana Point Library who sponsor all our children's programs.

Library Bookstore: The annual Christmas Book Sale is being held on Saturdays, December 4 and 11. There are gift books, Christmas books, children's books, best sellers and other books of singular interest. A silent auction will be running at the same time with a choice selection of books for you to bid on. Christmas shopping is easy here and most economical! Happy holidays from the Friends of the Dana Point Library! Bookstore phone: 489-3956.

Dana Point Library 33841 Niguel Road Dana Point, CA 92629 949-496-5517



NEIGHBORHOOD ADS

FOR RENT- Select one week in 2000 season at Indian Wells condo. Have deluxe one-bedroom unit, sleeps 2-4, and includes full kitchen, TV/VCR. No pets, no smoking. Refundable \$50 deposit; \$600. Call 760/568-2998.

FOR SALE– Portable Spa, two person. Like New. \$750. Call Chuck Kelley at 496-1588.

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

Deadline to turn in articles for the January 2000 issue of the Seashore News is December 15, 1999.





EFFECTIVE MONDAY - DECEMBER 7,

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CODE (PIC) IS MANDATORY

TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH NSCA OFFICE OR MARINER DRIVE GATE.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DECLARATION TODAY!



SEASHORE NEWS DECEMBER 1999



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BUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
***The NSCA	N'S GREE Office will be tem e MPR while we pair nain office. 12/3 th	porarily nt, carpet and	9:00 Fitness Class 10:00 h2o Aerobics 11:45 Noon Bridge 2:00 Mens Tennis 11:30 NSCA Open Board Meeting.	8:00 Ladies Tennis 10:00Craft Class 1:00 ACC Meeting 3:00 -MPR Womens Club Christmas tree Decorating @MPR	3 *** No Fitness Class 10:00 h2o Aerobics	4 ***
5 ***	6 *** Womens Golf NO Fitness Class 10:00 h2o Aerobics NO Recreation Committee Mtg. STREETSWEEPER	7 8:15 Mens Club Breakfast 10:00 Traffic & Safety Committee	8 9:00 Fitness Class 10:00 h2o Aerobics 11:00 Noon Bridge Christmas party 2:00 Mens Tennis	9 8:00 Ladies Tennis Womans Christmas Party -MPR 5:00pm to 7:00pm	10 9:00 Fitness Class 10:00 h2o Aerobics	11
12	13 Womens Golf Fun Day @ the Fountains 9:00 Fitness Class 10:00 h20 Aerobics 1:00 TVB Cmte. 3:00 Landscape Committee	14Mens Club Christmas Ball at El Niguel Country Club 1:00-4:00Art class	15 9:00 Fitness Class 10:00 h2o Aerobics 11:45 Noon Bridge 2:00 Mens Tennis No NSCA BOARD Open Meeting	16 8:00 Ladies Tennis 1:00 ACC Meeting	17 9:00 Fitness Class 10:00 h2o Aerobics 2:00 Finance Committee	18
19 MPR-7:00pm Niguel Shores Christmas Caroling Party	20 Womens Golf 9:00 Fitness Class 10:00 h2o Aerobics	21 * NO Mens Club Breakfast 1:30Communication Committee 1:00-4:00Art class	22 9:00 Fitness Class 10:00 h2o Aerobics 11:45 Noon Bridge 2:00 Mens Tennis	23 8:00 Ladies Tennis	24 Christmas Eve NSCA Business Office Closed Clerk on duty 9am-5pm	25 Christmas Day Community Center Closed All day
26	27 Womens Golf 9:00 Fitness Class 10:00 h2o Aerobics NO TVB Committee	28 1:00-4:00Art class	9:00 Fitness Class 10:00 h2o Aerobics 11:45 Noon Bridge 2:00 Mens Tennis		31 New Year's Eve NSCA Business Office Closed Clerk on duty 9am-5pm	Are you Y2K Compliant?

^{*}Please bring your baked goodies to the Community Center office on Sunday, December 19 or Monday, December 20 or before noon on Tuesday December 21. Residents will be assembling boxes of goodies for the Gardeners, Gate and Patrol Officers.

November 1999									Janu	ary	200)	
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28	29						23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

NSCA DIRECTORY

NIGUEL SHORES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 33654 Niguel Shores Drive, Monarch Beach, CA 92629 (949) 493-0122 Fax (949) 831-0116

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NSCA STAFF

Andy Boush
Gerlinde Duffy
Charles Clark

President
1" Vice President

2nd Vice President
Secretary

Don Johnston Secretary

Jerry Milner Chief Financial Officer

Rob Cochrane General Manager
Lyv Hsia Controller

Ivy Hsia Controller
Linda Hill Community Relations Manager

Julie Brigham Jamie Derr

Brett Rogers

Administrative Assistant Receptionist

Maintenance Manager

NSCA COMMITTEES

Architectural Control Communication Finance Landscape Maintenance Recreation Traffic & Safety Tree View Blockage

CHAIRPERSONS

George Williams
John Dickerhoff
Dick Mackaig
Janet Mackaig
Dick Beaubien
Don Beaver
Larry Coffing
Carroll Cox

MEETINGS

1:00 pm, 1" & 3rd Thursday
See Calendar
See Calendar
3:00 pm, 2nd Monday
9:30 am, 1" Friday
12:30 pm, 1" Monday
10:00 am, 1" Tuesday
1:00 nm. 2nd & 4th Monday

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Sea Terrace Townehomes Assn. I
George Evans, President
Don Beaver, 1" Vice President
Skip Eissfeldt, 2nd Vice President
Patty Therolf, Treasurer
Lydia Reeve, Secretary

Sea Terrace Townehomes Assn. II
George Traver, President
Ed Adams, 1" Vice President
Norman Browne, 2" Vice President
Frieda Baskin, Secretary

Womens Club
Dee Johnston, President

Mens Club Jack Sweeney, President

SEASHORE NEWS

Myron Miller, Treasurer

Published monthly by the Niguel Shores Community Association and distributed without charge to the members as a means of keeping residents informed of NSCA Board actions and community activities and to encourage participation in community affairs.

Editor in Chief - John Dickerhoff
Editorial Staff - Communication Committee
Word Processing/Layout - Julie Ann Hess
Collating - Shirley Smith
Distribution - Dan Johnson

The Communication Committee expends all reasonable effort to confirm the accuracy of statements in the News, but assumes no responsibility for errors, omissions of fact or use of material that might be offensive in some way.

Contributions from NSCA committees, NSCA member organizations and individual members are welcomed. Submissions due on the 17th of the month.



DANA POINT WATCH

THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER





Winter 1999

Volume VIII, Issue 4



Happy Holidays



I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season and thank you for your hard work and support during 1999. As we prepare for the new millenium, I am looking forward to the year 2000 with equal enthusiasm!

Lieutenant Paul Ratchford, Chief of Police Services

This holiday season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers, and pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else, but chiefly because it's an opportune time for crime.

If a stranger comes to your door, beware...

Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts. And it's not uncommon for people to try to take advantage of others' generosity during the holidays by going door to-door for charitable donations when there's no charity involved. Ask for identification, and find out how the funds will be used. If you aren't satisfied, don't give. Help a charitable organization you know and like instead.

Last but not least, don't let holiday stress get the best of your holiday spirit. Make time to get together with family, friends, and neighbors, and think about reaching out in the spirit of the season and helping someone who's less fortuate or lonely. Do your part to make the holidays a safe and happy time for everybody—except criminals.

If you are shopping...

- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Deter pickpockets and pursesnatchers. Don't overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- You should always carry a recent photo of your children whether you're headed across town or across country in case a search becomes necessary.
- Teach your children to ask a store clerk for help if you become separated while shopping. Never let your child go to a public restroom or to a parking lot alone.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. When possible, pay for purchases with checks or credit cards. Notify issuers immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen, or misused.
- If you must shop at night, park your car in a well-lit area. If you are alone, ask a security guard to accompany you to your car.

Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

The holidays are a special time of year, but they are also a time when busy people become careless and may be especially vulnerable to theft and other crimes. Help make your holidays safe and happy. Take a minute from the rush to read these tips:

- Lock your car and close the windows, even if you are gone only a few minutes.
- Lock your packages in the trunk of the car.
- Wait for rides in busy, well-lit areas.
- If someone tries to rob you, don't resist Give up your property, not your life.
- Your beautifully decorated Christmas tree surrounded by wrapped gifts is inviting for burglars too.

 Don't leave your home unattended with your tree and

with your tree and gifts on display through a window.

Safe driving tips for cellular phone owners

Safety and security. These are two top reasons why people own cellular phones. But, while you may use a cell phone to report car trouble, crimes, or medical emergencies, you need to be a safe driver first.

A National Public Services Research Institute study shows a driver's concentration level drops 20 percent when dialing a phone: and 33 percent when involved in a complicated conversation. Here are some tips that can help minimize distractions and increase your safety while on the road:

- Be alert to all traffic conditions and road hazards before answering or making a call.
- Ask a passenger to place the call for you. If alone, use the memory dialing function or pause between digits rather than dialing the entire phone number at once.
- Reduce your speed or pull off the road to a safe location while on the phone.
- If driving in dangerous weather or heavy traffic use your voice mailbox option to pick up all incoming calls.
- Never attempt to write while driv-
- If your conversation is intense, make the call only when parked.

Remember that driving safely is your main priority when you're behind the wheel. Drive defensively and obey all traffic laws.

Source: Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association.



Tree Tips

Some pointers you need to know about choosing and caring for a Christmas Tree.

Test for freshness: Gently grasp branch between thumb and forefinger, then pull it toward you. The tree is fresh if few needles come off in your hand. Also check around bottom of tree for dry brown needles.

After tree is home: Store it in a bucket of water in a sheltered, unheated area such as a porch or garage. Protect tree from sun and wind until you're ready to set it up in the house.

Before placing in stand: Make a fresh, straight cut about 1/4 inch up from original cut. This removes the sap seal from the bottom of the trunk and allows the tree to absorb water.

Safe decorating: Keep tree from all heat sources, including vents, televisions and fireplaces. Test electrical cords and outlets before hanging lights on tree. Unplug lights before leaving house or going to bed.

Water frequently: A tree will absorb over a gallon of water in the first 24 hours and a quart a day thereafter. Consistent watering will prevent the tree from drying and becoming a possible fire hazard.

Bright Ideas for the Holidays

- Buy only lights with the UL label
- Before using, check all tree lights for frayed cords, loose connections, broken sockets, etc.
- Replace, don't repair, damaged electrical cords.
- Keep your tree in water and your light cords out of water.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree; use colored directional lights instead.
- Don't' plug all your extra lights into one socket.
- Turn off lights when you leave the house or go to bed.
- Attach outdoor lights with hooks.

- Don't hammer nails or tacks through cords
- Don't string outdoor lights when it's wet outside.

In memory of Rick and Dotti Foth

This issue of the Dana Point Watch is dedicated to the memory of Rick and Dotti Foth. The Foth's were longtime Dana Point residents living in Niguel Shores. They perished in the crash of EgyptAir flight 990 along with the other passengers and flight crew.

Rick Foth was very active as a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain in the Niguel Shores community. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of the Foth family.

The Holidays... a time for moderation

By Ron Kennedy

The holidays are a time of joy for m of us, a time for families to join together to celebrate. We commonly find ourselves celebrating at family gatherings, company Christmas parties, etc. Many of these celebrations involve the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

It is important to remember that if you are going to drink alcohol, please drink responsibly! If you are going to be drinking use a designated driver or take a cab. Please don't drink and drive. Don't let this time of joy and celebration turn into a time of tragedy!

> Happy Holidays From the entire staff of Dana Point Police Services

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