

Seashore News



February 2020

Published Monthly by Niguel Shores Community Association

Issue 554

NIGUEL SHORES Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY 4

8:00 a.m. **Men's Club
Breakfast** with Steve
Kuykendall of Fisher House

FEBRUARY 13

12:00 Noon **Women's Club
Luncheon** with Seashore
News and Friends of DP
Library

FEBRUARY 17

**Garden Club
Mission SJC Trip**

FEBRUARY 18

8:00 a.m. **Men's Club
Breakfast** with Brian
Maryott, San Juan
Capistrano Mayor

MARCH 12

12:00 Noon **Women's Club
Fashion Show Luncheon**
Reserve Now

MARCH 17

5:30 P.M. **St. Patrick's Day
Party**

APRIL 24

**Women's Club Home Tour
and Lunch** Tickets Available
Soon

To place announcements of
upcoming events, send information
to seashorenews@hotmail.com by
the fifteenth of the month before
the event.

FROM THE HELM



Master Recreation Ad Hoc Committee members describe suggested recreation amenities at the Resident Roundtable.

Revetment Project

As we have previously reported, Orange County is seeking a **Coastal Development Permit (CDP)** from the California Coastal Commission to repair the Revetment protecting the slope by our Beach Bluff and the Breakers Isle homes.

The California Coastal Commission hearing on the Niguel Shores Revetment Project is scheduled to be heard in February. The exact date was unknown at press time, but watch our Niguel Shores website at www.niguelshores.org for further news. Details are available on the Coastal Commission's website www.coastal.ca.gov.

Volunteer of the Year

The NSCA 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to **Suzanne Enis** at the



Residents view picture boards and details of possible recreation amenities.

Volunteer Appreciation event on January 7. We congratulate Suzanne for earning this award and we extend a great big THANKS for all her hard work and dedication to our community over the years.

Resident Roundtable

We had a large turnout at the **Resident Roundtable**

on January 8 to view exhibits and provide feedback regarding possible future recreation amenities for our community. At this early stage, the **Master Recreation Ad Hoc Committee** is not evaluating cost or feasibility, just interest. Based on resident feedback, the Committee's next step will be to prioritize features and begin to develop a formal proposal to present to the Board.

At the Resident Roundtable, the Master Recreation Ad Hoc Committee invited

Continued on page 4

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GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Annual Meeting and Election – Call for Candidates:

It's that time again! We need to begin preparing for the Niguel Shores Community Association Annual Meeting and the annual election of NSCA Board members.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. This year the terms of Directors Dick Kichline, Bob Russell and Jeannie Sticher are concluding, so there are three (3) positions open for election. The term of office is two years and meetings are currently held once per month.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a Board candidate, the first step is to complete the Nomination Form (Call for Candidates) that is enclosed in this issue. Return the completed form to the NSCA Office by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 27.

Consider Becoming Involved: Everyone realizes that Niguel Shores is probably the best community in Dana Point. If you recognize what a wonderful community you live in, are committed to keeping Niguel Shores the "hidden jewel" that it is and even making it better, you may want to consider running for a position on the NSCA Board. Consider the following:

- **Do I have the time?** Serving on the Board takes a small commitment of time. Board meetings are conducted once per month on the second Wednesday and usually last around four hours. Email communication with Board members is done on a regular basis so computer literacy is an important asset. During special projects, you may need to spend a minimal amount of additional time on Association business. Finally, board members are generally assigned as the liaison to NSCA Committees and those meetings are important to attend.
- **Can I make tough decisions when it's required?** The primary role of the Board is to conduct the business of the Association. This doesn't just mean approving the budget, but also developing and enforcing policies.

Board members are required to step outside their immediate circle of family and neighbors and make decisions based on the greater good of the community.

- **Can I do all this and have fun, too?** It isn't all about policies and tough decisions. Our community is only as good as we make it, and establishing and maintaining a sense of community is a part of a Board member's responsibility. Planning and attending functions and being a presence in the community are as important as any policy decisions you may make.

Being a Board member can be frustrating at times, but it may also be one of the most rewarding ways you will find to volunteer your time. If you are interested in running for the Board or would like more details about Board's responsibilities, please contact me at mmiller@niguelshores.org or contact a current Board member.

Gas Company Work—Periwinkle: The Gas Company has been working along Periwinkle Drive for some time now installing a gas main line pipe and service lines to various homes. They have completed 8 service lines with 23 remaining lines to be installed. At this time, they have not encountered any difficulties during the installation of the service pipe and are hopeful this will continue. If all goes as planned, this phase should be done by mid to late February, not including the paving portion.

Office Closed—No Construction: The Management Office will be closed on Monday, February 17 in observance of President's Day and there is no construction allowed on that day. In the event that you need immediate assistance during the time when the office is closed, please contact the Gatehouse (949) 487-4185 for assistance.

*Wishing All Of You A
Very Happy Valentine's Day!*



—Marla Miller

The Seashore News would like to hear from you! Send your comments and suggestions to seashorenews@hotmail.com

GENERAL EDITOR: Sandy Homicz

Geoff Dunlevie (*Maintenance*)

Kathy Newport (*Distribution*)

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ASSISTANT EDITORS:

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Matt Northrop (*Website/Advertising*)

Gary Tinnes (*Cuisine/Photos*)

Mike Harrod (*Committees*)

Bob French (*Bridge Club*)

Frances Ozimec (*Page Turners*)

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Patti Staudenbaur (*Clubs/Activities/
Meet Neighbor*)

Brenda Gino (*Women's Golf*)

Jim Pinola (*Bridge Club*)

Kent Wellbrock (*Emergency
Preparedness*)

REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS:

Terry Link (*Women's Club*)

Michelle Ralph (*Features/Spotlight/
Meet Neighbor*)

Meg Wilson (*Features/Spotlight/
Photos*)

Maria Elena Banks (*Recreation*)

Dick Kichline (*From the Helm*)

Jenny Rose (*Tennis*)

PHOTOS THIS ISSUE:

Steve Barrett (*Pickleball*)

Karl Kuhn (*Garden Club*)

Bob Russell (*Men's Golf*)

Mary Kay Gutknecht, Sandy Homicz,

Susan Davis, DVM (*Pet Parade*)

Marla Miller (*NSCA GM Report*)

Norton Schwartz (*Really Serious
Book Club*)

Terry Link, Patti Staudenbaur,

Dan de Neve (*Library*)

Tim Murphy (*Traffic and Safety/
Cuisine*)

Gary Tinnes, Meg Wilson

everyone to view and make suggestions about what Niguel Shores might need in the way of added, removed, or replaced recreational amenities. The committee had previously sent a demographic household survey to the community, researched trends/options and added the suggestions from the July Resident Roundtable, which they presented on picture boards with details listed for all to view. These were only ideas and suggestions, but they represented hours of research on the part of committee members. Some of the suggestions for amenities included:

- new ball sports practice wall to replace existing cement handball
- new regulation size basketball court
- new gas BBQ where existing ping pong table is now
- new bocce ball court(s) in current volleyball area
- new fenced off-leash dog park for residents only
- new outdoor exercise equipment area near children's park
- new playground equipment for older children
- new playground equipment for younger children
- new putting green outside community park
- new shaded picnic area with coal BBQ and tables outside pool and tennis area
- new fenced and shaded splash zone for small children separate from pool area
- new water fountain at pool with refillable water bottle station
- replace current basketball/handball/volleyball courts
- additional shade, seating, and storage for tennis and pickleball courts
- key fob gate, acoustic absorbing fencing, permanent nets for pickleball court

All these suggestions, with photos and more details, can be viewed on the Niguel Shores website at www.niguelshores.org.

Feedback forms were made available at the Resident Roundtable and also in the Clubhouse Lobby and on the Niguel Shores website so anyone interested could register an opinion or add suggestions through January 24. The committee is now looking over the feedback and continuing their research in order to move ahead with plans.

Many thanks to committee members **Gary Wilson, Tim Williams, Paul Neuvirth, Bob Farnsworth, Mike Link, Penni Buff, Lydia Reese, Debi Berk, Rhonda Dunlevie, Jessica Wright, Rebecca Russell, Jeannie Sticher** and **Lynn Bushnell** for all their work so far and for their excellent presentation at the Resident Roundtable.

—Dick Kichline

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

The **Architecture Committee** has the responsibility to apply the Architectural Regulations and Guidelines as set out in the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs) that govern all properties in the Niguel Shores Community Association. The committee is charged with approval or disapproval of homeowners' requests to develop vacant lots, add new structures, modify existing structures, and make any other exterior improvements or modifications.

Committee members **Pat O'Brien, Mike Link, Pat Pearson, Linda Curie, and Wendy Cubbon** were extremely busy this past year reviewing 204 applications that were submitted by homeowners. (This includes 166 applications for replacement of existing items; 19 applications for improvements; 17 applications for remodels.) There were 187 replacement or improvement projects and 13 remodels completed in 2019.

—Karen Decker

RECREATION

The Recreation Committee is gearing up for a full list of fun activities this year. It is Valentine's month so be sure to celebrate with your loved ones.



Don't miss our upcoming March event:

St. Patrick's Day—Tuesday, March 17, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mark your calendars for our annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration on the Clubhouse patio. Come and join us for a fun evening of our popular corned beef and cabbage sandwiches—and green everything.

—Maria Elena Banks

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Heads up! Be sure you're prepared for the V-I-D (very important day): February 14, Valentine's Day. Time to share feelings of love and gratitude with loved ones and special people in our lives. Just a Valentine's Day greeting, or card, or flowers will do—OR something from the jewelry store. Get on it!

Here's another "Heads Up" of a different preparedness: Have you been asked to pay to see your legal public documents? If you've received what looks like an official letter notifying you that a document relating to your real property has been recorded at the county recorder's office, you **SHOULD BE WARY!** If it instructs you to pay an exorbitant fee to receive a copy of your deed, **DO NOT PAY.** If you have a Family Trust, for example, and

COMMITTEE REPORTS

have regular updates on changes in federal and/or state tax laws from your estate planning/professional law corporation, they should be providing you with copies of any documents they have added or modified. Regardless, the County Recorder's Office can always send you more copies for a small fee.

SO, where are these letters coming from?

Under California's Public Records Act, government agencies legally have to provide anything within the public record to any party who requests them. Some companies have been using this in a way that doesn't fall within normal "business ethics" but is legal nonetheless. They are continually running requests with the county recorder's office to receive notice of any new documents recorded, and then using the information they receive to send out MISLEADING notices.

Keeping you informed and up-to-date is normally a process your Trust administrator does for you, at no extra cost, and one of the key reasons you have contracted with them to oversee the many legal aspects of your Trust. YOU DO HAVE A TRUST, DON'T YOU? And remember, not all Trust/Estate Planning organizations are equal in the service they provide. You get what you pay for. Just getting a binder with The Family Trust name on it, does not ensure it was done with the proper detail and services you need.

Let's say you purchased new property and need to register it in the name of your trust. Your Trust administrator should prepare the deed and have it recorded at the County Recorder's Office. You DON'T need to pay additional fees from another source to get a copy of your recorded documents. You also don't have to have a Trust administrator to accomplish this if you feel you can manage this on your own.

The theme here is "Don't be taken advantage of by a third party." BTW, legal or scam, solicitations like this go well beyond paying a fee for something as outlined above. BE AWARE. If it doesn't smell right, do some follow-up to verify and be vigilant.

—Kent Wellbrock

COMMUNICATION

Our **Niguel Shores Website** www.niguelshores.org is your best resource to help you stay informed and get the most up-to-date information about what is happening in our vibrant community. This month when you log on, you will learn about improvements the **Ad Hoc Master**



Recreation Committee is considering changes to the community amenities. In addition you will find:

- Updates from the NSCA Office
- Community Events and Meetings
- Board Actions and Information
- Homeowner Request Forms
- Guest/Service Provider Gate Login
- NSCA Photo Galleries
- Dana Point City Resources
- Dana Point Library Information

Finally, the website is also a wonderful resource for accessing current and past issues (1973-2019) of our award-winning newsletter, the *Seashore News*. Please note, if by chance you do not receive your issue, or you are out of town and want to catch up, you can always access the newsletter online at www.niguelshores.org. Check out the latest issue of the news online—we look great in color!

—Patti Staudenbaur

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CLUBS

WOMEN'S CLUB

Members and guests met for our winter wonderland luncheon in January to start off the ROARING 20's New Year! We noted the purpose of our club—*Fun, Friendship, and Service*—and announced the special events coming up this year: Valentine's Day Luncheon, March Fashion Show, Spring Home Tour, Mother's Day Luncheon, June Tea, and July 4th Hot Dog Event. Welcome to our new members **Roxanne DiMaggio, Alice DiIorio, Margie Eckes, Dee Gruenig, and Randa Memo**. We look forward to getting to know you!

After a delicious array of salads prepared by our members, our first featured speaker, **Sandra Andrews** from Dana Point's



Women's Club 2020 new members at the January luncheon.

Age Well Services and **Meals on Wheels**, spoke about the Senior Services they offer. Age Well's goal is to make sure no senior in need goes hungry by providing vital nutrition programs. They serve daily nutritious lunches at the Senior Center in Dana Point where many dine with new found friends. Their Meals on Wheels program delivers three nutritious meals a day to seniors who are living at home with little or no assistance to obtain adequate meals. Sandra shared opportunities to become involved with Meals on Wheels as drivers or participants in the program.

Our second speaker, **Mike Lipscombe**, joined us from the **Fisher House** at Camp Pendleton—a unique private/public partnership supporting America's military and its families receiving medical treatment at a military hospital. Fisher House offers a "home away from home" to stay at no cost. Mike said, "The relationships with family members are part of

the therapeutic process and the program truly recognizes the special sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform—and also the hardships on their families." The Women's Club will soon be collecting food items to help fill the Fisher House pantry.

At our next luncheon on **February 13**, we will continue

our tradition of sharing Valentine's Day greetings with our tablemates. Members, would you please bring 8 to 10 sweet valentines for this special event? We will also have a box to collect extra valentines to bring to one of the local Alzheimer units in town. Our luncheon speakers will be **Sandy Homicz**, presenting a history of the *Seashore News*, and **Lisa Buchner**, sharing information on Friends of the DP Library.

Our **Outside Activity for February** is a trip to the **Safari Animal Park** in Escondido where seniors over 65 have free admission during the month of February. (See details in the Outside Activities announcement on this page.)

We invite all interested ladies of Niguel Shores to join us for one of our monthly luncheons, which are always fun and informative. Please contact **Jennifer Paige** at jopaige@aol.com or **Judi Palladino** at twopalls@yahoo.com for more information on membership in Niguel Shores Women's Club.

—Terry Link



Members enjoy lunch and a tour of the Capistrano Mission.

Niguel Shores Women's Club Outside Activity For February

EVENT: Safari Park in Escondido and lunch at the Kijami Overlook

DATE: February 20, 2020 TIME: 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Please meet in the Clubhouse Parking Lot at 9:30 a.m. and we will break out into carpools. We will drive to Escondido and enter the Safari Park where all seniors over 65 have free admission for the month of February. We'll have brunch/lunch first at the Kijami Overlook where entrees cost \$18. Then, we will enjoy the sights on the Africa Tram, see the platypuses and other Aussie animals at the Walkabout Australia, wander through Tiger Trail and take a stroll around Mombusa Lagoon. We will return to the Clubhouse parking lot at 2:00 p.m.

RSVP: By February 18th, if interested, please call Tina (949) 375-5663 or Terry Link (949) 212-2004. This will let Tina Fornadley (go4itre@gmail.com) know you will be carpooling/joining with us. Thank you!



CLUBS

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club meets each first and third Tuesday from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Breakfasts are excellent, thanks to our five cooking teams. Heading up the breakfast teams in January were **Rob Wollin** and **Steve Morris**, and **Al Glatt** and **Bob Baker**. For a mere \$5, members enjoy a full meal of eggs, breakfast meat, fruit, a muffin, juice and coffee.



The Men's Club has a long history in Niguel Shores. Shown here is one of our past presidents, George Schramm, with our current president, John Yocca.



Wollin-Morris Breakfast Team.

In addition to a great breakfast, there is a speaker for every meeting. January 7 featured Orange County Battalion Fire Chief **Bob Feldtz** who educated members about fire service for Orange County and the many other services provided beyond controlling fires.

January 21 welcomed **Dan Rapinski** who told of the adventure, grit and danger of land sailing "yachts," racing them over flat terrains at great speeds with no brakes!



Families helped by Fisher House

Steve Kuykendall will address our group on Tuesday, February 4, speaking about the **Fisher House Foundation** that builds comfort homes next to medical facilities where military and veteran's families can stay free of charge while a loved one is in the hospital. They have centers around the world and have served thousands. February 18 will feature Republican **Brian Maryott**, currently mayor of San Juan Capistrano, who will run for the U.S. Congress 49th district.



Brian Maryott, SJC Mayor

Please join us. The Men's Club is happily welcoming new members. Dues are \$25 for a full year. You will be our guest for your first breakfast.

—C. W. Gruenig

GARDEN CLUB

Our speaker for January 20 was **Jan Chronert** from our local **Armstrong Nursery** who instructed us on everything we needed to know about the care and enjoyment of orchids. I found the following about the captivating power of orchids, taken from the **California Garden Club** website. It was written by director Rich Walton as background for his 2010 movie, *The Judge, the Hunter, the Thief, and the Black Orchid*:

"Gaze into the seductive stare of an orchid at your own risk. Many who do quickly fall under its captive spell. In the orchid world it's known simply as orchid fever. The orchid world is full of eccentric characters, petty rivalries, competitive judging, hunters, smugglers and thieves. It's also a world undergoing tremendous change. Orchids were once only accessible to the very rich. Now they're as common as a dozen roses. Large nurseries are producing cheaper, cloned orchids for the mass market. Orchid hybridizers are a dying breed in the face of this competition . . . Conservation laws make it illegal to remove orchids from their natural habitat. They can, however, be legally bulldozed during construction. This disparity has inadvertently fueled an active "black market" in wild collected orchids. Some rare or newly discovered species have been known to sell for five to ten thousand dollars a plant. [In the movie] an age-old rivalry and a judging controversy come to the forefront during the World Orchid Conference. Display orchids get casually tossed into trashcans after shows. An orchid thief smuggles one of the greatest orchid discoveries in 50 years, nearly taking down a respected botanical institution. Tales of greed, passion, and desire: Welcome to the orchid world."

After the orchid presentation, we had a business meeting to select a Nominating Committee for next club year's officers. There were sign-up sheets for our future meetings and events: February trip to Mission San Juan Capistrano (see below); March Plant Sale; May bus trip to the Huntington Library and Gardens; June Beach Bluff Party.

Our next meeting is **Monday, February 17**, when we carpool to **Mission San Juan Capistrano** for a docent guided tour and individual exploration of the beautiful gardens. Members should arrange carpools and plan to arrive at the Mission entrance by 9:35 a.m. Our guided tour will begin at 9:45. For those staying for lunch, we have reserved tables at **Cedar Creek Restaurant** across the street at 12:00 noon. There will also be another surprise, so don't miss this meeting.

—Karl Kuhn

ACTIVITIES

DANA POINT LIBRARY

Dana Point Library activities for February, 2020 listed by date and time. Programs are free and open to the public. Registration may be required.* Contact the Service Desk at (949) 496-5517 or see www.ocpl.org/libloc/dana/calendar for more information.

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
1	11:00 a.m.	Tidepool Animals by Blue Submarine and Friends of the Library
2	3:00 p.m.	Teen Fashions Decorate PJs with Bling – ages 12-18
3	1:00 p.m.	English Class by South Coast Literacy* – adults
4	9:00 a.m.	Basic computer Skills* – adults
	10:30 a.m.	Toddler Storytime/Stay and Play
	3:30 p.m.	Tech Tutors help with technology. Bring your device.
	5:00 p.m.	Write On! Writers' Group – adults
5	10:30 a.m.	Preschool Storytime/Stay and Make a Craft
	3:00 p.m.	Read to a Dog by BARK – beginning readers
	4:30 p.m.	Study Buddies help with homework – preK to 6th grade
6	11:00 a.m.	Memory Club: Brain Boosters Class – adults
7	10:00 a.m.	Coloring Club – adults
	11:00 a.m.	English Class by South Coast Literacy* – adults
8	2:00 p.m.	Teen Movie and Snacks: <i>To All the Boys I've Loved Before</i> – ages 13+
10	1:00 p.m.	English Class by South Coast Literacy* – adults
11	9:00 a.m.	Basic computer Skills* – adults
	10:30 a.m.	Toddler Storytime/Stay and Play
	3:30 p.m.	Tech Tutors help with technology. Bring your device.
12		Library Closed
13	10:30 a.m.	Gentle Reads: <i>How to Walk Away</i> , Katherine Center
	3:30 p.m.	Tween/Teen Button Machine Pin/Magnet/Keychain – ages 10+
14	10:00 a.m.	Coloring Club – adults
	11:00 a.m.	English Class by South Coast Literacy* – adults
	2:30 p.m.	Artsy Food for Valentine's Day – ages 5-8
15	11:00 a.m.	KonMari Home Organization with Sandy Park – adults
	2:00 p.m.	Bilingual Spanish/English Story Time – all ages with an adult
	3:30 p.m.	Teen Advisory Board – grades 7-12
16	2:00 p.m.	Travel Club: <i>Orange County with Huell Howser</i> DVD
17		Library Closed
18	9:00 a.m.	Basic computer Skills* – adults
	10:30 a.m.	Toddler Storytime/Stay and Play
	3:30 p.m.	Tech Tutors help with technology. Bring your device.
	5:00 p.m.	Write On! Writers' Group – adults
19	10:30 a.m.	Preschool Storytime/Stay and Make a Craft
	4:30 p.m.	Study Buddies help with homework – preK to 6th grade
21	10:00 a.m.	Coloring Club – adults
	11:00 a.m.	English Class by South Coast Literacy* – adults
23	2:00 p.m.	Foreign Film: <i>Complicity</i> , Japan 2020
24	10:30 a.m.	Seaside Book Club: <i>The Library Book</i> , Susan Orlean
	1:00 p.m.	English Class by South Coast Literacy* – adults
	5:30 p.m.	PJ Storytime by NCL Laguna Storytellers – all ages
25	10:30 a.m.	Toddler Storytime/Stay and Play
	3:00 p.m.	Young Readers Book Club: <i>National Geographic's Lions</i> – ages 5-8
	3:30 p.m.	Tech Tutors help with technology. Bring your device.
26	10:30 a.m.	Preschool Story Time/Stay and Make a Craft
	3:30 p.m.	Experiment and Learn Science/Engineering/Coding – ages 5-8
27	10:30 a.m.	Family Movie and Popcorn: <i>Tinkerbell's Great Fairy Escape</i> – all ages
28	10:00 a.m.	Coloring Club – adults
	11:00 a.m.	English Class by South Coast Literacy* – adults

—Dan de Neve, Dana Point Library

PAGE TURNERS

Page Turners are looking forward to reading another novel by author Lisa See. Last year we read *The Tea Girl*

of *Hummingbird Lane*, and following that we had the privilege of interviewing Lisa See via Skype. She gave us a whole hour of her time in which we asked questions regarding that book, and she gave us a little insight to this month's book, *The Island of Sea Women*.



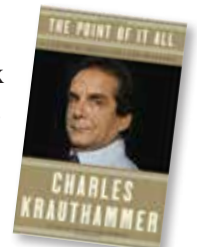
Most of Lisa See's novels have been set in China but *The Island of Sea Women* is a change, taking place in Korea. The women divers of Jeju Island off the southern tip of the Korean Peninsula are called *Haenyeo*. They are known for diving to great depths and holding their breath underwater for remarkable lengths of time in order to harvest edible sea life. These women are the bread winners in the island's semi-matriarchal society, and the book goes into great detail concerning family and friendship relationships. Covering several decades beginning before WWII and up to the present day, the book is historical fiction.

Page Turners meeting dates are the fourth Monday and fourth Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. For information on the Thursday group contact Steve and Ann Morris at sam-wrsi@cox.net and for the Monday group, Frances Ozimec at fozimec@cox.net.

—Frances Ozimec

REALLY SERIOUS BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Really Serious Book Club will be **February 19, at 1:30 p.m.** Charles Krauthammer's latest book, *The Point Of It All*, will be discussed. It is a collection of his most important works. John McCain said, "Charles will be remembered as one of the greatest public intellectuals of his generation." New members are encouraged to attend. For more information email nortlynne@cox.net.



—Mike Harrod

BRIDGE CLUB



Our Niguel Shores Bridge Club has grown to five tables in January beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays. If you are interested in joining us, please call Betty or Bob French at (949) 312-2556. We ask that you have a basic working knowledge of the rules and some playing experience. Come join us!

Results of Recent Meetings:

12/18 1) Hansa Sehgal 2) Mark Sobolik 3) Paul Cannariato
1/8 1) Ceacy Johns 2) Mark Sobolik 3) Glenda Wilson
1/15 1) Frieda Baskin 2) Nancy Chino 3) Mark Sobolik

—Bob French

SPOTLIGHT—THE FRIENDS OF THE DANA POINT LIBRARY

The Friends of the Dana Point Library (FODPL) provide dozens of free programs for all ages at the Dana Point Library. Some of their contributions to the library last year included children's summer reading programs, crafts for teens and adults, bilingual Spanish/English stories and crafts, a teen escape room, pumpkin decorating, and book clubs for children and adults.

The Friends also provide funds for upgrading the library. Some past projects were soundproofing the community room, adding new skylights and furniture in the main room, placing a new bike rack out front, refurbishing the patio, and redoing the front landscape.

They do all this through sales at the **Friends of the Library Bookstore**, located at the entrance to the library. The bookstore is open 6 days a week, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. Stop in and browse for some great bargains!

Niguel Shores Volunteers

The Friends of the Dana Point Library are proud to include among their membership many Niguel Shores residents: **Joan Beyer, Barbara Boyd, Lisa Buchner, Evelyn Crook, Susan Davis, Linda Empringham, Dolores Freeman, Sherry Frymoyer, Ginny Gravely, Julie Kovsky, Michael**

Oliva, Frances Ozimec, Jennifer Paige, Judy Palladino, Ann and Paul Strauss. The volunteers find that their work with FODPL is a great way to meet neighbors and contribute time to a worthy cause.

Among those serving on the FODPL Board of Directors are Shores residents **Lisa Buchner** (President), **Ann Strauss** (Vice President), **Lakshman Sehgal** (Director), former resident **Peggy Mehuys** (Director), and **Paul Strauss** (Advisor).



Volunteering with FODPL

The Friends welcome all volunteers who love books and are willing to spend a few hours a month organizing, pricing, or selling books, games, and media materials in the bookstore.

Volunteers come in at times of their choosing—once a month, once a week, or whatever suits their schedule. Shifts run from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or 1:30 to 4 p.m. on any day(s) a volunteer selects.

One volunteer summed it up well: “We have delightful members, wonderful patrons, and colorful materials to sell. In fact, we are our own best customers!”

If you are interested in volunteering for a worthy local cause and you like working with great people, contact **Lisa Buchner** at lisabuchner@cox.net. Come and join us!

—Lisa Buchner

SHORES RESIDENT TO SPEAK AT DP LIBRARY

Niguel Shores resident **Joel Weintraub** will present “An Introduction to Jewish Genealogy” at the Dana Point Library on **Sunday, February 9, at 2:00 p.m.** Weintraub’s contributions to genealogy research span two decades including volunteer service at the Southern California National Archives, where he produced locational tools for the 1900 through 1940 censuses and the New York City censuses (1905, 1915, & 1925) for the “one step” research website stevemorse.org. An Emeritus Professor at Cal State Fullerton, Weintraub has published articles on the US Census, searching records in NYC, the Ellis Island “Name Change Myth,” and has given presentations on census research, immigration and naturalization, Ellis Island, and Jewish genealogy.

Weintraub is speaking as part of the **OC Library’s “Big Read”** of Roz Chast’s book *Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* As part of his presentation, in addition to explaining his personal journey to find the roots of his “Russian” grandfather, Weintraub tells how his research on some of Roz Chast’s genealogy brought a very surprising discovery.

This presentation from an experienced researcher is free of charge and provides many helpful paths to follow for those interested in finding out more about their own ancestry, and especially Jewish genealogy.



With Appreciation to Our Community Volunteers — Thank You for All You Contribute to the Excellence of Niguel Shores

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Linda Curie
Mike Link
Pat O'Brien
Pat Pearson

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Dick Kichline
Marc McCarthy
Bob Russell
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Commuciation Coommittee

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Kent Wellbrock

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Bob Farnsworth
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Lydia Reese
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Sukie West
Cozette Zoch

2019 Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Niguel Shores 2019 Volunteer of the Year, Suzanne Enis!

Nominated and chosen by votes from the NSCA Board and Committee members, there's no one in our community more deserving of this award than Suzanne. She served on both the Recreation and Maintenance Committees before being elected to the NSCA Board of Directors for double terms from 2015 through 2019. Currently, Suzanne is part of the Recreation Committee, Maintenance Committee, and Traffic and Safety Committee. She is also actively involved in the Garden Club and the Women's Club, having served on several Women's Club Boards and chairing many events over the years.

As if that were not enough, Suzanne's decorating talents have provided craft classes for our residents and she is the creator of the 4th of July firecrackers placed along Mariner Drive every year (art pieces she made by recycling and painting the old coach lamp posts that once dotted our neighborhoods). She is now in the process of making 40-inch stars to adorn the entry gates this 4th of July—and she chairs the 4th of July golf cart decorating contest.

It goes without saying that Niguel Shores is fortunate to count Suzanne among our most actively involved residents. As to her life before settling in the Shores, Suzanne was raised in El Centro, California, where her father was a farmer and owner of two cattle feedlots that are still run as La Brucherie Produce by her brother and a nephew. She attended USC as a Design major and then worked in visual display



NSCA 2019 Volunteer of the Year Suzanne Enis



Suzanne Enis (center) with NSCA Board members (left to right) Marc McCarthy, Lynn Bushnell, Dick Kichline, Jeannie Sticher, and Bob Russell.

for Bullock's Wilshire, I. Magnin, and Saks Fifth Avenue. She transferred from the La Jolla Saks store to open the Shops at Mission Viejo and purchased her Shores Garden Home here in 1999.

"My passion," Suzanne says, "is all about making Niguel Shores operate smoothly and look its best. I love living here and want to contribute to our community in any way I can."

The NSCA Board of Directors surprised Suzanne with the announcement of her award at the **Evening of Appreciation for Community Volunteers** on January 7, where over 100 volunteers enjoyed drinks from a sea of blue glassware, chose a variety of hot hors d'oeuvres from tables decked with white coral centerpieces, and ended the night with delicious blue and white

iced cake pops. **General Manager Marla Miller and Board President Dick Kichline** acknowledged all the volunteers for their service to Niguel Shores in various capacities such as committee work, event planning, newsletter production and delivery, and Board membership. A souvenir "Gold Key" for everyone in attendance carried out the theme of the evening: "Action is the foundational key to all success."

Applause to the NSCA Board and to Staff members **Karen Decker, Blayke Miller, and Matt Northrop**

who oversaw the food, drinks, and decor for our community's annual Evening of Appreciation. The event was thoroughly enjoyable, and a perfect way to honor **Suzanne Enis as Volunteer of the Year.**



PICKLEBALL

Pickleball Hours

Pickleball courts are available daily from 9:00 a.m. to dusk. Drop In Play hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon.



Challenge Court

On Drop In days (see above) Pickleball Court 4 will be a Challenge Court from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Winners of the match stay on to challenge the next pair. If the winners win twice in a row, they step out for the next four and go back into the rack/line for the Challenge Court.

Playing Tip

After you return the serve, get to the Kitchen/Non-Volley zone as quickly as you can. Then try to keep the ball as low as possible. A ball that bounces in front of your opponent is harder to attack than a ball in the air.

If you are interested in being added to the pickleball email list, email your information to niguelshores.pb@gmail.com.

—Steve Barrett

TENNIS

By now all Niguel Shores tennis players who have submitted their phone/email address are on our contact list and should be receiving updates on tennis news in the Shores, current lists of players looking for matches, and invitations to social events.



Sign Up

If you aren't on the tennis contact list yet, be sure to sign up! Include your level of play and whether you prefer singles, doubles or mixed matches. All levels are welcome. Send your sign-up info to **Jennifer** at 4oceanbreeze@gmail.com.

Share News

Hopefully everyone submitted your responses about tennis on the Feedback Form that was due by January 24 to the Master Recreation Ad Hoc Committee. Watch your email for news from us about when and where the feedback results will be discussed.

If you have tennis news to share or input on tennis matters, please contact **Don Baer** at either (949) 422-9140 or pacific92629@yahoo.com.

—Jennifer Rose

WOMEN'S GOLF

A sunny but chilly morning welcomed our four golfers out onto the Ranch golf course this month. **Catriona, Val, Deborah** and **Irene** enjoyed the weather and golf, along with the deer that presented on the seventh hole. Catriona was Closest to the Pin on the sixth hole and Deborah was Closest to the Pin on the eighth hole. Lowest Putts winner was Val, which included several one putts! Longest Drive from the Red tees also went to Val, and from the Yellow tees, our winner was Irene. Seven more ladies joined us for lunch, including our friend **Pam Strayer**. Always happy to see and welcome new and old friends!

As we do every month, we invite and encourage all you lady golfers to come out and play. If you'd like to be included in the Tee Times for February 10, please text or call **Brenda Gino** at (619) 921-5821.

—Brenda Gino

MEN'S GOLF

January golf was great for our **Men's Golf Group** with outings to Arroyo Trabuco, Oak Creek, Talega, and Tijeras Creek. The weather was perfect and the courses in great shape. In February we will be playing Arroyo Trabuco, Monarch Links, Talega, and Tijeras Creek.

—Bob Russell

"Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get bad breaks from good shots; you get good breaks from bad shots—but you have to play the ball where it lies."
—Bobby Jones, Founder of Augusta National Golf Club and Co-Founder of the Masters Golf Tournament.

SUPER BOWL LIV



When: Sunday, February 2, 2020
at 3:30 Pacific Time

Where: Hard Rock Stadium, Miami Gardens, Florida

Media Coverage: Fox, FoxSports.com, Yahoo Sports App, NFL App, NFL.com



CUISINE CORNER

Tavern House Kitchen + Bar

David Wilhelm has a new restaurant to add to his repertoire. Over the past 40 years he has created Chimayo, French 75, Bistro 201, Savannah Chop House, Diva, Sorrento Grille and his last venture—Jimmy’s (JFAT) here in Dana Point.

His new concept is named the **Tavern House Kitchen + Bar**, located where the 3-Thirty-3 Waterfront Restaurant was at 333 Bayside Drive, Newport Beach.

The restaurant has a warm contemporary design, similar to Jimmy’s, but with an interesting bay and harbor location and dockside water view. There are four boat slips available for those wanting to dock and dine.

The Tavern House website describes it as a gathering place with a beach and water lifestyle. “Our menu reflects a celebration of the coastal cuisines of Southern California, Hawaii and Mexico. We feature creative, clean takes on fresh seafood along with an offering of our favorite comfort foods.”

My first visit was during Happy Hour and the appetizers were some of the best I’ve had anywhere. I would recommend the Tavern Cheeseburger, Sirloin and Black Bean Chili, Warm House-made Salt and Pepper Potato Chips with Blue Cheese Sauce, Coconut Shrimp, Prime Wagyu Beef and Prime Rib Dip

Sliders. Drinks at Happy Hour include tap beer—\$2 off, well drinks—\$6 off, margaritas—\$7, wines by the glass—\$4 off.

Wilhelm has brought some of his greatest hits to **Tavern House Kitchen** including Honey Buttermilk Fried Chicken, Prime Mishima “Cowboy Burger,” Maple and Bacon Charred Brussels Sprouts, BBQ Spiced Salmon, Chicken Pot Pie and Black Pepper Roasted Prime Rib.

You might remember Le Grand Barr on the piano at Savannah’s and French 75 in Laguna. Now Le Grand will be entertaining guests at the **Tavern** on Sundays from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Another feature you might want to check out is becoming a Tavern e-club member at no charge. Sign up at the website. The restaurant will offer specials to its members similar to the one they are currently offering, which is Monday night dinners at 50% off all food (except the Happy Hour menu) for you and a guest. A great value! Corkage fee is \$15.00.

Happy Hour runs Monday through Thursday 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Friday 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Dinner is served nightly beginning at 5:00 p.m. Weekend Brunch is available from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Valet parking is \$4. For menu and more information on this new venue see www.Tavernhousekb.com.

—Bill Walkup



THIS MONTH IN DANA POINT

NATURALIST WALK AND TALK - HEADLANDS FLORA AND FAUNA

DP Nature Interpretive Center
34558 Scenic Drive
Saturday, February 1—9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
RSVP to dpnaturalresources@danapoint.org

DP CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DP City Hall Council Chambers
33282 Golden Lantern
Tuesdays February 4 and 18—6:00 p.m.

DANA POINT SYMPHONY

Celebration of Beethoven
St. Edward’s Church
33926 Calle La Primavera
Friday, February 7—7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

BULKY ITEM DROP-OFF AND SHREDDING EVENT

Free shredding and disposal of e-waste, appliances, furniture
Dana Hills High
33333 Golden Lantern
Saturday, February 8—7:30 a.m.
janderson@danapoint.org

NATURALIST WALK AND TALK—WHALES, CETACEANS, MARINE MAMMALS

DP Nature Interpretive Center
34558 Scenic Drive
Saturday, February 8—9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
RSVP to dpnaturalresources@danapoint.org

SCIENCE NIGHT

DP Community Center
34052 Del Obispo
Wednesday, February 12—6:30 p.m.
dpnaturalresources@danapoint.org (949) 248-3527

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE (50+) VALENTINE’S LUNCH

Valentine themed catered lunch, entertainment, raffle
Dana Point Community Center
34052 Del Obispo
Friday, February 14—11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Free of charge, but reservation required at www.danapoint.org/recreation or (949) 248-3536

GIRLS IN OCEAN SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Ocean Institute
24200 Dana Point Harbor Drive
Saturday, February 15—8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
www.ocean-institute.org (949) 496-2274

NATURALIST WALK AND TALK – LOCAL HISTORY AND LANDMARKS

DP Nature Interpretive Center
34558 Scenic Drive
Saturday, February 15—9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
RSVP to dpnaturalresources@danapoint.org

FAMILY WATERSHED SCIENCE LAB AND CRUISE

Hands-on activities in the lab and aboard R/V Sea Explorer
\$30-\$35
Ocean Institute
24200 Dana Point Harbor Drive
Monday, February 17—9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
www.ocean-institute.org (949) 496-2274

WYLAND’S WHALE AND DOLPHIN ART LESSON AND WHALE WATCH CRUISE

Art Lesson 9:00 a.m.
Whale Watch Cruise 10:00 to 12 Noon
\$5 children with \$49 paid adult
Dana Wharf and Dana Pride
34675 Golden Lantern
Saturdays through April 25
Reservations at (888) 224-0603
www.danawharf.com

Most people know the first lines of the Old English rhyme for remembering the days of the month: “30 days hath September, April, June, and November. All the rest have 31 . . .”

But then we hesitate a bit trying to get the last part right about February. Which version do you use?

“ . . . *except February which has 28, but every four years has 29.* ”

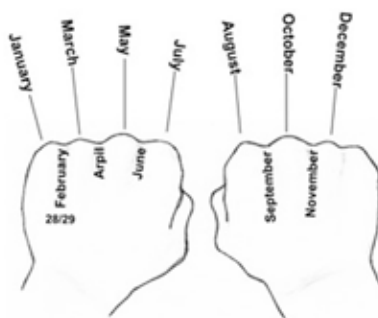
“ . . . *except February, which has 28 days clear and 29 in each Leap Year.* ”

“ . . . *except February with its 28, but Leap Year that’s the time February’s days are 29.* ”

“ . . . *and February’s great with 28, but Leap Year’s fine with 29.* ”

You might even use the “knuckle” approach, saying the name of the months by tapping them in order starting with the pinky finger knuckle as January. All knuckle months are 31, all indent months are 30 (or 28/29 in the case of February).

Whatever memory trick suits you for remembering the number of days in a month—great! And also remember that any year you can exactly divide by 4 (such as 2020) is a **Leap Year** adding an extra day to February. Be aware in your calculations that years evenly divided by 100 are not



Leap Years—except every 400th year, which is a Leap Year no matter the 100 rule. (This bit of trivia might help you some day on “Jeopardy.” You never know.)

We need to add an extra day every four years to keep our calendar aligned with the Earth’s revolutions around the Sun. Without that extra day, we would lose about six hours every year—and in 100 years we would be off by approximately 24 days in relation to the vernal equinox and winter solstice (the longest and shortest days of the year) that are used to mark our planet’s rotation, time, and relationship with the sun.

The ancient Romans added a **Leap Month** every few years to coordinate with Earth and Sun revolutions and the changing seasons. We credit Julius Caesar with introducing the

first **Leap Day** in 45 BC, and thereafter each four years. This plan eventually needed fine-tuning in order for the calendar to remain in sync with the solar system, so in the 16th Century Pope Gregory XIII created the **Gregorian Calendar**, which we still use today.

The Earth’s rotation has slowed slightly over centuries, differing from day to day, and so scientists add or subtract a **Leap**

Second every once in a while to keep everything in balance. These Leap Seconds are announced by the **International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service** in Paris.

Remember to add February’s 29th day to your own schedule this month. Or, better still, don’t add it, and wake up on that Saturday morning to a delightfully blank day with nothing scheduled at all.

—Sandy Homicz

★ ACCOLADES

The Seashore News is happy to acknowledge our residents who contribute to the community, achieve a goal, reach a milestone, or deserve recognition. Let us know about it at seashorenews@hotmail.com.

Gifts for the Homeless: For the past five years, **Jeniffer Dreyer Brown**, her son **Tanner**, and several friends have collected and distributed winter survival items to the homeless in our beach communities. This past December, through fundraisers and donations, they filled 75 backpacks—each containing a new blanket, scarf, knit hat, socks, bandana, toilet articles, and granola bars—and passed them out on Christmas to grateful recipients.

Book Publication: Congratulations to **Buzz Halliday**, whose newly-published book, *Reflections from an Alcoholic’s Wife*, tells the struggle of dealing with an alcoholic spouse and helps to open up conversation between the alcoholic and the family. The book is available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or Laguna Beach Books. Author’s proceeds go toward charities that help families of alcoholics.

A THOUGHT FOR VALENTINE’S DAY, OR ANY DAY:

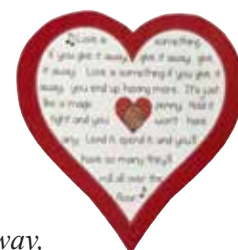
Remember the old song *Magic Penny* from school days? Its message still holds true: “Love is something if you give it away, you end up having more.” On Valentine’s Day, or any day, affection wants to be shared, to spread, bear fruit, and kindle new love.

*“Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.*

*It’s like a magic penny—
Hold it tight and you won’t have any.
Lend it, spend it, and you’ll have so
many*

They’ll roll all over the floor.

*For love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.”*



PET PARADE

Traveling with Pets — Part One

Many of us may be traveling with pets this year, so here are some important considerations.

- Make sure your pet is healthy, and the right age and temperament for traveling. If not, then consider a pet sitter or a boarding facility. Travel can be stressful for pets and they may be happier at home.
- Identify your pet with up-to-date tags and a microchip (with microchip number tag on collar).
- Get a health certificate (also called certificate of veterinary inspection) if taking your pet across state or international borders. These are signed by an accredited veterinarian after doing an exam and certifying the pet is free of infectious disease. The certificates are generally good for 10 days after the exam. Each state has its own certificate form and its own vaccine requirements. The vaccines are documented on the health certificate. Your veterinarian should be accredited and know the proper form and requirements for each state. International health certificates are specific to the importing country and often require endorsement by a USDA veterinarian. Check the AVMA website www.avma.org for further information under Animal Travel and Transport and Basic Timeline for Interstate and International Travel with Animals. When traveling by car between states, often all that is required is a current Rabies Certificate.
- Check the USDA website at www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/sregs for specific travel requirements. Some states



and countries require laboratory testing and quarantine prior to travel (like Hawaii) and these may need to be done months in advance of departure. It is your responsibility to know what is needed to travel to your destination.

- Make sure that pets are allowed at the destination. Check with family, friends or the hotel/motel where you will be staying. Note: If you leave your pet in a hotel room alone, put the “Do not Disturb” sign on the door, alert the front desk you are leaving, and give them your contact phone number. Check to see if your destination country allows import of your breed of pet (some are outlawed). If you are camping, confirm the pet rules for the campground, including any leash and waste pick-up requirements.
- Check with your airline for specific requirements for that airline.

Note: In some cases, airlines may have their own health form. You still need to have the required state and country official certificates even though the airline may tell you that you do not need them.

- Contact the foreign consulate at least four weeks in advance for international travel. Some countries have quarantine requirements.
- Check what is required for bringing your pet back into the country or for travel between countries.
- Make sure your pet is on flea, tick and heartworm preventative if camping and be aware of wild animals.

—Susan Davis, DVM



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

BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

JANUARY 8, 2019 BOARD

MEETING: (General Session)

ACCEPTED AND FILED:

- Unaudited November Financial Reports
- General Session Committee Minutes

APPROVED:

- General Session Meeting Minutes for December 4, 2019
- January 2020 Expense and Transfer (Actual)
 - 2020 Committee Members
 - 2020 Committee Chairs
 - Election Timeline
- Pre-Lien Filings: APN 672-051-52; APN 672-071-25; APN 672-222-18; APN 672-191-10 and APN 672-061-32
 - CD renewal from Liberty Bank to be Invested with Comerica
 - Updated Election Rules, Passes for Villas and Sea Terrace II and Enforcement Policies for Resident and Non-Resident Parking Violations for Membership Mailing and Comment Period
 - Harvest Proposal No. 75224 for Tree Removal of Tree along Niguel Shores Drive Behind Padina Circle
 - Memory Boards for Several Gates

REVIEWED/DISCUSSED:

- Check Register, General Ledger and Delinquency Report
- Extension on Remodel Completion Date Deadline
 - Board Meeting Dates Revised
 - Correspondence to the Board
 - Manager's Report
 - Board Updates

JANUARY 8, 2019 BOARD

MEETING: (Executive Session)

ACCEPTED AND FILED:

- Executive Session Committee Minutes

APPROVED:

- Executive Session Meeting Minutes for December 4, 2019
- Special Executive Session Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2019
- Special Executive Session Meeting Minutes for December 16, 2019
- Special Executive Session Meeting Minutes for December 18, 2019
- Appointment of two (2) Board Members to IDR
 - Architectural Revisions
- Reasonable Accommodation for Parking Waiver

HEARINGS/MEETINGS:

- One (1) Hearing held for Violation of CC&Rs, Article VII, Section 1 and Rules – Pad Level Plantings and Planting Maintenance
- Two (2) Hearings held for Violation of Rules – Overnight Parking
- Two (2) Hearings held for Violation of Rules – Prohibited Parking (Parked Opposing Traffic); Beach Parking
- One (1) Hearing held for Violation of Rules – Prohibited Parking (Parked Opposing Traffic)
- One (1) Hearing held for Violation of Rules – Prohibited Parking (Obstructing Sidewalk)
 - One (1) Hearing held for Violation of CC&Rs Article VII, Section 1 and Rules – New Construction or Modifications to Home Sites (Unauthorized Modification)
- One (1) Hearing held for Violation of CC&Rs Article IX, Section 2 and Rules – Verbal and Physical Abuse

REVIEWED/DISCUSSED:

- Legal Update
- Coastal Commission Information
 - Personnel Matters
 - Legal Analysis
 - Delinquency Report

NOTE: 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.

REMINDERS: THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE 1ST WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020, BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.

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NEIGHBORHOOD ADS

Our niece got accepted to Biola! We'd like to buy her an inexpensive car to commute to school. Call or text 949/204-0969, Niguel Shores resident.

Ads for the Seashore News must be submitted by the 15th of the month. Include a check payable to NSCA, \$5 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.

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A 2020 FORECAST

Despite the tremendous focus on the “trade war,” the international slowdown, impeachment, Brexit, and stock market volatility, the U.S. economy was strong throughout 2019. Unemployment reached 50-year lows. The GDP was up considerably more than many forecasted. Long-term interest rates dropped from 4.5% to 3.5% before climbing slightly to 3.75% by year’s end. Wall Street had a tumultuous ride, yet ended the year at record levels. Finally, new home sales have turned around after a sluggish start to the year. The overall economy is strong, and the low interest rate environment is a tailwind that will keep the economy running on all cylinders. As a result, the local housing market is going to look a lot better in 2020. Here is the forecast:



ACTIVE INVENTORY – the year will begin with around 3,750 homes, the third lowest start in the last decade behind 2013 and 2018. That will translate to a very hot start for housing. The theme for 2020 will be not enough homes on the market.

DEMAND – with an anemic inventory and buyers reenergized by historically low rates, demand will be strong throughout the Spring and Summer Markets. Buyers will be willing to stretch slightly in price compared to the most recent sale; so, expect appreciation around 3 to 4% for the year.

HOUSING CYCLE - the housing market will follow a normal housing cycle. The strongest demand coupled with plenty of fresh inventory will occur during the Spring Market.

CLOSED SALES - the number of successful, closed sales will increase 3 to 5% compared to 2019 (2019 was up 2% compared to 2018), around 30,000.

LUXURY MARKET – luxury sales will increase from 2019’s record by about 10%. The Spring Market will be the strongest for luxury, and the second half of the year will be especially sluggish.

INTEREST RATES – look for mortgage rates to hover between 3.5% to 4.5%. Long term rates are driven by economic fundamentals and headline risks. The “trade war,” Brexit, the upcoming presidential election, global growth or slowdown, all drive mortgage rates up or down.

The bottom line: 2020 will shift back to a much hotter market. Expect a HOT Seller’s Market during the spring with slowly rising values. Once again, the market will heavily favor sellers and buyers will have to pack their patience in order to isolate their piece of the American Dream. For the second half of the year, the market will evolve into a slight Seller’s Market, where sellers still get to call more of the shots, but home values do not change as much. Pricing will still be very important all year long as buyers do not want to overpay. They will stretch slightly during the spring, but sellers who overprice will kick themselves down the road.

Chris & Kathy Zoch

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