

Seashore News



May 2024

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Issue 605

Volunteer Appreciation Night

Annual Celebration

Each year, the NSCA Board of Directors and NSCA Management honor our Niguel Shores volunteers at a festive reception acknowledging their generous service to the community. In April, over 100 volunteers from NSCA-sponsored organizations and activities gathered for delicious appetizers, wines, treats and gift favors in the Clubhouse, which was decorated for the event like a magic castle.

Volunteer of the Year Honoree—Board Director **John Douglas** thanked everyone for their contributions to the well-being and smooth running of Niguel Shores. Then, he announced our **NSCA Volunteer of the Year**—**Gary Wilson**—saying there could be no more deserving resident than Gary, who has given his time and expertise for the past four years to the Recreation Amenities Enhancement Project.

As the Recreation Amenities Committee liaison between the NSCA Board and the project engineer, construction crew, and vendors, **Gary** brought a lifetime of experience to the endeavor. His background includes a degree in Civil Engineering, a Master's in Management, a lengthy engineering career with Texaco, and overseeing the Maintenance Division of a construction company which grew during his tenure from its original team of 75 to a staff of 2,100 during his years with the firm.

One of Gary's goals for the amenities project was to provide "something for everybody" such as a walking/

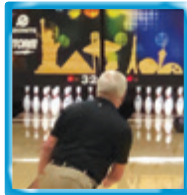
jogging path; a renewed playground with apparatus for a variety of ages; a shaded picnic area; a sports court with basketball, shuffleboard, and bocce ball; a waiting area for pickleball players; and other enhancements for all to enjoy.

Gary is an avid bowler, was the East Coast champion in college, and currently plays weekly in a league and travels to tournaments in Las Vegas and throughout California.

Gary and his wife Meg have a son, a daughter, and four grandchildren. They purchased their Niguel Shores home in 2013 and have been active in the community ever since. Gary is part of the Men's Club and, of course, a key member of the Recreation Amenities Committee. Meg belongs to the Women's Club and is an important part of the NSCA Communication Com-

mittee. They love walking Fynn, their Goldendoodle, and participating with family in all the activities Niguel Shores has to offer, saying, "We have truly found our forever home, and we could not have chosen a better community."

A History of Volunteers—Niguel Shores depends on volunteers to serve on the NSCA Board, act on committees, plan activities, and make decisions for the betterment of the community. Congratulations to **Gary Wilson, Volunteer of the Year**, who joins the long list of honorees who have worked to make Niguel Shores a truly unique community.



Volunteer of the Year Awards

1980.... Dorothy Dudley
 1981.... Dale Baltimore
 1982.... Phyllis Luengen
 1983.... Rose Marie Lawson
 1984.... Norm Pomeroy
 1985.... Jim Guthrie
 1986.... Ken Knight
 1987.... Ed & Doris Adams
 1988.... Forrest Owen
 1989.... Lloyd Somerfield
 1990.... Daniel Aldrich

1991.... Dick Beaubien
 1992.... John & Betty Dickerhoff
 1993.... Dick & Hope Luedeke
 1994.... Hal & Patty Therolf
 1995.... Hazel Lafler
 1996.... Rick & Dottie Foth
 1997.... Jerry & Marian Pearl
 1998.... George Williams
 1999.... Don Beaver
 2000.... Don & Dee Johnston
 2001.... Dick & Janet Mackaig

2002.... Jerry Milner
 2003.... Bob & Lavonne Borland
 2004.... Jack & Ann Christiansen
 2005.... George & Marion Evans
 2006.... Gerlinde Duffy
 2007.... Dick & Ceacy Johns
 2008.... Mary Crowl
 2009.... Roy Dohner
 2010.... Jerry Koppang
 2011.... N/A
 2012.... Sam Johnson

2013.... Nancy Tinnis
 2014.... Marilyn Moon
 2015.... Pat O'Brien
 2016.... Sue Kichline
 2017.... Karl Kuhn
 2018.... Sue Kichline
 2019.... Suzanne Enis
 2020.... Sandy Homicz
 2021.... Jeannie Sticher
 2022.... Bob Russell
 2023.... Gary Wilson

KATHY SAMUEL

LUXURY REAL ESTATE



Check Your Mail

Discover Your Home's Unique Market Position

HOME VALUES IN NIGUEL SHORES HAVE **DRAMATICALLY INCREASED!**
TO HELP YOU CAPITALIZE ON THIS TREND I WILL PREPARE A TAILOR-MADE COMPETITIVE MARKET ANALYSIS, INCLUDING YOUR HOME'S ORIGINAL FLOOR PLAN.

IF YOUR HOME HAS UNDERGONE CUSTOM UPGRADES I WOULD LOVE TO SHOWCASE IT!

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR HOME'S BEFORE AND AFTER REMODEL PHOTOS TO BE FEATURED!
KATHY@KATHYSAMUEL.COM

BEFORE



AFTER



Kathy Samuel
949-444-1674 • kathysamuel.com



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

FROM THE HELM

Sincere Thanks—This is my official “sign off” as President of the Board of Directors. It’s a trite expression, but the past 2 years have truly flown by.

“Thank you” to all my fellow Board Directors over those 2 years. It’s been a pleasure working alongside each of you. Special thanks to the entire Management Team and the volunteers who give their time to the various NSCA Committees. You are the ‘engine’ that makes Niguel Shores run.

Special Recognition—As a community run by volunteers, we honor one volunteer annually who has given extraordinary service. Congratulations and deep appreciation to our **NSCA Volunteer of the Year, Gary Wilson**, who has worked tirelessly, along with members of his committee, to bring the Amenities Enhancement Project to fulfillment.

Projects Progressing—The Recreation Amenities Project is nearing completion and County of Orange Revetment Project Team is well on their way to completing their work in time for summer.

Community Involvement—If I were to pinpoint one take-away from my Board tenure, it’s the passion residents have for all things “Niguel Shores.” I saw this firsthand at the General Session meetings. To that note, I was very appreciative of all the residents who attended the Board meetings in person. You took the time to express your thoughts during the Public Forum component which were key data points for me. Whilst there was occasional opposing dialogue on any given topic, I think we left the meetings as neighbors trying to enhance Niguel Shores overall. Please continue to do the same for future Board meetings. Be assured that your thoughts and comments are heard.

Blue Zones—Dan Buettner is Blue Zones founder, a National Geographic Fellow, an award-winning journalist and producer, and a *New York Times* bestselling author. He identified five original Blue Zones or places in the world with the healthiest, longest-living populations, including Okinawa, Japan; Sardinia, Italy; Nicoya,

Costa Rica; Ikaria, Greece; and Loma Linda, California. I pose to you, **Niguel Shores is another Blue Zone**. I point to two key aspects of the Blue Zones POWER 9®: **Movement** and **The Right Tribe**.

■ **Movement:** We live in an amazing environment here in the Shores, making it easy to move without thinking about it, whether it be gardening, walking (or jogging) along our beautiful open spaces or the beach. With the completion of the Recreation Amenities project combined with the tennis and pickle ball courts and pool, the opportunities to stay active are right in our backyard. I’ve always maintained an attitude that **Motion is Medicine** and within Niguel Shores it’s easy to embrace that mentality. The Fountain of Youth in fact exists within our minds.

■ **Right Tribe:** The world’s longest lived people have **social circles** that support healthy behaviors. You don’t need me to tell you this, but in my humble opinion the social circle(s) within our Niguel Shores village embody this connection. There are many newcomers to Niguel Shores which is fantastic! Please do consider joining the many Clubs and Committees offered within the community. It will expose you to new friends and neighbors you didn’t know you had.

A Few Last Words—Take care of each other and try to find common ground when issues arise. It’s challenging sometimes, but with respect to areas of contention, try to have open dialogue and perhaps a compromise can be reached. We don’t live on massive lots, so we try to do our best to be good neighbors.

As summer approaches and you find yourself looking for events to fill your calendar, please keep the **Ocean Institute** in mind. They offer a plethora of activities, including a *Sail on the Spirit of Dana Point* and a *Distinguished Speaker* series.

Thank you for all the kind feedback you’ve provided over the past couple of years. I’m honored to have served as your President of the Board of Directors.

—Best regards, Jim Cobb



GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Candidates for NSCA Board:

The candidates running for the NSCA Board of Directors are **Bob Berkery, Rick Palmer, Brian Porter, Doug Robinson** and **Sandi Stauffer**. Remember that your vote counts. It is important to complete and return your ballot.

For your convenience there are several ways in which the ballots can be submitted this year:

- Place in the self-addressed stamped envelope provided with the election material
- Deliver to Accurate Voting Services, 18 Technology Drive, Suite 142, Irvine, CA 92618
- Deliver to the Management Office and place in the BALLOT box in the front office

- Present in person at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 21, prior to the polls closing

NSCA Annual Meeting/Election: The Annual Meeting and Election of Board Directors will be held on Tuesday, May 21. Registration will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Center Clubhouse, and the Annual Meeting/Election is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. where the election results will be tabulated and announced.

Happy Mother's Day: To all the beautiful mothers in Niguel Shores, please have a wonderful day and celebrate yourself—you deserve it!!

Holiday Closing: The office will be closed for Memorial Day on May 27. No construction will be allowed on that day.

—Marla Miller



**Celebrate Our Moms
and
Remember Our Heroes**

May 12 **Mother's Day**
May 27 **Memorial Day**



**NSCA Annual Meeting
and Election**

Tuesday, May 21

5 p.m. Registration
6 p.m. Meeting and Election

APRIL 2024 BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

(GENERAL SESSION)

ACCEPTED AND FILED:

- Unaudited January and February 2024 Financial Reports
- General Session Committee Minutes

APPROVED:

- General Session Meeting Minutes for March 13, 2024
- 30-Day Trial Use Tennis Court to Pickleball Court Limited Hours/Days
- April 2024 Expense and Transfer (Actual)
- View Preservation Committee: Two (2) New Members
- Lien Filing: APN 672-181-07; APN 672-143-20; APN 672-144-15; APN 672-142-29; and APN 672-222-16
- Audit Cover Correspondence
- Depreciation Policy Update
- Harvest Proposal #121714 Tree Removal Mercator Isle
- Harvest Proposal #121719 Tree Removal Salvador Bay
- JCoast Recreation Proposal #3823 Playground Replacement for Toddler Swings, Chains,

- Clubhouse Roof and Table
- 2024 Street Project Engineering Funding and Contract

DISAPPROVED:

- Appeal of AC Approval of Remodel – Sidney Bay

TABLED:

- Tree Plan
- Approval of Audit Report
- Harvest Proposal #121336 Tree Removal Vista D'Onde and Proposal #119530 Concrete Replacement

REVIEWED/DISCUSSED:

- Check Register, General Ledger, Legal, and Delinquency Report (February)
- Recreational Amenity Update
- Legal Analysis
- Correspondence to the Board (Bluehill Bay; Ionian Bay; Windjammer Drive; and Spinnaker Drive)
- Manager's Report

NOTE: The last approved General Session Minutes are posted on the Bulletin Board across from the NSCA Office entrance and on the website. 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 IN THE CLUBHOUSE ON THE **2nd WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024, BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Street Maintenance Costs—A quick note about the continued upward pressure on costs for all of us. In November of 2023, the largest asphalt material plant in Irvine was closed. Due to the closure, costs for asphalt material delivered and dump fees have increased significantly. The closest asphalt plants capable of supplying larger paving projects are in NE Anaheim or Corona. Some of the more local materials are also not quite as easy to work with, which has been challenging since the closure of the Irvine asphalt plant. Our apologies for the delays this has caused in our most recent paving projects.

With Appreciation and Good Wishes—Two longtime members of our Maintenance Team are soon retiring—**George Cooley** in June (more about that next month) and **Dave Smith**, on May 31. **Maintenance Supervisor, Dave Smith** has been part of the team here since 2005



Dave Smith

and has rarely missed a day, even working most holidays, especially Independence Day when he was well known for working a 12 hour shift so we could be assured all our community festivities went smoothly.

Dave's normal day at Niguel Shores starts at 4:00 a.m. caring for our beautiful pool and spa so they are ready for your enjoyment. We could never contract out this service because it is done daily before the earliest swimmers arrive. Dave, on numerous occasions, has been complimented by the County of Orange Health Department inspectors about how clean and well managed our pool is! Not to mention the many residents who happily swim in the pool or enjoy the spa with little thought to the hard work Dave put in early that morning.

You can often see Dave as he drives the more than 13 miles of roads that are within our gates making sure everything is running smoothly. Be sure to watch for him and

wave your appreciation because after May 31 Dave will be spending time with the grandkids and hanging out at the beach enjoying some well deserved sunshine. All of us on the Maintenance Committee say **THANK YOU, DAVE** for your almost 20 years of service making Niguel Shores the “extremely well maintained community” it is.

—*Geoff Dunlevie*

May Events at the Bluff

Taco Night
Sunday, May 5
&
Memorial Day BBQ
Sunday, May 26



RECREATION COMMITTEE

Mark your calendars and enjoy the fun at these NSCA events in May and the coming months.

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta: Sunday, May 5, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Don't miss out! Join the Cinco de Mayo celebration at the Beach Bluff. Tickets are \$15 each and include 3 tacos (your choice of chicken, carnitas or carne asada), rice and beans. Let's all enjoy this sizzling party with DJ George playing amazing tunes!

Memorial Day BBQ: Sunday, May 26, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Join us as we honor and remember our heroes this Memorial Day with a beachside BBQ bash. It's an evening of gratitude, community, and family fun. Bring your own food to grill at the Beach Bluff and enjoy DJ George's awesome music as we make this Memorial Day memorable.

Ice Cream at the Bluff: Friday, June 14, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

In 'N Out Night: Saturday, June 22 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Fourth of July Festivities: Thursday – All Day

Ice Cream at the Bluff – Friday, July 12, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Food Truck Night – Saturday, July 20, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Ice Cream at the Bluff: Friday, August 2, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Band By the Sea: Saturday, August 17, 4:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Ice Cream at the Bluff: Friday, August 30, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Labor Day BBQ: Sunday, September 1, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

—*Recreation Committee*

EVERYBODY INVITED!

Come Join Us For a

**MAINTENANCE
RETIREMENT PARTY**

Wednesday, May 15 — 5 to 6 p.m.

Niguel Shores Community Center

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION AMENITIES ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Excitement is building as we see our amenities project come to an end with new facilities and activities to enjoy! The final touches should be complete by the end of spring, so here's an update!

Sport Court Area—The colorful new courts are all complete! The Bocce Ball and Sports Court, with its two Basketball Courts, Shuffleboard and Volleyball options, are ready to go! The large, shaded Picnic Area looks welcoming! Once we complete the playground, we will be ready to use these awesome new amenities.

Playground—There is a slight delay in pouring the new playground rubber surface as the city has requested additional engineering from the playground vendor. Once the permit has been received (hopefully by the time you're reading this), we will schedule the surface installation.

Tennis—Shade is coming to the tennis courts! The shade brackets should be installed in May. The new court reservation system is in the works so look for details on the Niguel Shores website.



New shade area and sport court

Grass—We are super excited that the grass area will be seeded in May and ready for summer use!

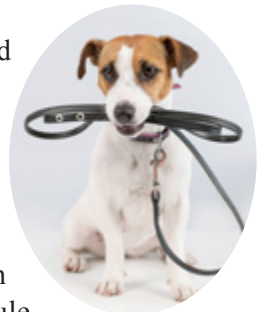
Thank you again for your patience as we near completion. If you have questions related to this project, please email NSAmenities@gmail.com. Happy May. 😊

—Debi Berk

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Pet Owner's Responsibility

Leashes—Yes, you really do need to use them. This is required by both state and local ordinances. Niguel Shores Rules & Regulations reinforces the requirement to leash a dog when the animal is not secured on a private lot. Just attaching a leash to the collar does not satisfy the rule.



The rule requires a responsible person to be in control of the leash, and by extension the dog, at all times.

Niguel Shores pet rules not only address the leash requirement, but they also require pet owners to address excessive barking and aggressive behavior such as snapping or biting. Niguel Shores does enforce pet rules, and certain types of violations come with a monetary fine as published and sent to every owner annually with the disclosures in the annual budget.

Orange County Animal Care has also requested residents to report unleashed dogs, excessive barking, and to immediately contact them for any aggressive behaviors. Orange County Animal Care forms can be accessed through their website at ocpetinfo.com or on our NSCA website by clicking the "OC Animal Care" link.

—Karen Decker



HONOR YOUR GRADUATES



The Seashore News has an annual tradition of recognizing Niguel Shores graduates with a special announcement in the June issue.

If your household has a high school or college graduate that you would like us to recognize, please send their name, a photo, future plans, and any other activities you would like to share.

Send your information to: seashorenews@hotmail.com

We look forward to recognizing our 2024 graduates in the June issue of the *Seashore News*.

Deadline to submit is May 10, 2024.

CLUBS

WOMEN'S CLUB

Mark your calendars for this month's **Luncheon at Noon on May 9** for a presentation by the **Ecology Center**. Learn about the Center's Earth-friendly activities, family feasts, strawberry picking, grow-and-eat summer camp, and programs for all ages.

We also have a **Bocce Ball Social** coming up on **May 16**. (See the announcement on this page.)

Remember, your **\$25 dues** for the 2024-2025 year are payable now. You'll want to be a part of all the fun and friendly events we have planned. Bring your check to the luncheon, or drop it off at the NSCA Office.

Sending Mother's Day good wishes to all the mothers, grandmothers, sisters, daughters, aunts, and mother-figures who have touched our lives.

—Women's Club Communication

Women's Club Outside Activity

EVENT: Come have a (Bocce) Ball!

WHEN: Thursday, May 16th at 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: At our brand-new Bocce courts.

BRING: An appetizer to share and your own beverage.

NO CHARGE: We'll provide the balls, paper goods and PRIZES!



The name "Bocce" is derived from the Italian *boccia* for *bowl* (as in bowling) and is basically a bowling game played since days of ancient Egypt (using polished stones), Greece, and the Roman Empire. Isn't it time you learned to play?

We'll teach you the rules and help form teams. Come to play or just to watch! No RSVP needed.

MEN'S CLUB

April was a busy time for the Niguel Shores Men's Club. We met twice, once in the morning with distinguished guest speakers from the city of Dana Point, and once in the evening for our inaugural **Evening Mixer Event**. Both meetings drew good crowds. At the evening meeting April 16, more than a few fresh faces showed up. It was fun for the morning regulars to mix it up with old friends who find it challenging to arise at the break of dawn. The evening crowd was full of vim and vigor and, after an adult beverage or two, ready for a little bocce ball. With some useful guidance from Umpire **Eric Eckes**, the Bocce Ball contest was underway. The competition was fierce.



Evening at the bocce court.

Who knew so many among us are Bocce Ballers? After a few near misses and close calls, **John Barbee** and **Gary Bolles** took home the trophies. Congratulations to both. The Shores new bocce ball court, adjacent to the new multi-purpose sports court, was a perfect venue for our evening meet. Let's tip our collective hats to member **Gary Wilson** for his extensive, thoughtful work on this Shores amenities project.

The evening mixer followed in the wake of our April 2 breakfast when **John Gabbard**, Men's Club member and Dana Point City Councilman, took the podium with his colleague **Mike Killebrew**, Dana Point City

Manager. Gabbard is from Kokomo, Indiana originally, retired from the U.S. Marine Corp, and was involved in the building of some 15,000 homes in So Cal as an executive in



City Manager Mike Killebrew and City Councilman John Gabbard.

the home construction business after his military service. Both John and Mike shared the podium to bring us up to date on many city programs and activities, such as the

PLAN AHEAD!

**The Men's Club
Annual Pancake Breakfast
Thursday, July 4,
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Niguel Shores Clubhouse**



- Cost is still only \$8.00.
- We request that everyone purchase breakfast tickets ahead of time.
- Order online: pancakes.niguelshoresmensclub.org.
- You can select a time for indoor or outdoor seating.
- If you are unable to order online, please contact the NSCA office and a volunteer from the Men's Club will call to take your order.

CLUBS

update of the city plan to make **Monarch Plaza** a mixed-use property. They explained “mixed-use” generally refers to multi-story buildings with commercial at street level and residential on upper floors. City staff has also made the residential remodel building permit/approval process more user-friendly through enhancements to the online application process. There was also some commentary about the revised proposal for the redevelopment of the **Monarch Beach Villas on Niguel Road** to include 700-plus units and at least one eight-story tower. Whoa! Councilman Gabbard closed by distributing his personal contact information and inviting interested parties to contact him directly regarding any city-related concerns. It was a highly participative meeting, and both speakers were appreciated with a warm round of applause.

This month we welcome speaker **Julie Riffe** from Riffe International on **Tuesday, May 7**. In addition to a great breakfast, we might just learn something about diving and spear fishing.

If not yet a member, come join us at one of our twice-monthly meetings. I think you will be impressed with the quality of the people who comprise our membership, and by the friendly, open character of our assemblies. You will enjoy the stimulating and thoughtful presentations of our guest speakers. We welcome all interested parties. You do not have to be a resident of the Shores to be a member of the Men’s Club.

—Tim Moore

GARDEN CLUB

Our April meeting featured a presentation by our 2023 Garden Club Scholarship recipient, **Linda Cessna**, who is studying Horticulture and Landscape Design at Saddleback College.

The club also made an excursion to the **Garden of Launa Gould** in San Clemente. Launa is the Orange County



Garden Club tour group.

CGCI district director and parliamentarian for the San Clemente Garden Club. We toured her garden, and enjoyed some light refreshments, and even a surprise activity.

Our **next meeting** will be on **Monday, May 20, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

in the **Clubhouse**. Our guest speaker will be **Adam** from **Harvest**, Niguel Shores landscaping contractor.

The Garden Club continues to **welcome new members**. Membership is open to all residents of Niguel Shores. You do not need to be a gardening expert to join. Our meetings are varied and may comprise a speaker, workshop, garden related projects or a field trip. Refreshments are served at each meeting. Dues are \$20 per person per year, and \$5 per guest visit. To join, sign-up forms are in the Niguel Shores office.

Please contact **Sandi Stauffer** at sandistauffer@comcast.net with any questions. We hope that you will join us.

—Judi Palladino



Linda Cessna



Dana Point Nursery owner **Brooke Cuevas** was presented the California Garden Clubs Inc. **Certificate of Commendation** for her many years of support for the Niguel Shores Garden Club Plant Sale. Dana Point Nursery has been a major supporter, always donating a vast quantity and variety of beautiful plants for the annual sale.



Puzzlers in Niguel Shores

The official term for someone who puts jigsaw puzzles together is a “dissectologist,” since the first jigsaw puzzles in eighteenth century England were actually dissected wooden maps used to teach geography. According to Wikipedia, “Jason Spilsbury is credited with commercializing jigsaw puzzles around 1760.”

Fast forward to the Great Depression of 1929 where puzzles became very popular, and were made of cardboard instead of wood. They provided an inexpensive recreation activity that was recyclable and cheap to produce. The making of today’s jigsaw puzzles is completely modernized and uses laser cutting to make amazingly beautiful and creative puzzles. The puzzle pastime saw a resurgence in popularity during the recent global pandemic. Today, we have a variety of puzzle types, from the ordinary boxed puzzle of cardboard pieces to acrylic puzzles, computer simulated geode puzzles, and even a 42,000 piece jigsaw puzzle! Puzzling is so popular, a World Jigsaw Puzzle Championship will be held in Spain in September.

Two of our residents, **Cathy Sherline** and **Sheryl Cooper**, recently shared their “joy of doing puzzles” with us.

SSN: What kind of puzzles do you usually do?

Cathy: “I enjoy doing puzzles with my friends, which are typically 500 pieces. However, when I am at home, I prefer to challenge myself with 1000 piece puzzles. I particularly like Ravensburger puzzles because of their quality, and they are the brand used in the speed puzzling group I participate in. On the other hand, I like White Mountain puzzles because they offer themes that remind me of my childhood.”

Sheryl: “I like assembling really challenging puzzles of fine art paintings by the masters: Van Gogh, Matisse, Gustav Klimt and illustrators of Americana like Norman Rockwell. Since you can’t own an original, you can often see the color gradations, brushstrokes and other elements in the detail. I also love puzzles

depicting animals in nature. The largest one was 2,000 pieces of African animals, although the ubiquitous “Dogs Playing Poker” and other themes with humor are fun to do, too.”

SSN: When and where do you meet and how do you work?

Cathy: “I try to work on 2 or 3 puzzles every week. Recently I found out that some of my pickleball friends also enjoy puzzles, so we started meeting at the Niguel Shores clubhouse to work on them.”

Sheryl: “If I could I would work on a jigsaw puzzle every day. I meet my friend, Cathy, at the Niguel Shores lobby a few times a week. At home I seem to have an open puzzle on the table most of the time while I listen to audio books.”

SSN: I understand you’ve participated in contests. Where are they and how do they work?

Cathy: I recently participated in a speed puzzling competition with a friend who is very fast at completing puzzles. The competition was held by The Orange County Speed Puzzling Group (on Facebook) at the Mission Viejo Senior Center near LaPaz. Many top-tiered puzzlers finished their 500 piece custom puzzle as a two-some in less than an hour!

Sheryl: “Being more of a tortoise than a hare, I do not participate in speed puzzling competitions.”

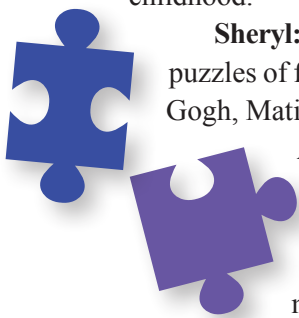
SSN: Are you looking for more participants?

Cathy: We are interested in organizing a puzzle group. Two individuals can complete a 500 piece puzzle in 2 to 4 hours, although experienced puzzlers can do it even faster. Puzzles are an exceptional way to keep your mind active and healthy. They are not only entertaining, but also offer a range of cognitive benefits including memory improvement, problem-solving skills enhancement, and creativity boost. If you’re looking for a fun and challenging way to keep your mind sharp, puzzles are a must-try. (See the work of our “dissectologists” on page 10.)

—Michelle Ralph

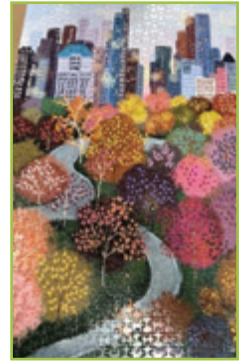


Cathy Sherline and Sheryl Cooper



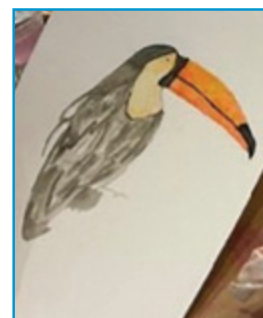
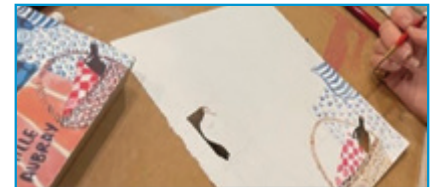
PUZZLERS!

Attention, Puzzle Enthusiasts: If you're interested in joining our Niguel Shores puzzle group, call or text **Cathy Sherline**, at (949) 606-4372. Here are some beautiful examples of their work.



Watercolor Painting

Looking for an artistic outlet? If you would like to try your hand at watercolor painting, call **Meg Wilson** at (714) 742-4387 and join the group that meets on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30. No experience necessary, just an interest in trying the watercolor technique. Materials will be supplied. Here are some painters, their supplies, and their work.



Women's Club Fashion by the Sea

Big congratulations to 2024 Fashion Show Co-chairs **Marnie Olia** and **Cathy Burgner** and their committee members **Sara Crowder, Petra Lemelin, Gigi McDonnell, Leslie Moore, Robin Neuvirth, Suzette Rhorer, Kathy Samuel, Deb Schreiber** and **Patti**

Staudenbaur for their outstanding efforts to make this year's **Fashion by the Sea** a huge success.

A high element of anticipation filled the Clubhouse as audience members sipped champagne and sparkling cider, and admired raffle prizes that included a picnic basket, pashmina, wine carrier, SPF sun hat, totes, and local gift cards.

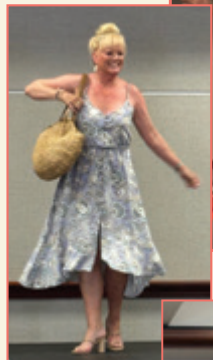
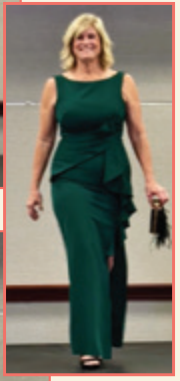
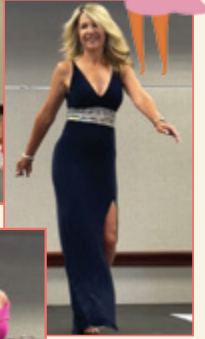
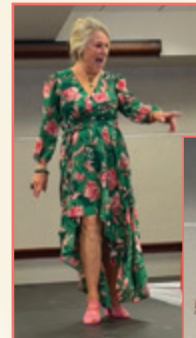
Guests were delighted by the luncheon decor designed by the committee with table centerpieces of white roses, candles, sand and sea shells and an assortment of candy. Box lunches from **The Cheese Block** in Costa Mesa included a choice of sandwich, and/or salad, fresh berries, honey and chocolate.

Our lovely club members **Nadine Allen, Val Menconi, Sue Palmer, Sharon Stewart, Cynthia Talley, Linda Watts** and **Laurel Yocca** modeled fourteen outfits representing "Daytime by the Sea—Casual Wear" and "Night Time by the Sea—Formal Wear."

With music from **DJ George**, the beautiful models strutted down the elevated catwalk in fashions from many different clothing stores such as Nordstrom, Macy's, Tommy Bahama, Amazon, Bloomingdale's, Boston Proper, Anthropologie and JOHNNY WAS. Fashion Show Committee members also walked the catwalk, for a total of twenty-five outfits plus accessories in the show.

The audience hailed the wildly successful event with a standing ovation, and the day was definitely a hit! The Women's Club Fashion Show is a "must attend" each year, so mark your calendars for April 2025!

—Cathy Burgner



ACTIVITIES

BRIDGE

When friends ask me which month is my favorite, I always answer May. May represents “Love and Success” and it is the high point of spring looking forward to summer. May is known for the observances of Arthritis Awareness Month (when you pass 80, you youngsters will know what I am talking about), Better Sleep Month, (something we all need and don’t get enough of), Mental Health Awareness Month (I won’t get started on that one), National Walking Month (another thing we need to do more of), and Women’s Health Care Month. The reason I bring up these special occasions is—whether you are young or older—they are all important to your health. You might even say May is when you take stock of your health and see how you can improve your life.

Bridge is a social game that improves one’s mental health.

Recent winners:

March 20: (1) Sandy Nelson, (2) Bill Imbriale (3) strangely enough, Mike Oliva.

March 27: (1) Bill Halama, from the great state of Montana (2) Patty Hollis, after a long and painful neck operation, (3) Bryon Nelson.

April 3: (1) Mike Oliva surprised everyone, including himself, (2) Bob Ruben, (3) Dorothy Garcia, 102 years STRONG.

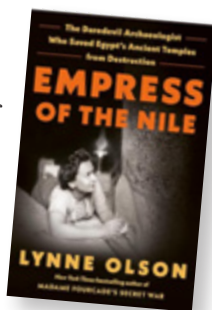
April 10: (1) Terry Liebman, (2) Elizabeth Miller, (3) Patty Hollis.

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

—Mike Oliva

PAGE TURNERS

Page Turners Book Club will be reading this month the non-fiction *Empress of the Nile* by Lynne Olson. As one reviewer explains: “In the 1960s, the world’s attention was focused on a nail-biting race against time: the international campaign to save a dozen ancient Egyptian temples from drowning in the floodwaters of the gigantic new Aswan High Dam. But the coverage of this unprecedented rescue effort completely overlooked the daring French archaeologist who made it all happen. Without the intervention of Christiane Desroches-Noblecourt, the temples—including the Temple of Dendur, now at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art—would currently be at the bottom



of a vast reservoir. It was an unimaginably complex project that required the fragile sandstone temples to be dismantled and rebuilt on higher ground.

“Willful and determined, Desroches-Noblecourt refused to be cowed by anyone or anything. As a member of the French Resistance in World War II she survived imprisonment by the Nazis; in her fight to save the temples she defied two of the most daunting leaders of the postwar world, Egypt’s President Abdel Nasser and France’s President Charles de Gaulle. As she told one reporter, ‘You don’t get anywhere without a fight, you know.’

“Desroches-Noblecourt also received help from a surprising source. Jacqueline Kennedy, America’s new First Lady, persuaded her husband to help fund the rescue effort. After a century and a half of Western plunder of Egypt’s ancient monuments, Desroches-Noblecourt helped instead to preserve a crucial part of that cultural heritage.” (Barnes & Noble review)

We get to discuss a great variety of books in this book club. We have three groups all reading the same book each month. One group meets the fourth Monday afternoon of the month and the other two groups meet, separately, the fourth Thursday afternoon of the month. For more information please contact me at fozimed@cox.net.

—Frances Ozimec

MANTA COURT HAPPY HOUR CELEBRATION

Every Sunday, the neighbors on north Manta Court gather for fellowship. They started this Happy Hour four years ago, during the early stages of the pandemic, and it continues every Sunday evening. A great neighborhood group that has supported each other thru illnesses, family deaths, remodels and happy vacation times. Cheers to Manta Court!



PICKLEBALL

Look Ma, our little backyard sport has gone mainstream! We are not only seeing tremendous growth in the popularity of pickleball but the sport has taken off across the country.

From those days during COVID when Chris Horpel lined out a court in the street in front of his house to what's going on in the pickleball world today—it's unbelievable.

Huge new pickleball facilities are popping up all across the country. Facilities the size of 30 to 40 courts are being built: a 32 court indoor facility in Georgia, a \$25,000,000 facility in Kentucky, a huge center in Scottsdale, a 40 court indoor and outdoor pickleball center at the corner of the 405 and 110 freeways in Los Angeles. The numbers vary as to who you believe but according to the APP there are 36,500,00 people who played at least once last year.

The bottom line is we are not alone in our love for the fastest growing sport in America. Keep pickling and, most important, have fun!

Sadly, the Niguel Shores Pickleball Community lost a special friend with the passing of **Jon Cobain**. Jon was a long time Niguel Shores resident and a lifelong tennis player. Once pickleball was introduced to Niguel Shores, Jon decided to give it a try. Despite the fact that he was undergoing cancer treatment, Jon would often join us on the pickleball courts after having played a couple of hours of tennis in the morning. Jon was an excellent player, always competitive, but always gracious and patient with his less experienced partners. Jon was respected and admired by the pickleball community and he will be greatly missed.

—Bob Hochstadter



Jon Cobain on the courts.

IN MEMORIAM

Jon Eric Cobain

September 4, 1942 - March 22, 2024

A resident on Windjammer Drive since 2003, Jon was active with the Men's Club Scholarship program, loved the beach and the Niguel Shores community. An avid tennis and pickleball player, he could be seen regularly on the court with his kids, grandkids and friends.

Jon was the first graduate and valedictorian at UNLV, where he continued to contribute to education and the arts. Avid traveler and international businessman, pilot of both light planes and helicopters, he lived life to the fullest every day.

Jon is remembered with love by his wife of 40 years, Judy Flynn; his daughter, Erika Cobain; in-law Dara Brady and grandchild Franklin Brady-Cobain; his son, Dr. Leif Cobain, and grandchildren Kai and Reese Cobain.

He will be missed.
He will be remembered.

DANA POINT THIS MONTH

DANA POINT FILM FESTIVAL

Ocean-inspired movies and documentaries, concerts, food vendors, educational talks
May 2 to 5 starting at 4 p.m. each night
Salt Creek Beach
Tickets: danapointfilm.com

FREE BIKE SAFETY EVENT

Helmet fittings, tire checks, safety tips, a fun bike course to practice safe bike skills, prizes, and certificates for participants.
May 5 starting at 1:00 p.m.
DP Community Center
Information: Dana Point Recreation (949) 248-3536

FREE BULKY ITEM DISPOSAL

May 11, 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
South Shores Church

SEA COAST SYMPHONY SPRING CONCERTS

May 17 and June 14 at 7:30 p.m.
St. Edward Church
Tickets: \$40 or \$35 senior
seacoastsymphony.com

ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

Solemn service honoring military personnel who have given their life defending and preserving freedom for the United States of America and helping others

establish their freedom.
Presented by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #9934 and the City of Dana Point
May 27 at 10 a.m.
Pines Park

SUMMER FOR YOUTH

Dana Point Recreation Division is offering a variety of youth classes this summer. Become a scientist, develop skills for cooking, learn a new sport—something for everyone.
Registration: danapoint.org/recreation or (949) 248-3530



LIVING WELL – MAKING OLDER BETTER

Introducing Niguel Shores resident, Dr. Kerry Burnight, a gerontologist on a mission to make older better. She has served as a Professor of Geriatric Medicine and is the co-founder of the nation's first Elder Abuse Forensic Center. Her research focuses on the two ends of the aging experience: wellness, purpose, dignity, connection, and joy in longevity at the one end and loneliness, elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation at the other end. Dr. Burnight's work was recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice and she has appeared on the Dr. Phil Show, The Doctors, Money Matters, and Headline News.



People always ask, "What's Betty's secret?" Betty is my 95-year-old mother. After they pose the question, they lean in to me, her daughter who is a gerontologist. They're hoping I'll divulge some supplement, diet plan, or exercise regime that's enabled her to avoid illness. Nope. Betty lives with congestive heart failure, hypertension, and body-wide arthritis.

"Well, then does she still have her husband? Was she especially lucky with her kids?" Again I disappoint them—no and no. Betty's husband, John, passed fourteen years ago. Betty and John went through bankruptcy. Betty's son, Russ, got Acute Myelogenous Leukemia. In other words, she has stuff just like everyone else.

Her secret isn't a clean bill of health or a life free of challenges. Her secret isn't a secret at all. Betty is enjoying joy in longevity through the **science of well-being**. The research on well-being in later life is powerful but has remained tucked away in academic journals. There are six pillars of well-being in longevity: quality relationships, personal growth, self-acceptance, autonomy, environmental mastery, and purpose.

Let's focus on the last one, **purpose**. Research at UCLA reveals that after controlling for relevant variables, people with higher levels of purpose have lower inflammation and higher antiviral response. The effect size reveals that lacking purpose can be as damaging as smoking or obesity!

Purpose is not some big lofty thing. It is found in little things—in seeing what you have to offer and giving it. Betty explains, "You know what gets me out of bed each day? A note to a friend to write, my gratitude journal, lemons to pick, phone calls to make, birthdays to remember."

I am putting ideas together a book on maximizing vitality and joy in longevity and would love your input. You can reach me at drkerryburnight.com or on instagram [the_gerontologist.com](https://www.instagram.com/the_gerontologist). Here's to making older better, together!

—Kerry Burnight, PhD

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👉 **BEST AGENT IN CALIFORNIA!!** My sister and I used Cora Berkery to sell a family trust property. We could not have made a better decision. She went above and beyond in every regard and helped us make great decisions that increased the value. Cora was able to get multiple offers over the asking price with one open house event. Every step of the way she was there as part of our team. We absolutely adore Cora and would not hesitate to use her again. 🧡 **Sincerely, - John Damiano**



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ACCOLADES



AN AMAZING KID!

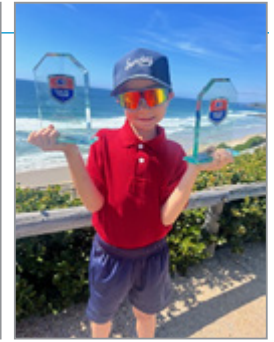
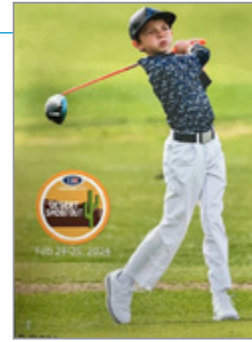
Our young resident **Patton Green** is one of the best 7-year-old golfers in the world! Patton currently attends second grade at **Richard H. Dana Elementary**. He started regularly going to the driving range at the age of two, and practices almost every day on his golf game. His coach is PGA Master Professional Alan Ochiai at Oak Creek Golf Club in Irvine.

Patton has won over 50 tournaments and is currently the reigning **California and Nevada State Champ**, and **San Diego and Orange County Tour Champ**. He already has two holes-in-one, at a Monterey tournament in back-to-back years, and took Third Place in the **IMG World Championship** in San Diego.

Later this month, his parents **Erin and Matt Green** will accompany Patton to compete in the **European Championship** in **Scotland**. Patton is trying to inspire other kids by hosting his own fundraiser to assist with this adventure with 50% of the funds going to help the non-profit **U.S. Kids Golf Foundation**. His parents are hosting a “**Scotland-Send Off-Sunset Party for Patton**” at Monarch Beach Golf Links on Friday, May 10. Proceeds go to his fundraiser! \$20 per person includes one appetizer, a putting challenge, games, and prizes. A cash bar will be open. RSVP to matt_green@live.com.

You can also support Patton on his golf adventure and the U.S. Kids Golf Foundation at gofundme.com/f/Pattongolf-championship. Check Instagram for details: [@Patton.Green](https://www.instagram.com/Patton.Green)

—Susan Courtney



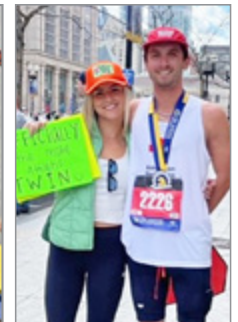
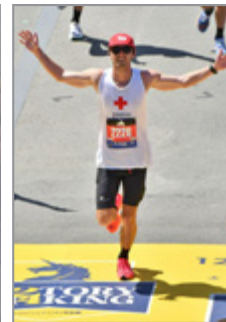
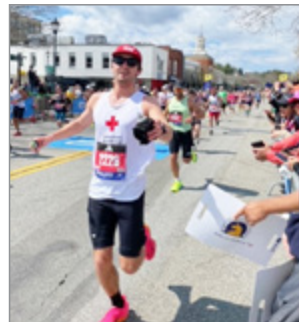
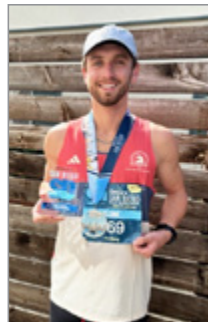
Patton holds the score sheet from a St. Patrick's Day 9-hole tournament where he shot a record 5 under par.



MARATHON RUNNER

Congratulations to **Sloan Smith**! Sloan ran the **Boston Marathon** last month, finishing in the top tenth of all runners and raising over \$10,000 for the American Red Cross of Massachusetts.

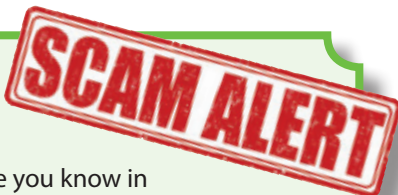
Part of Sloan's training for the Boston Marathon was running the San Diego 1/2 marathon where he won first place in his age division.



Sloan's twin sister was in Boston to congratulate him as he crossed the finish line!

Scam Email

Beware of emails that seem to come from people you know in our community or in a group you belong to—but are actually from scam artists. They ask you for a favor, like purchasing gift cards or sending them cash for a special event. Warning: Do not reply to these emails. Take time to verify that the sender is the actual person and not an unknown email address. Be wise to scammers and never send money, gift cards, or give out personal information, account numbers, or passcodes.



APARTMENT COMPLEX ON NIGUEL ROAD— INFORMATION MEETING

Brenda Wisneski, Dana Point Director of Community Development, has scheduled a meeting here in Niguel Shores for those interested in knowing more about the proposed 708-unit apartment complex on Niguel Road across from our Mariner gate entrance. Also attending will be **Dana Point City Manager Mike Killebrew**, and representatives from **Ritz Point** and **Monarch Beach Homeowners Associations**.

Date: May 9 **Time:** 5:30 p.m.

Location: Niguel Shores Clubhouse



Pet Parade



CAR SAFETY FOR PETS

Car accidents are a major cause of human death and injury in the United States. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that 42,939 people died in motor vehicle crashes in 2022. What this does not tell us is the number of pets injured or killed in car accidents every year. This data is not collected, but we do know that, out of a total population of 128 million pet-owning households in 2020, 45% of households own dogs and 26% own cats (*2022 AVMA Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook*).

With so many households owning pets, the use of **pet restraints** to avoid accidents and protect pets from harm in car accidents is an important issue. Even so, there are no regulations that require restraining pets in cars. There are only recommendations. We have regulations about distracted drivers and cell phones, but not for pet restraints in vehicles. A study by AAA in 2010 found that more than 80% of drivers recognize that it is dangerous driving with an unrestrained pet, but only 16% in this study used pet restraints.

An unrestrained pet can distract the driver, and that could result in an accident. If an unrestrained pet is in an accident in a moving vehicle, its injuries can range from minor abrasions to fractured limbs, or even a broken spine or internal bleeding. A 60 pound dog in a car traveling 35 miles per hour in an accident turns into a 2,700 pound projectile. A pet in a motor vehicle accident may be thrown from the car or run away. This can cause another accident, or the pet may be hit by another vehicle. Pets

also are at risk for injury or death when an airbag deploys during an accident.

Another hazard for dogs in cars is letting their heads stick out the car window. The force of the wind on the face can cause abrasions on the eyes. There is also the possibility of foreign material blowing into the eyes and face.

To avoid such injuries, pets should **ride in the back seat** of the car, not in the front. To further reduce the risk of injury, your pet should **be restrained** if possible. One helpful safety precaution may be to secure the pet's safety harness or carrier directly into the seat belt of the car, but there are now many specially designed pet restraint products that can further reduce the risk of car-related injury, including carriers, harnesses, kennels, and seat belts.

A non-profit organization called the **Center for Pet Safety** tests and sets performance requirements for these products. Also, the **American Veterinary Medical Association** (AVMA) has a policy that states: "Properly secured, size-appropriate kennels that are appropriately ventilated and allow climatic conditions suitable for the pet's species, breed and conditioning to be maintained are the preferred means of transport of pets when in open cargo areas of motor vehicles."

We recommend you start your pet out in a car restraint at a young age. That way they will be comfortable and not distract you while you are driving. Lastly, as you all know, you should **never leave your pet unattended in a car** because the temperature in the car can heat up quickly and be extremely dangerous.

—Susan Davis, DVM

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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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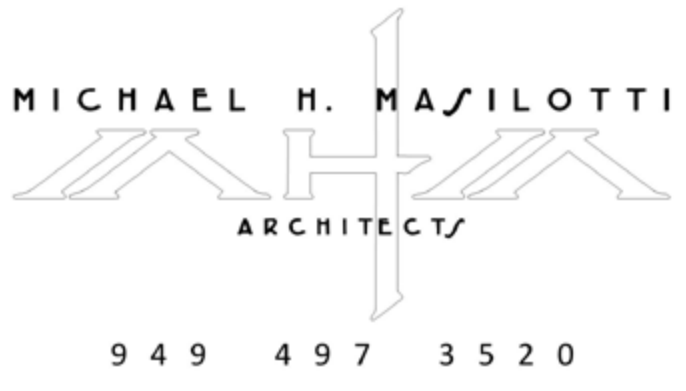
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MARKET UPDATE

ORANGE COUNTY



ACTIVE LISTINGS

The active listing inventory in the past couple of weeks decreased by 67 homes, down 3%, and now sits at 2,017. In March, 42% fewer homes came on the market compared to the 3-year average before COVID, 1,623 less. 149 more sellers came on the market this March compared to 2023.



DEMAND

Demand, the number of pending sales over the prior month, increased by 79 pending sales in the past two weeks, up 5%, and now totals 1,617. Last year, there were 1,560 pending sales, 4% fewer than today. The 3-year average before COVID (2017 to 2019) was 2,668, or 65% more.



EXPECTED MARKET TIME

With supply falling and demand rising, the Expected Market Time, decreased from 41 to 37 days in the past couple of weeks, its lowest level since last April. It was 41 days last year, similar to today. The 3-year average before COVID (2017 to 2019) was 63 days, slower than today.



CLOSED SALES

There were 1,425 closed residential resales in February, up 12% from February 2023's 1,270 and 21% from January 2024. The sales-to-list price ratio was 99.4% for Orange County. Foreclosures accounted for 0.4% of all closed sales, and there were no closed short sales.



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REAL ESTATE REPORT FOR NIGUEL SHORES

By **CONNIE MCKIBBAN**

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3 HOMES CURRENTLY IN ESCROW
PRICED FROM \$2,175,000 - \$3,300,000

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★ (PER MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE AS OF 4/16/2024) ★

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