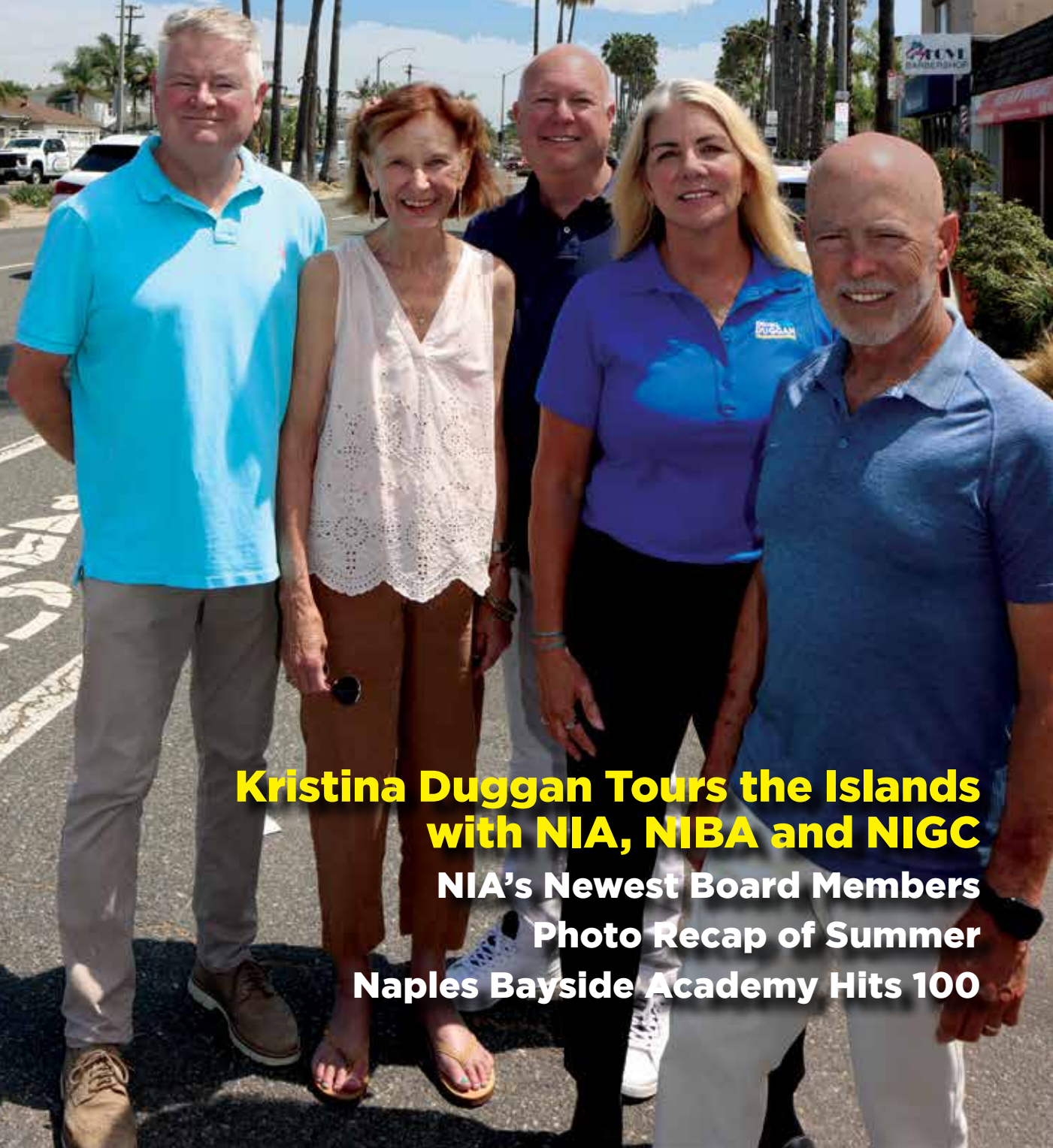


Fall/Winter 2025

NAPLES NEWS

A Publication of the Naples Improvement Association
Neighborhood USA's Community Newsletter of the Year



**Kristina Duggan Tours the Islands
with NIA, NIBA and NIGC**

NIA's Newest Board Members

Photo Recap of Summer

Naples Bayside Academy Hits 100



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS

Dear NIA Community,

As I reflect on the past three years of serving on the board, and the last two as your President, I feel a deep sense of honor and gratitude for the experiences we've shared. This past year has been particularly rewarding, and I am immensely proud of our board and the progress we've made together.

One of our significant achievements has been the collaboration with the NIGC and the NIBA to create the "2nd Street Corridor Improvement Plan." This initiative is vital for improving public safety and enhancing the beauty of our island's thoroughfare. Our collaborative efforts have allowed us to bring this plan to the city, and we are actively working with Kristina Duggan, our 3rd District Councilmember, to advocate for essential funding within the Long Beach 2028 Infrastructure Plan.

We remain committed to advocating for the repair and replacement of the seawall and were pleased to support our councilmember's initiative, "Keep Long Beach Oil Revenue Local," which was unanimously approved by the city council on August 19th.

With summer now in our rearview mirrors, it's great to look back on the wonderful NIA events we hosted, from our Pancake Breakfast to the Flea Market and our monthly concerts. The community's enthusiastic participation truly highlights the spirit of camaraderie that makes Naples special.

Turning toward year-end, I am excited about the upcoming Holiday Decor Contest and our annual Boat Parade on December 20th. This year's holiday theme, "Tropical Winter Wonderland," promises to inspire incredible creativity among our homes and boats. I can't wait to see what you will all bring to life!

As for me, after three fulfilling years on the board, it's time to step back and return to my role as a volunteer. On November 12th, we had our Annual Community Meeting and elected a new board. I am excited about the capable board members who were reelected, as well as our community members who stepped forward to join this upcoming year's board. I know it will be a great year for the NIA.

Serving this community has been a true pleasure, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to our shared goals. A special thank you to my fellow board members and all of the volunteers who dedicated their time and energy to make our programs and events a success.

Thank you for your support, and I look forward to the exciting times ahead!

My best,

Tony Digiovanni
NIA President



EDITOR'S MESSAGE



CENTENNIALS... AND NEW CHAPTERS

Naples Bayside Academy has a special place in my heart. Over the course of my daughter's years there, I had the privilege of serving as Room Parent for Kinder, First and Third Grades. I chaperoned field trips, and volunteered on school activities such as the *Fun Run* and *Lunch Art*. Once I had my footing, I dove in and chaired *Career Day*, which led to a couple years of chairing the *Science Fair*, and a couple of the *REFLECTIONS Creative Arts Exhibitions*, and finally, co-chairing the Yearbook with my good buddy, Kim Pankey. Yep, when it comes to Amélie's life-experiences, I'm all-in! And when it comes to schools, there's none better than our own Naples Bayside Academy. In this issue, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of this community icon—quite the milestone!

One of my favorite memories as room parent was helping first graders craft essays titled: "When I Grow Up, I Want To...". I sat with a particularly thoughtful 6-year-old who declared: "When I grow up, I want to work in a hotel." Thinking I knew exactly where he was going, I replied: "Oh, you want to be a hotel manager?" To which he responded: "What? No! I want to be the person who puts the chocolates on the pillows! They make people happy." My heart melted. How incredibly selfless and giving he aspired to be! We should all be made of such great stuff!

That said, perhaps you'll be moved to make a donation to the school's 2025 fundraising drive...look for the QR code in our celebratory article on pages 24-27.

So we're at that stage in our community's history where all across the island 100th anniversaries will abound. House after house will turn 100 years old. Even the NIA is turning 100. Did you know 2028 marks our centennial? I'm looking forward to the retrospective we'll pull together for our own anniversary. It's a great time to look back and to the future. Who will we be? What will we aspire to?

And speaking of the future, kids, aspirations and volunteerism... this marks my last issue as editor of Naples News. It's on to a new chapter. Going forward, I'll be diving deeper into Amélie's 8th grade experiences (and then on to High School)... serving on the board of the PTSA at Newcomb Academy, designing their bi-weekly newsletter, chairing their *Reflections Art Exhibition* and co-chairing the school's STEAM celebration. Over the last eight years, I've had a blast writing articles for Naples News, working with Judy Powell to create content, introducing the NIA's Hot Topics eblasts, overhauling the NIA's website, and, most recently, serving as your magazine editor. Time to let the next community do-gooder take the reigns of communications so I can laser in on torturing Amélie as "that parent" who orchestrates school experiences and totally embarrasses his daughter!

Some special Naples News shout-outs...

Ian Holmes, Lana Farfán, Salvador Farfán, and Frank Neumann -

THANK YOU, for being so damn committed, talented and giving! Your photography elevated our little publication to nationally-acclaimed heights: *NUSA's Top Community Newsletter in America*. Who'da

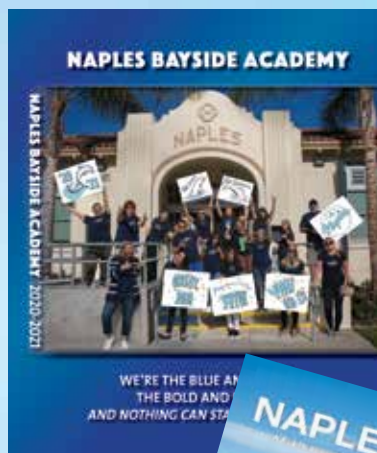
thunk it? Rainer Rahaeuser, Tony Digiovanni and Michael O'Toole... **THANK YOU** each as NIA presidents for your support. You made the editorial journey all the easier and substantive. To my "regular contributors" - Jeff Hoffman, Donna Fleming, Stacey King, Katie Rowe, Trish Schooley and Bob Lane - **THANK YOU** for playing along. You made great content to share with our neighbors: In the Know, Naples CERT, Naples Youth Program, Neighborhood Watch, Catching Up with the

NIGC, and NIBA Notations. As a community, Naples is so fortunate to have all of you and the gift of your collective volunteerism (from photography to leadership to editorial content).

Those who know me, understand it's all about THE EXPERIENCES, because at any point in time you are simply the sum-total of your life experiences. So take every opportunity to add to the collection. And in the story of life... be the exclamation point!

Now, on to the next chapter!


John Angelo
Naples News Editor and Art Director



Images: Two favorite covers I had the great fun of producing: NBA's 2020/21 yearbook and the NIA's May 2021 Naples News. Illusions created during COVID, each was pieced together over several weeks by staging individual photos of subjects and merging the images with Photoshop to fake the appearance of two groups gathered together all at once. Between the two, about 60 separate photos were required. Each person stood by him/



herself on a step or at the fountain, a n d thought: "What the heck am I doing? What is he gonna do with this pic?" In the end, as a community, in the strangest of times, we made it work. THANK YOU to everyone who played along. ;o)

Naples News Contributors

EDITORIAL PLANNING

John Angelo
John Boezinger
Tony Digiovanni
Jeff Hoffman
Ian Holmes
Bob Lane
Patti Londre
Rainer Rahaeuser

CONTENT DEVELOPMENT

Cindy Bambam
NIA Membership
Kristen Fisher/Trish Schooley
Naples Islands Garden Club
Donna Fleming
LB CERT-Naples Team
Nakee Hanks
NIA Events
Jeff Hoffman
In the Know
Stacey King
NIA Youth Program
AND Ways & Means
Bob Lane
NIA Community Relations
Naples Islands Bus. Assoc.
Patti Londre
NIA Contributor
Jessica Ripoll
Concerts in the Park

PHOTOGRAPHY

John Angelo
Salvador Farfán
Caught in the Moment
Photography
Ian Holmes, Holmes
Photoworks
Bob Lane
Frank Neumann
Rainer Rahaeuser
Trish Schooley

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Naples Improvement Assoc.
PO Box 3687, LB, CA 90803

naplesislands.org

NaplesNewsMagazine@gmail.com

Follow us on social media
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[@NIANaplesIsland](https://www.instagram.com/NIANaplesIsland)

NIA AT A GLANCE

A quick-read on what your NIA board members have been up to the past couple months and are prioritizing next.



Tony Digiovanni - President

Most recently, worked hard to support Kristina's council initiative to "Keep Tidelands Funds Local." Addressed city council on behalf of the NIA.



John Boezinger - Director at Large

I'll be working on the creation of the NIA 501(c) 3 org for future fund raising for island improvements.



Stacey King - Ways and Means

I'm wrapping up this season's Naples Concerts in the Park sponsorships and getting ready to dive into planning the NIA Holiday Awards and Community Celebration Dinner in February.



Nakee Hanks - 2nd Vice President, Events

I've dedicated significant effort to refining event coordination. For 2026, I'm prioritizing a strong volunteer program—identifying, onboarding, and supporting volunteers who will help deliver high-quality events across the island.



Bob Lane - Community Liaison

As Community Liaison, I've been monitoring the new City budget for line items that could impact Naples such as the funding for public safety and infrastructure, ensuring that we have permits for the band concerts, and regularly communicating with our Councilmember on local issues as they come up.



Chris Orlando - Secretary

I've been monitoring the ongoing Naples Sea Walls initiative with City Staff and local advocates. We've made great progress with the support of Kristina Duggan's team and look forward to continued momentum in 2026.



Ben Fisher - Director at Large

As Social Media Director at Large, I've been working on a few new ideas to help emphasize the history on our islands along with staying consistent with social media content which documents all of the wonderful events that take place in Naples.



Roger Powell - Treasurer

My major task is to keep the finances of the NIA in order. I am working diligently to do this.

Annual Meeting November 7 at the Long Beach Yacht Club

The NIA's annual general membership meeting began with Tony Digiovanni, NIA president, recapping the year's accomplishments.

Kristina Duggan then spoke for 25 minutes, covering some of the current issues facing Naples:

- Efforts for capturing oil revenue for LB,
- Davies Bridge construction project commencing in 2026,
- Olympics forward planning, and
- Proactive management of holiday crowds on and around Naples (trash pickup, street vendors, etc)

Roger Powell then took us through the formal 2026 board election process. Members unanimously approved the proposed slate with no dissent.



Above: Kristina Duggan addresses the community. Below, from L-R, 2026 NIA elected Board Members: Nakee Hanks, Ann Miller, Bob Lane, Jake Bergkvist, Roger Powell, Ben Fisher, Chris Orlando, Stacey King, Michael Wratschko, Catherine Markle, and Tony Digiovanni

Meet the New Board Members

JAKE BERGKVIST

As a lifelong Naples Island resident, I'm honored to join the Board of the Naples Improvement Association. Over the past two years, I've had the privilege of volunteering with the NIA on a range of community traditions, from the annual Pancake Breakfast to the Christmas Boat Parade, and those experiences have deepened my appreciation for the people and history that make our island so special.



As a board member, I'm excited to continue contributing to projects that strengthen our neighborhood. With the NIA approaching its 100-year anniversary and the 2028 Olympics on the horizon, we have a unique opportunity to enhance our island, celebrate our legacy, and invest in the future.

I value community connection above all, and I look forward to helping bring our residents even closer through thoughtful, community-driven initiatives that honor the past while supporting the next generation of Naples Islanders.

CATHERINE MARKLE

My family and I are continuing a deep family history here on Naples Island. My husband Clay and I own and operate Frogman Yacht Service, where we have been able to follow our lifelong commitment to clean and safe waterways.



My daughters are students at Naples Elementary, where I also work part time. It has been a true joy in my life to welcome our islands' children to school each morning, and be sure that every single child gets a warm greeting to start their day. I also work as the logistics manager for The Ace Collection, as well as in procurement for Christy B Home Design. I wear many hats, but my favorite is mom.

I am passionate about community as I strongly believe a supportive, inclusive community raises children into fearless and motivated members of society at large, and that's the whole point. Lets have some fun.

ANN MILLER

I'm Ann Miller—a California native born and raised in La Cañada and a proud UC Santa Barbara alum. After having my first child, I moved to Long Beach to be closer to family, and I quickly fell in love with the warmth and spirit of the community.



Eighteen years ago, I met my husband, Steve, on a blind date at Spaghetini's, and that chance evening turned into the beautiful life we share today. This year, we're celebrating 13 wonderful years in Naples—a place that has given us connection, comfort, laughter, and lifelong friendships.

I'm endlessly grateful for our Naples community. The dedication of our volunteers are a big part of what makes this neighborhood special. I'm honored to be joining the NIA board this year and hope to help inspire the next generation to feel that same pride for our community that has meant so much to me.

MICHAEL WRATSCHKO

My wife Emily and I have lived on Naples for over a decade and feel fortunate to raise our sons, Bo (8) and Vince (3), in such a special community. Our family is active in Naples Bayside Academy, LBYC, and NIA events—usually alongside a big group of Bayside families enjoying island traditions together.



I lead the design-build practice for STO Building Group in Southern California, helping teams deliver complex projects through collaboration and innovation. I also contribute my expertise locally, including advising LBYC on renovation planning, and serving on the board of the Lean Construction Institute's LA/OC chapter.

I am grateful for everything Naples offers and look forward to supporting and promoting the NIA's mission of creating memorable events, strengthening community connections, and enhancing island life for all residents.

2025 NAPLES BOAT PARADE

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 20**

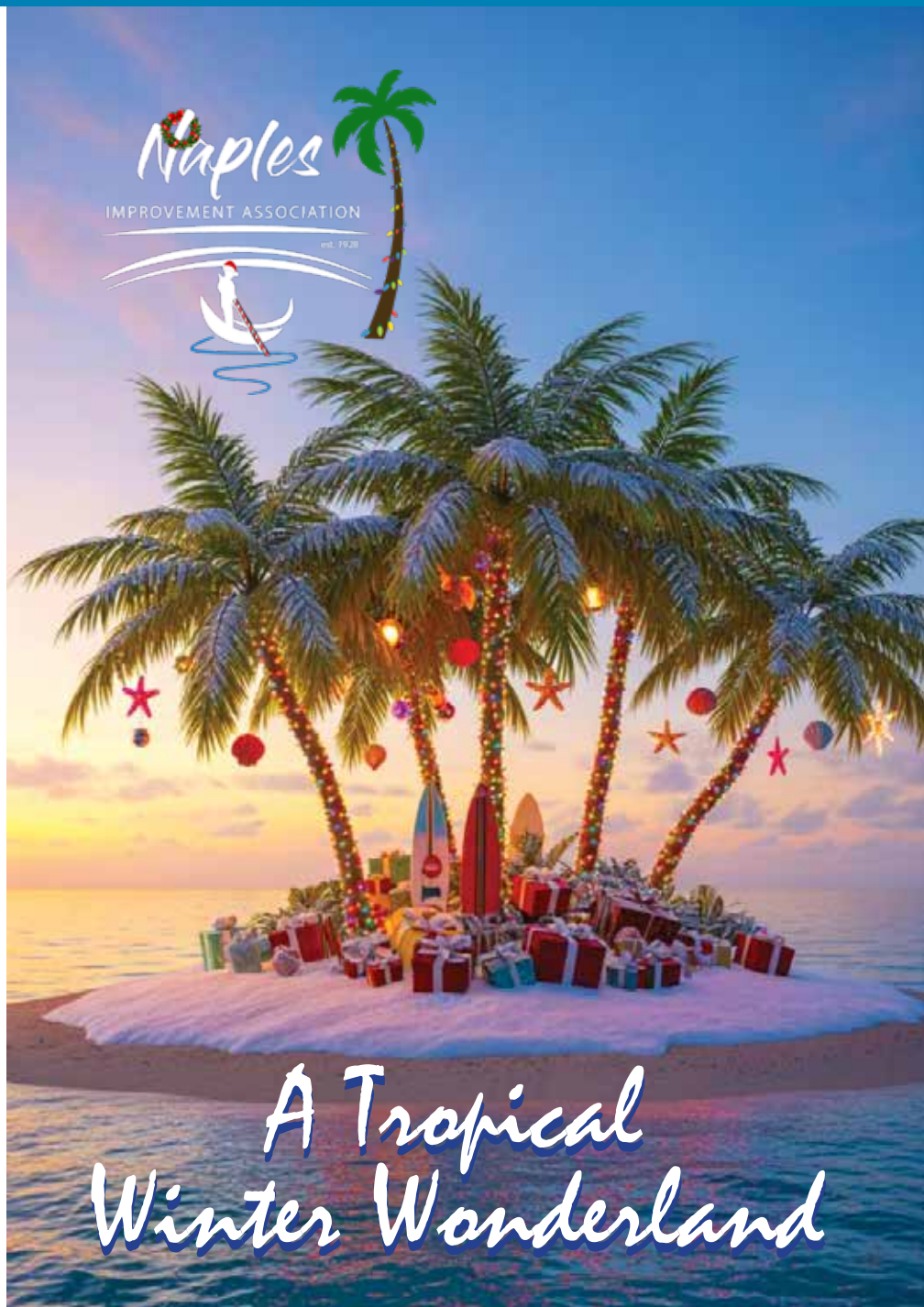
"A Tropical Winter Wonderland"

Channel the spirit of
your favorite tropical paradise
and bring the bling

Online registration and info at
naplesislands.org/boatparade

An event of
Naples
Improvement Association

sponsored in part by



NIA CALENDAR

NIA Board Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month, 6PM @ Long Beach Yacht Club / Hot Topics eBlasts are published 1-2 weeks following the monthly Board Meetings. *Naples News* Magazine target delivery dates: February, May, September, December

Articles and photo submissions due 4 weeks prior.
Events in **bold** are events of the NIA

- Dec 20 - **Naples Holiday Boat Parade**
- Dec 21 - **Joy of Giving Toy Drive**

- Feb 7 - **Annual Holiday Awards and Community Celebration**
- Apr 3 - **Easter Egg Hunt**
- May 26 - **Concert in the Park #1**
- Jun 6 - **Pancake Breakfast**
- Jun 30 - **Concert in the Park #2**
- Jul 4 - **Independence Day Bike Parade**
- Jul 28 - **Concert in the Park #3**
- Aug 25 - **Concert in the Park #4**

NIA MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

*Forgot to renew your NIA Membership?
Thought about joining the NIA but haven't gotten around to it?*



COMMUNITY



**QUALITY
OF LIFE**



**PLANNING
FOR OUR
FUTURE**

NO PROBLEM! WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

Renewing or joining are as simple as using the QR code below or going to naplesisland.org/membership.

As a member in good standing you can take pride that your support enables Naples to be such a special place. As a member you are part of making all the community social events possible. For all Naples residents.

And at times when we do have some extra money in the treasury, your support allows us to do some Island maintenance and clean up. Last year we had enough to trim all the palm trees along 2nd St. along with refurbishing our well loved and iconic toy soldiers that guard the bridges during the holidays.

With your new or renewed membership you are also eligible for special member benefits provided by island business owners. Many thanks to adding another aspect of community!



RAISE YOUR HAND TO LEND A HAND

The NIA is looking for committed volunteers to take leadership roles on a few of our iconic events and committees.

With all that we do, we need more than the Board members to get things done. We are looking for volunteers to break down tasks into smaller pieces and create teams to lead our efforts, rather than having one chairperson who does it all. In particular we are seeking residents to fill the following positions:

EVENTS

Pancake Breakfast—leads for kitchen and food order, event set up and take down, rentals and permits, promotions.

Flea Market—vendor liaison, set up and take down, promotions.

COMMUNICATIONS

Overall project manager to keep events moving through the communications pipeline, Hot Topics editor, Naples News reporters, event graphics.

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Drive kickoff coordinator and member benefits coordinator

If any of these opportunities interest you, please contact us at membership.nia@gmail.com



City of Long Beach 2026 Budget

Every day we rely upon City services to protect us, keep our infrastructure sound, and provide services that impact our quality of life. The 2026 proposed budget is 648 pages! In January's Hot Topics we notified you of meetings to gain resident input into priorities for the 2026 budget. The City Manager then prepared the budget and presents it to the Mayor for revisions. In August there were meetings and public hearings on the budget and another opportunity for residents to comment both in person and via a comment card. The City Council adopted the budget on September 9. "Tightening the belt" without cutting services or programs to the community was a theme. It should be noted that there are many line items in the budget that are viewed as controversial by various constituents across the City.

The total City budget proposed for 2026 is \$3,718,352,496. This is deceiving as it includes the Port of Long Beach and the Airport. The number to look at is \$764,118,659, the General Fund. The projected actual for 2025 \$780,759,686 is \$16,641,027 above 2026 plan. Here are the top-four line items for 2026:

- Police \$317,196,977
- Fire \$162,625,596
- Public Works \$68,499,209
- Parks, Recreation, Marine \$ 51,277,770

Included in the 2026 budget is \$2 million from a Tidelands Fund 2025 year-end surplus now designated for Naples Seawalls tiebacks (including Sorrento Trail and permitting requirements).

Note: The above numbers are based on data available on 8-24-25.

Fiscal Challenges Ahead

City of Long Beach

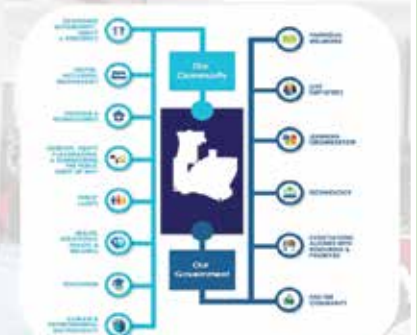


2030 Strategic Vision

Long Beach is committed to supporting a diverse community and resolves to achieve a future in which all residents experience Long Beach as a safe, clean and healthy place to live, learn, work, play and thrive

Community feedback, gathered January and February 2025, revealed that **Housing & Homelessness, Education, and Public Safety** were the community's highest priority themes of the eight included in SV 2030.

Among the open-ended comments gathered, the topic of **education** garnered the most interest, highlighting the need for more services aimed at seniors. Residents also expressed the need for more **parking and traffic solutions**, as well as the need to address **affordable housing and renter protections**.



E-Bikes: What Are They?

Electric Bikes Are Emerging as Public Health Hazard

COMMUNITY SAFETY

California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 312.5 classifies e-bikes into three categories. However, many people may not fully understand what they are purchasing or whether these bikes are considered “street legal.”

For an e-bike to be legally used on roadways or trails in California, it must be equipped with a motor that has a maximum power of 750 watts or 48 volts. Any e-bike that exceeds these specifications can only be used on private property or must be permitted as an off-highway vehicle by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and only operated in designated off-road areas.

When purchasing an e-bike, it is essential to understand its limitations and your intended use. Generally, e-bikes can be ridden in any area where regular bicycles are allowed, except for Class 3 e-bikes, which are restricted from specific trails and bike paths. For example, they are not permitted on the beach bike path in Long Beach. Class 3 e-bikes may only be ridden by individuals who are 16 years of age or older. While helmet use is recommended for all riders, regardless of classification, it is mandatory for anyone under 18 years of age.

Anyone operating an e-bike outside the designated classifications or authorized locations can receive a citation, and their e-bike may be impounded, regardless of the rider's age. Additionally, modifying the power or speed of an e-bike is considered a felony, and the rider could face jail time.

You might also be curious about the powerful electric bikes that exceed the 750W/48V limits, or the unconventional kits, also known as “pocket bikes,” that often zip along roadways and bike paths. Section 473(a) CVC defines a “pocket bike” as any two-wheeled motorized device not “designed” for highway use, and under Section 21710 CVC, they are illegal in most areas. Plainly put, these “bikes” are unsuitable for use on any roadway, sidewalk, bike path, equestrian trail, or hiking trail, and traffic laws will be enforced.

Operating an e-bike can be a fun, efficient, and environmentally friendly way to get around and enjoy the outdoors. However, to ensure a safe and pleasant experience, it's vital to adhere to traffic safety laws and operate e-bikes responsibly. This starts with education, even before making a purchase, to guarantee you're choosing a legal and compliant electric bike.

An excellent article for anyone interested in e-bikes is *Electric Bikes Are Emerging as Public Health Hazard*.



Pocket Bike Education and Enforcement

At times, large groups gather in our community, using small, motorized bikes, commonly referred to as pocket bikes. Often, these groups and their activity are promoted on social media.

Use of pocket bikes is dangerous, illegal, and unwelcome on Long Beach streets.

It can contribute to the following:

- Lead to traffic collisions, injuries, and property damage.
- Put drivers, passengers, and bystanders at risk.
- Result in assaults and vandalism.
- Disrupt neighborhoods and endanger public safety.
- In some cases, participants have even blocked officers or interfered with emergency response.

The Long Beach Police Department is committed to addressing this growing safety issue through education and enforcement. Our priority is protecting both the public and our officers.

Laws & Enforcement

Pocket bikes are not legal for street use and do not meet highway safety standards.

LBPD will strictly enforce the following California Vehicle Codes (CVC):

- **§ 473(a) CVC** – Defines pocket bikes as two-wheeled motorized devices not designed for highway use.
- **§ 21710 CVC** – Prohibits operating a pocket bike on a sidewalk, roadway, highway, or bicycle path.
- **§ 22651 CVC** – Authorizes officers to impound pocket bikes operated illegally.
- **§ 24003 CVC** – States that vehicles not meeting safety requirements (lights, brakes, tires, etc.) are not permitted on public roads.



Long Beach Police Department

Call Police Dispatch at (562) 435-6711 to report suspicious activity or dial 9-1-1 for emergencies.

NIA SUMMER FLASHBACK



Dear Pancake Breakfast Volunteers and Sponsors,

On behalf of the entire NIA team, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to each of you for your incredible support and dedication to the 76th Pancake Breakfast. Your willingness to volunteer your time and effort made this special event a tremendous success, and we couldn't have done it without you.

From the late night and early morning setup to the fun-filled activities and the final cleanup, your enthusiasm and teamwork truly shined. Whether you helped with setting up tables and chairs, mixing batter, flipping pancakes, grilling sausages, serving coffee and juice, managing the plates and tickets, Fun Run, or selling shirts — every role was vital to creating a memorable experience for everyone involved.

A special thank you to those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes and those who stepped in at the last minute. Your generosity and spirit of community are inspiring.

We are grateful for your time, energy, and positive attitudes. Thanks to you, we achieved our goal of bringing people together for a day of fun, food, and fellowship at this milestone event.

THANK YOU to our awesome sponsors, including: Andy Dane Carter, Long Beach Yacht Club, Small Cafe, Kensington Inc. and Mr. Sharpe. With your support, the Pancake Breakfast reached new heights!

Looking ahead, we are excited about future events and are already planning for next year's Pancake Breakfast. We hope to see your continued support and participation as we work together to make each event even better.

Until then, please accept our heartfelt appreciation and best wishes. We look forward to partnering with you again soon!

*With warm regards,
Naples Improvement Association*



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

photos by Ian Holmes





PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUN-RUN MEDALISTS

Thank you to our event chair, Chris Orlando for making the Fun Run '25 such a resounding success. Major props to Christine Digiovanni and Nakee Hanks for their outstanding volunteer support assisting runners, navigating check-in, and facilitating the race.

Male Overall

1st - Tristan Kim, 21:57
2nd - Ben Farfan, 21:58
3rd - William Shadden, 22:49

Female Overall

1st - Jenna Burke, 24:49
2nd - Adrienne White, 27:42
3rd - Madison Gomez, 31:23

Family Race - with a Stroller

1st - Tim Hoffman, 22:09
extra impressive, as this would have clinched 3rd Male Overall
2nd - Chris Orlando, 23:39
3rd - John Harper, 23:52

Family Race 1-Miler

1st - Lauren Vece
2nd - Clay Markle
3rd - Kayla Lannon



NAPLES BIKE PARADE

photos by an Holmes

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY by Stacey King

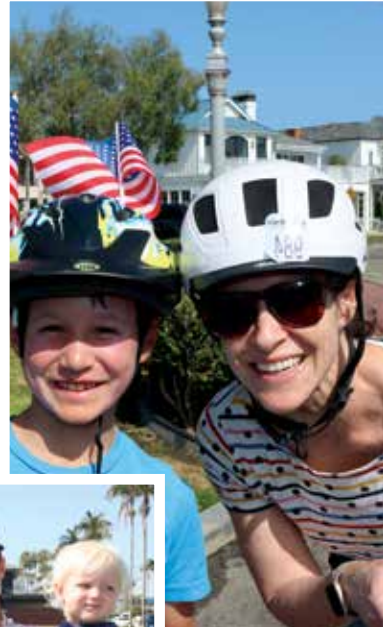
The Naples Island Annual Independence Day bike parade, hosted by the Naples Improvement Association (NIA), brought together kids and adults in a vibrant celebration of community spirit and patriotism. The event, starting at the picturesque Naples Island fountain, was a delightful display of creativity and enthusiasm as participants adorned their bikes with 4th of July decorations.

Led by the NIA president, Tony Digiovanni, and with assistance from the Naples Youth Group, the parade set off through the streets of Naples Island. The colorful procession weaved through the neighborhood, spreading joy and festive cheer as onlookers joined in the merriment.

The parade culminated back at the fountain, where participants and spectators gathered to savor hot dogs and treats, fostering a warm sense of camaraderie and togetherness. Laughter and chatter filled the air as families and friends relished in the post-parade festivities, creating cherished memories that will linger for years to come.

The Naples Island Annual Independence Day bike parade not only showcased the community's creativity and love for tradition but also served as a reminder of the enduring spirit of unity that binds neighbors together. This beloved event continues to be a testament to the vibrant community spirit that thrives on Naples Island, embodying the true essence of Independence Day.

Thank you to the NIA and all those involved for orchestrating an event that encapsulates the heartwarming essence of Independence Day on Naples Island.



New and Updated Roads and Bridges Coming Our Way!

If it seems like we have had road construction all around us, such as the recent upgrade of Appian Way and the roads around the Colorado Lagoon project, you are correct. And we will soon see more. As we look forward to the re-opening of both Elliot and Colorado early in the new year, we will see other projects come online. Some are in the design phase, some are approved and waiting funding, some have funding but there are new concerns over designated/approved federal dollars being held back, and then those that are ready to go.

The Davies Bridge is the largest of the bridges connecting Naples with the "mainland" and needs to be upgraded to correct what the County of LA has rated as "Structurally Deficient." The work will entail replacing the bridge concrete deck. Work will include building safety barriers, install new light poles, incorporate protected bike lanes, reconfigure traffic lanes, so as to enhance visibility and safety, improve circulation and mobility, and extend the life of the bridge. The target date to start construction is the fall of September 2026 with construction to be completed in January of 2028 in time for the Olympic Rowing and Canoe-Sprint events to go underneath the newly refurbished bridge.

Meetings continue between the Public Works Department, Councilwoman Kristina Duggan, and our Naples 2028 Task Force made up of representatives from the Naples Improvement Association, Naples Islands Garden Club, and the Naples Island Business Association to improve the 2nd Street corridor between the bridges. The aim of the project is twofold. First is to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists on what can be a dangerous thoroughfare. Second is to beautify the street and in particular the center divider. Part of this project is tied to the design work on the Davies Bridge as 2nd Street flows onto Naples. Funding is also an issue. More information will be provided once the plans for the Davies Bridge progress.

Those of us who traverse north and south from southeast Long Beach will see three major roads upgraded. Clark, Bellflower, and Studebaker. The Clark Avenue project is in the early stages of design, so nothing impacting us in the near term other than a very bumpy ride.

Work has begun on the Bellflower Blvd Improvement Project between Bellflower Boulevard from East Atherton Street to Los Coyotes Diagonal and will take a few months to complete. This is for preventative street maintenance and pavement rehabilitation work.



NIBANOTATIONS

by Bob Lane, photos from business websites

All About the Home!

Our homes here on Naples are very precious. We have all styles, all sizes, and all shapes that contribute to the unique flavor we see while we are strolling our beautiful streets and canals. Some of our homes are old and date back to the very first buildings that were created here well over 100 years ago and others are brand new. Some reflect the era that they were built, and others have been remodeled to a specific architectural style. Cape Cod, Craftsman, Mid-Century Modern, French Provincial, Italianate, Contemporary, to Spanish Colonial, we have it all plus more.

Whether building a brand new home, adding an addition, remodeling, or refreshing your existing style, we have many services here on Naples Island that can assist you in creating the home that is right for you and your family.

Two of the region's leading architects have their offices here on Naples. You see their signs on construction projects across our neighborhood. We have seen them take a house that is tired but has good bones and rejuvenate, and we have also seen a vacant lot go from a blank slate to a beautiful abode. For instance, Steve Sennikoff Architects were awarded the 2023 Best of Houzz Award for Design. Steve Sennikoff takes great pride in providing appropriate yet innovative design solutions, implementing best practice procedures specifically tailored for each project.

Whether you are remodeling your kitchen and baths, renovating the whole interior of your house, redoing the exterior and outdoor spaces, Design Studio on 2nd. Founded and owned by Monica Ledesma their goal is "not only to make beautiful, luxury spaces, but to also build environments for making memories and living out the best parts of life." Also owned by Monica, Kitchen Cabinets & Co. They offer stocked and custom cabinets, cabinet design, cabinet installation, and kitchen remodeling.

If you need the finest tiles and stone go to Creative Surfaces Tile Design Showroom. They are owned and operated by Nicole and Bryan Hidalgo. They showcase a large variety of materials ideal for the increasingly diverse architecture of Long Beach and its surrounding areas. Where they feature high quality product factories from around the country and abroad.



Photos (clockwise from top): Design Studio on 2nd, Creative Surfaces Tile Design Showroom, Atwood residence - Sennikoff Architects, Gordon Design Group, Kitchen Cabinets & Co.

Q&A with KRISTINA

A WALKING TOUR OF THE ISLAND

The NIA invited Kristina Duggan, District 3 Councilmember, to take a tour of the islands and meet up with fellow community leaders from the NIBA and NIGC. Kristina looked firsthand and answered questions about a range of issues and opportunities that impact life in Naples.

SAFETY

Q: How does Safety fit into your list of priorities?

Public safety is my top priority. I am proud to fight on behalf of District 3 to make our City safer.

Q: E-Scooters (along with E-Bikes and E-Skateboards) have become a real issue for the community. How is your office working with LBPD on this?

E-bikes and mini motor bikes have become a major concern in District 3 and in other coastal areas, but it has taken some time to get it on the citywide radar. I am pushing for our Police Department to expand our drone program to follow fleeing suspects on e-bikes and minibikes. We don't want officers in squad cars chasing kids on bikes through our neighborhoods, but people must also understand that crimes carry consequences even when committed on an e-bike. This is a way to hold riders accountable without putting our neighborhoods at risk during a pursuit.

Q: What can the community do to support the City's efforts?

The community should continue raising this issue with city departments and leadership. It's important to distinguish between teenagers riding recklessly and individuals committing crimes. Community support should focus on addressing crimes, not pushing police to chase kids who are simply being obnoxious.

Q: Many residents bring up traffic and speeding along 2nd Street. Where are these issues in your priorities?

Traffic safety is a part of public safety, and I'm focused on making our streets safer, including 2nd Street in Naples. I've been working closely with NIA and other Naples

groups to build on the momentum from the Davies Bridge project and improve safety all the way from Davies to Belmont Shore. People drive too fast along this section, and we're taking steps to protect everyone who lives, walks, and drives here.

2ND STREET CORRIDOR

Q: Speaking of 2nd Street... one of our key priorities for the 2nd Street Project and 2nd Street Safety is the addition of two signaled crosswalks for safer crossing of the boulevard. Might it be possible to include this project in Public Works' plan for the next year?

The Naples community first brought the 2nd Street Project to me last year, and we've been working together to keep it moving forward. The reality is that funding has not yet been secured, and the City is still addressing a backlog of critical traffic safety projects, some stemming from tragic fatal accidents. A major challenge has been the shortage of traffic engineers to design and review these projects. The good news is that several vacancies have recently been filled, and those engineers are now making progress on the backlog.

I believe the City must make stronger investments in our streets to deliver the safety improvements our neighborhoods are asking for. While full funding for the 2nd Street Project isn't yet available, the City should move forward with more affordable traffic safety improvements in the meantime, and I will continue pushing for both those near-term solutions and the larger proposed project.

Pictured left to right:

Linda Frame, NIGC President; Kristina Duggan, City of Long Beach - 3rd District Councilmember; Tony Digiovanni, NIA President; Bob Lane, NIBA President; and Jeff Hoffman, Naples 2028 Chairperson; tour proposed sites of much-needed crosswalks.



Q: How has the plan/vision the NIA/NIBA/NIGC developed helped or hindered the development of the corridor planning relative to the Olympics?

The vision developed by NIA, NIBA, and NIGC has been a tremendous help in moving planning forward as we look ahead to the Olympics. These groups bring solutions, not just problems, and their collaboration strengthens our efforts. By presenting a unified voice, they make it easier to advocate for projects that benefit the Naples community.

Q: What are the hurdles to envision the community plan?

This project is being added to a long list of unfunded street improvements across the city. "Measure A" dollars are already committed to existing priorities, so several million dollars will need to be identified before this vision can move forward. With Federal and State governments cutting back, securing funding will be the main challenge. What are the next steps?

The next steps will be to get this community proposal on to the unfunded project list for future funding considerations. Once this project is an official project of the city, city staff can seek outside funding opportunities.

Q: How can the community get involved and help your office lift the priority of this project with city planners?

Public Works would like to move forward with the 2nd Street project, but many other dangerous streets already have projects waiting for funding. Without new dollars, this project is unlikely to be prioritized, so the community can help by exploring grants or other outside funding sources.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Q: Community preparedness for "the big one" is a constant concern. What more can we, as a community, do with your office to increase awareness and heighten preparedness for our households?

Naples CERT sets the gold standard for neighborhood preparedness. Donna Fleming and the team have built a dedicated and highly organized group that's always ready to step up when needed. I'm proud to stand with them. Naples CERT and its volunteers have set a strong standard for preparedness across the city. The best path forward is to keep preparedness front and center by encouraging one more household at a time to get ready and reminding those already prepared to stay vigilant. A key area where we can continue working together is updating Naples' infrastructure to the highest seismic standards, including seawalls, storm drains and pumps, and sewer lines. This will require ongoing effort.

Q: You took a course in geology in college. Does that influence your perspective of emergency preparedness in SoCal?

It did influence the importance of preparedness for my family in the 80's when I took the class as well as throughout my life. It is a scientific fact that earthquake faults are an indicator of where earthquakes will impact cities. In Southern California, we live on faults and should be aware of potential impacts. The state has prioritized retrofitting of buildings, bridges, new construction, and education on preparedness. I experienced earthquakes throughout my life in SoCal and want to make sure that residents are prepared so the one prepared neighbor on the block is relied on when the earthquake hits.



Tony and Councilmember Duggan discuss safety and other issues related to e-bikes and e-scooters.



Rainer Rahaeuser, LB CERT - Naples Island Team Member, and Councilmember Duggan discuss emergency preparedness on the islands.

Q: You have mentioned in presentations that pet preparedness is important to you. Can you elaborate a bit?
I have found that most families prepare for emergencies but often overlook what their pets may need. In my home, my dogs are part of the family, which is why I always remind people to include their pets in their preparedness plans.

SEAWALLS

Q: Let's talk Seawalls. Where do we stand?

My job is to keep pushing the seawall replacement project forward one phase at a time. We're making steady progress on the designs, and I will fight tooth and nail to secure the funding needed. I don't believe Naples residents should be stuck with the bill to maintain infrastructure intended for public use. This project is not just about protecting the island from future risks. It is also about making sure everyone has safe access to our coastline and waterways in Naples.

Q: The 2025/26 Budget was approved with \$2M allocated to Seawall restoration. How will the funds be used and when do you see that project getting underway?

The FY 2026 Budget includes \$2 million for seawall work, including Sorento Trail. These funds will support the Vista del Golfo tiebacks, which strengthen a vulnerable area, and advance the Sorento Trail project. Completion of Sorento Trail is required by the Coastal Commission before moving to phase 3.

Q: What are the hurdles and who are the key players?

After decades of windfalls in the Tidelands Fund from oil revenue, we are entering a time where oil revenue is significantly limited and the City will need to use General Fund dollars for services like lifeguards and beach maintenance. This means the window to use the City's share of tidelands oil revenue to fund seawall repairs passed years ago. Funding is the single biggest hurdle, and I believe it is the City's obligation to repair the seawalls to maintain public access and keep the canals navigable. Without legislative changes, the City will have to divert local tax dollars to meet our tidelands obligations.

Q: "Keep the Tidelands Fund local" had overwhelming support from the City Council recently. What are the next steps in this process?

The Naples community showed up in force to support the initial push to keep Long Beach oil revenue local, and your ongoing support will be essential to carry this effort across the finish line. Our City team is moving forward with the direction from Council, and once the best path is identified through our meetings with State officials, we will call on the community for a strong push. The most effective way Naples can help is by being ready to mobilize quickly and in numbers.

Q: What is the timing for consideration of this initiative at the State level?

The City is working to have this initiative included in the State's effort to stabilize transportation fuel during this legislative cycle. Every month that passes, revenues decline and millions of dollars leave Long Beach for the State. If a legislative solution is not secured in the coming weeks, we will regroup and return in the 2026 legislative cycle with the clear direction that this is the City's top legislative priority.

Q: What are your biggest concerns going forward?

My biggest concern is the City and the residents of Naples being put in a position to fight over who should pay for the seawalls. The City was entrusted with the tidelands to keep the canals navigable and maintain public access for the public, and I don't believe it's right to shift that responsibility onto residents based off proximity. Instead, we should be focused on keeping more tidelands dollars here in Long Beach to support the City's obligations.

AES PUMPS & WATER QUALITY

Q: What are the specific goals for the Water Quality Enhancement Project? Are you satisfied with water quality measures we're tracking today?

As someone who is out on the water several times a week, water quality in Alamitos Bay is very important to me. With the State phasing out AES's once-through-cooling pumps, which have helped circulate the bay for decades, we are closely monitoring water quality and advancing the Alamitos Bay Water Quality Enhancement Project. Our goal is to make sure the water quality in Alamitos Bay remains healthy and clean well into the future.

For decades, Alamitos Bay was circulated by the cooling systems of the natural gas plants. With those systems now phased out, the City must find new ways to protect our water quality. We are exploring a fish-friendly pump to circulate the bay and are closely monitoring conditions. Even with less pump activity than in the past, water quality has remained stable, but we must continue to monitor it closely as we advance the alternative pump design.

Chris Orlando, NIA Board Director-Seawalls Liaison, and Councilmember Duggan examine seawall erosion and issues.



Q: What are the hurdles for the project, financial or regulatory?
The Alamitos Bay Water Quality Enhancement Project faces financial and regulatory hurdles, as well as differing opinions on whether the pumps are truly needed. With costs estimated at \$30 to \$50 million, we need to let the data guide our decisions while preparing the project to be shovel-ready with all required regulatory approvals.

Q: How can the community help?

It's important that the community has access to current and accurate information. This is a complex issue, and updates come in waves. That makes it critical to address misinformation directly and keep our conversations grounded in facts as we work together on the future of Alamitos Bay's water quality.

Q: What are your greatest concerns for the projects?

My greatest concern is the City committing \$50 million to a project without clear scientific support. If the data show this project is truly needed to protect water quality, I will fight for it, but it must be based on expert analysis and sound evidence rather than fear based on assumptions.

2028 OLYMPICS

Q: Here's a lot! To be ready by 2028, what is a sample timeline? Approximately when would a list of improvements be finalized? Approximately when would budget be allocated? Approximately when would improvements begin and end?
The 2028 Olympic events at Marine Stadium and along our coastline are a chance to show off everything that makes Naples and Long Beach special. I'm focused on making sure the community doesn't have any surprises. We want our community to run smoothly and safely, knowing that the world's eyes are on us with events taking place in our backyard. I will work to make sure that long-term benefits come to District 3 and Long Beach. We want people to experience Long Beach as more than just a place to attend an event. We want them to stay, explore, and support our local shops and restaurants.

The Elevate '28 Infrastructure Plan is already underway, and several projects are completed or under construction. Elevate '28 brings together the existing Measure A plan, the Tidelands Infrastructure Plan, and other efforts into one coordinated program. While there will be a few projects specific to the Olympics, such as minor improvements at Marine Stadium, most of the work was already planned. Many of these projects are partially funded, so securing outside grants will be critical to completing them.

Q: Will there be public forums? How does the community advance vision?

The City's current strategic plan starts engagement with residents beginning in 2027, but my office has already held a townhall with the City's Olympic Liaison Staff presenting and answering questions. This is just the start and knowing that District 3 will be heavily impacted by the Games, I want to make sure we begin engaging early and often. Many of the operational details of the games will be decided by LA28, but there will be opportunities outside of the Olympic footprint where

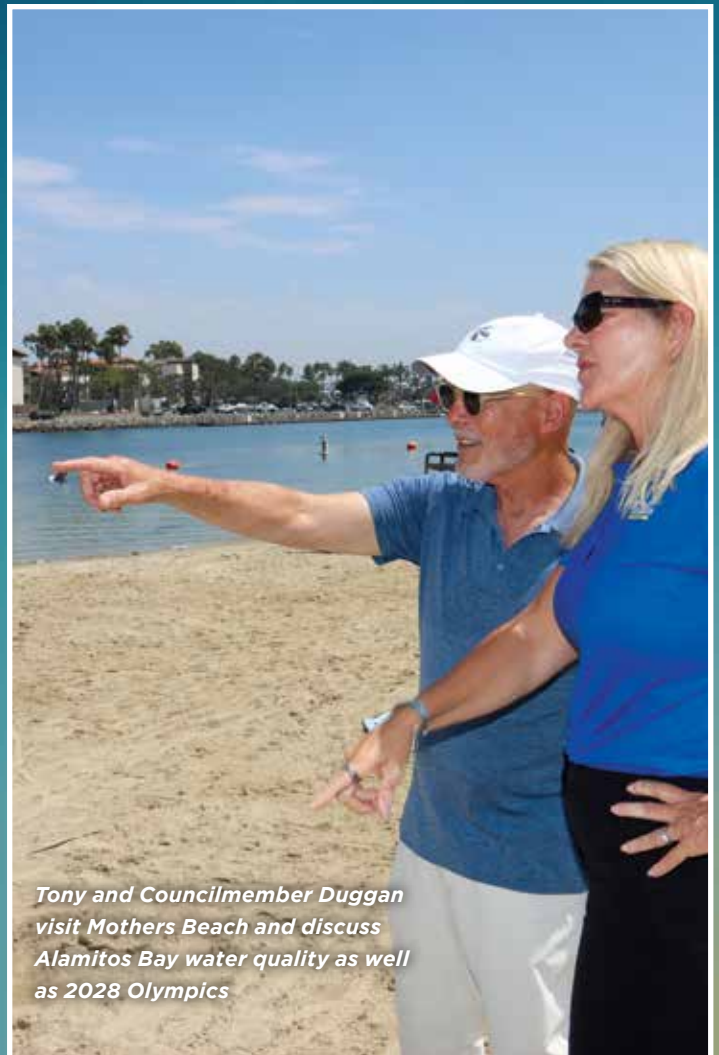
community visions can be implemented. The details of the operations and footprint need to be confirmed before these conversations can happen.

Q: What are the hurdles?

I wouldn't say there are hurdles to Long Beach hosting an outstanding Olympic experience, but there is a lot of work that needs to happen before we can feel comfortable. Fortunately, Long Beach and our region are experienced at hosting major events that have prepared us. The biggest challenge I see is getting timely and accurate information out to residents during the planning process, so our neighborhoods can prepare and know what's going on.

Q: How do we maximize the opportunity?

Long Beach can maximize this opportunity by being prepared, and we're already seeing that approach pay off. As countries look to secure team houses, Long Beach has a dedicated team ready to guide them and present the best options, while in other cities they're left to navigate the process alone. This preparation has already helped us secure several countries, which means more visitors, more spending at local businesses, and greater visibility for our city beyond just the Olympic events. Opportunities come fast and being ready for them gives us a leg up. This same approach applies to communities as well.



Tony and Councilmember Duggan visit Mothers Beach and discuss Alamitos Bay water quality as well as 2028 Olympics

Naples CERT Know Your ALERTS

by Donna Fleming



Getting and understanding information is critical in a potential disaster. Public officials rely on several ways to get information to you:

- TV, Radio, and Social Media pushes out continuous information. Just make sure you are getting the correct local information.
- Phone, text, emails. Alert Long Beach may send notifications for imminent events but more often, such as the recent tsunami alert, the City uses it's reverse 911 system to push out notifications to every phone in the area, not just ones that are registered.
- Phone Apps such as the Red Cross Emergency, My Shake and FEMA allow you to set up notifications.

Once you are aware of a potential event, use credible sources for updates:

- Storms - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration www.nhc.noaa.gov

- Earthquakes - US Geological Survey www.usgs.gov/programs/earthquake
- Tsunamis - Tsunami Warning Center www.tsunami.gov

Our Naples CERT Team is here to organize neighbors and to help neighbors in a disaster, but we are not first responders nor do we have "inside information" on events. The best thing we can all do is to be informed and prepared. More information about our local alert systems and setting up your own disaster plan can



be found in the **Naples Islands Community Preparedness Guide**, which can be downloaded at www.naplesislands.org/cert.



If you receive an alert on your TV, phone or radio:

**Take the actions listed here.
Follow instructions from local officials.
Follow the instructions in the alert.**



Advisory and Statement

Be aware! A hazard is expected to occur in your area or nearby, but its impact is not expected to be life-threatening.



Watch

Be prepared! A hazard may possibly occur in your area or nearby.



Warning

Take action! A hazard is expected to occur or is already occurring in your area or nearby, and its impact may be serious.

"THIS IS A TEST"

Officials sometimes send test or practice messages. Consider using this as a reminder to check your emergency plan and supplies. Review the 12 Ways to Prepare for more steps to take.

Some hazards may not have an advisory, watch, or warning. Visit ready.gov/be-informed to learn more. This is general guidance. Always refer to the alert.

Naples Islands Garden Club GARDEN TIPS

by Kristen Fisher

Neighbors often pause by Jeanne Krauss's window. Her Grand Dame roses perfume the block's corner. "Even the men stop and smell them," Jeanne laughs.

A Garden Club member for 7 years, Jeanne has filled Flower Show tables with award-winning roses. Once, her window held a wooden flower box. When it gave way, she replaced it with roses. She began with reds like Chrysler Imperial, but Grand Dame soon took center stage. Today her corner is a wall of pink, fragrant and impossible to ignore.

Jeanne says the magic is patience and persistence. Morning sun carries into afternoon, and a drip system runs three times a week. She hand waters in heat, tops beds with Miracle Gro soil, and feeds with Epsom salts. January brings pruning. "It takes me three weeks, but it is worth it," she says. Canes are cut back, every leaf removed, all in service of the spring flush.



Pest control is practical. Ladybugs come first, mild soap second, and BioAdvanced is backup. Yet for Jeanne, the reward is simple. "The fragrance is happiness," she says.

JEANNE'S ROSE TIPS

- Sun at least 6 hours; water soil, not leaves,
- Drip 3 times weekly; +hand water in heat,
- Epsom salts every 2 months,
- Prune January to February; strip leaves, and
- Ladybugs first, BioAdvanced sparingly.

CATCHING UP WITH THE *Naples Islands Garden Club*

by Kristen Fisher, photos by Trish Schooley



Behind the Blooms: The Garden Club's Plant Boutique

By the time the Pancake Breakfast was underway, another crowd was gathering in front of Sandy Davidson's home this past June. The Naples Islands Garden Club's Plant Boutique was brimming with orchids, bromeliads, and lavender pots — the result of months of behind-the-scenes work.

The Boutique is one of the Garden Club's biggest annual fundraisers, created and staffed entirely by members. As an independent 501(c)(3), every dollar raised supports the four public spaces we exclusively steward: La Bella Fontana Park, the Naples Plaza roses, the 2nd Street planters, and the Naples School gardens.

Preparation begins five months in advance. Co-Chairs Valerie Rich and Nancy Emslie led a 30-member committee that turned garages into workshops. At Nancy's home, fresh flowers were arranged. In Lynne Clarke's garage, burlap-wrapped lavender pots

were tied with ribbon. Lavender from Nancy Pinckert's garden filled the Provence-style cart, while her design skills brought a Green Wall of historic photos to life. Kristen Fisher's handmade ceramic planters, crafted months in advance, sold out in a flash.

For the first time, the Boutique featured a Kids' Planting Table, introduced by the co-chairs to welcome families. Neighbors lined up before 7 a.m., and by mid-morning, every plant had found a home, ensuring the Garden Club's work continues to flourish.

Naples Islands Garden Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, independent from other Naples organizations. We solely steward La Bella Fontana Park, the Naples Plaza roses, 2nd Street planters, and the Naples School gardens. Donations made directly to us support their ongoing upkeep. www.naplesislandsgardenclub.com



NIA'S SUMMER CON

The NIA extends a rockin' THANK YOU to Concerts in the Park Chair, Jessica Ripoll, and all our fabulous sponsors for the amazing support of this summer's concert series, including: Long Beach Yacht Club, the Boathouse, The LaBounty Group, Gondola Getaway, Lance Castro (Vista|Sotheby's), Guy Miracle (Sotheby's) and Andy Dane Carter. We'd also like to thank the Orlando family for their help in set-up, tear-down and supplying power for all the Naples concerts and to the Pachter Family for band hospitality. Our bands included: Manuel the Band, Hillbilly Crutch, Ashe Bros. Aaron Charles, and King Salmon.



Aaron Charles



Manuel the Band



CERTS IN THE PARK

photos by Ian Holmes



Hillbilly Crutch



Aaron Charles Band



SAVE THE DATE

More info online at www.NaplesIslands.org

*Celebrate the community
we all call home!*
NAPLES

The 79TH NIA Holiday Awards and Community Celebration

Saturday, February 7
Long Beach Yacht Club

- Awards Show
- Cocktail Party
- Tantalizing Dinner Selections
- Singing and Dancing to King Salmon
- Presentation of the esteemed Heartwell Award



AN EVENT OF



HOSTED BY

The
ANDY DANE
CARTER Group

NIA CHILI COOK-OFF

photos by Ian Holmes

Thank you to all our participants, judges and volunteers!

CONTESTANTS

By Entry Number

1. Seandra Case
2. - - -
3. Michael Wratschko
4. William Kellogg
5. Beth Caldwell
6. Sean Patrick Burke
7. Lisa de Los Reyes

VOLUNTEERS

Adrienne Orlando
Chris Orlando
Michael & Veronica Thacker
Tom Nucum
Linda Pachter
Ann Miller
Daniel Iketani
Cheryl Krasho
Julie Marez

CHAIRPERSON

Donna Kraus

SPONSORS

Long Beach Yacht Club
Naples Rib Company

JUDGES

Edie Graber
Michael Jordon
Rainer Rahaeuser

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

JUDGES' CHOICE

- 1st - Sean Patrick Burke
- 2nd - Lisa de Los Reyes
- 3rd - Michael Wratschko

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

- 1st - Seandra Case
- 2nd - Beth Caldwell
- 3rd - William Kellogg



Naples Bayside Academy Celebrates 100TH Year

by Patti Londre

Imagine early 1920s Naples, as modest-to-massive homes began populating Italian-inspired streets and waterfronts on three man-made islands, did anyone ask what's missing from this planned paradise?

Turns out, the Naples Project did not include a school, according to Stanley Poe, author of [Naples, The First Century](#) © 2005. Around 1923, when it dawned on founding fathers that such a feature would attract more home builders, a wedge of real estate on The Toledo was deeded to the Long Beach School District. Three generations have since launched their education there.

Early photos show an enviable parcel of land with unobstructed views of shimmering Alamitos Bay. Three wooden bungalows, a side structure, and plenty of outdoor space for romping was all it took for Naples Elementary School to open its doors in 1925 with 32 students. By the end of the first month, attendance had risen to 45, according to the Historical Society of Long Beach records.

Classes commenced in temporary bungalows and construction of a permanent schoolhouse progressed. Five years passed, when on February 5,

1930, the Long Beach Press Telegram announced the move of 100 students into a "modern educational plant," the first building completed via a \$2,150,000 school bond issue. Acting Principal, Mrs. Lucille Edwards was featured prominently in an article titled: "Modern Plant Supplants Three Bungalows".

True to Naples' style, the schoolhouse featured an architectural blend of Spanish Revival, Italian Renaissance Revival and hints of Art Deco, according to Poe. Later, the façade received a facelift and replaced the scary lounging bear over the entry arch with the now-familiar 1925 date plaque. An auditorium, cafeteria, library, and tennis courts were subsequently built. At its half-century mark of 1976, Naples Elementary boasted 265 students. Today's centennial year commenced with more than 300 students, Transitional-Kindergarten through fifth grade. The school has branded itself as Naples Bayside Academy and adopted the Dolphin mascot.

"Back in the day," in addition to the 3R's (plus home economics, as noted by the Press Telegram), activities included swimming at Treasure Island's west end beach!

Over the decades, as homes rose up on The Toledo, students lost their wistful view of sabots on the glistening bay. But once the bell rings, off they still go to boats, boards, bikes, bridges, and beaches. Ah, the Naples lifestyle!



Photos: 1) Aerial shot of Naples Islands after the construction of Naples Elementary and before homes lined the street and abutted Alamitos Bay—circa 1932, 2) Students proudly display their creations for the annual Kite Contest, 3+4) Students from the 1960s, 5) Faculty from the 1960s.



MODERN PLANT SUPPLANTS THREE BUNGALOWS



STRUCTURE ANSWERS DEMAND MADE BY CITY GROWTH.

Replacing Three Bungalows and Serving Nearly 100 Children, the \$42,000 Modern Educational Plant Seen Above Was Accepted at a Special Meeting of the Long Beach Board of Education This Afternoon. Inset, Mrs. Lucille B. Edwards, Acting Principal of the Naples School for Five Years. The Structure Is the First to Be Completed Under the \$2,150,000 School Bond Issue. The Two Teachers Seen With Their Pupils Are Miss Naomi S. Linn and Mrs. Helen Rich, Substituting for Miss Sylvia Rix.

—Press-Telegram Staff Photo.

NBA TODAY

Now, core curriculum includes English, math, social science, history, and physical education. The school has a community kindness program, and students embrace the Peacebuilders Pledge, which is a commitment to give others positive reinforcement and avoid negative comments and insults.

A widely celebrated art program allows students to study influential artists in history and create their own masterpieces. Students receive lessons in STEM technology literacy and learn to advance their skill set and proficiency.

The facility stands as a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics (CA Dept. of Education), in 2025, it ranked in the top 1% in Science Proficiency and top 5% in Math and Reading Proficiency.

An expansive website at Naples.lbschools.net provides important dates, PTA, Dolphin News, calendar of events and after school enrichment, nutrition menus, as well as staff information.

SUPPORT THE CELEBRATION

Make a donation to the Naples Bayside Academy PTA to help celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the school and fund ongoing family-funded programs such as the teacher for the computer the program. Scan the QR code below to make a contribution via PayPal or Credit Card.



NBA MEMORIES...

In sixth grade we went for a week to Camp Alpine in Blue Jay in the San Bernardino mountains. While we were there, a bunch of kids got hit by a massive flu epidemic and we renamed our cabin "Barf General Hospital." We took hikes, stargazed and did craft projects when we weren't throwing up.

The all-school events at Naples Elementary were the Halloween costume parade, cake decorating contest and carnival. I loved to win game prizes at the carnival but my parents said to not bring home any live goldfish...I apparently had trouble keeping them alive. In 1965, I won a stuffed animal for my Halloween costume of a Spanish dancer and took a first place in the cake decorating contest!."

—Diana (Bagley) Eastman

Often when we were playing kick ball, the ball would end up in the bay. There was a large vacant lot across the street from the school back in the 1960s when I attended.

I recall there were just under 200 children at Naples and the school district decided we didn't need a full time librarian, well the Naples moms, a powerful force to this day, made sure that the brass at LBUSD knew that a full time librarian was a requirement for our students and had the decision overturned.

—Jo Murray, former student, Grunion Gazette

NAPLES DOLPHINS CHEER

**We're from Naples School
and we play be the rules.**

**We work hard,
we play hard every day.**

**We're the blue and white,
the bold and bright.**

**And nothing
can stand in our way.**

**Every heart beats true
for the white and the blue.**

**And each day
we learn something new.
WE'RE SMART!**

**So if you need a friend
count on us to the end.**

**We're the dolphins
from Naples School.
YEAH!**

NAPLES BAYSIDE ACADEMY

Here you'll find a small treasure trove of smile-inducing NBA memories! Greatest of thanks to Derek Marchi, Brett Marchi and Jana Landel for sharing their family's well-used cookbook and the contents of Carolyn Marchi's, their mother's, scrapbook (assembled with memories stretching from the mid-'60s to the late '70s). With Carolyn's kids' blessing, we photographed each page of the cook book and compiled it into a PDF document which is now available on the NIA's website at www.naplesislands.org/NaplesCookBook. Rewind with scores of vintage recipes contributed by PTA members and Naples residents 62 years ago! Heads up...Campbell's Soup and Jell-o abound!

Full disclosure, very little was available about the history of Naples Bayside Academy. We dug and we dug. No LBUSD archives. No PTA archives. No great details at the Historical Society. Very little in print - but kudos to Stan Poe for his books on Naples' history. And THANK YOU to all who helped us piece together this smattering of memories.

— Patti and John



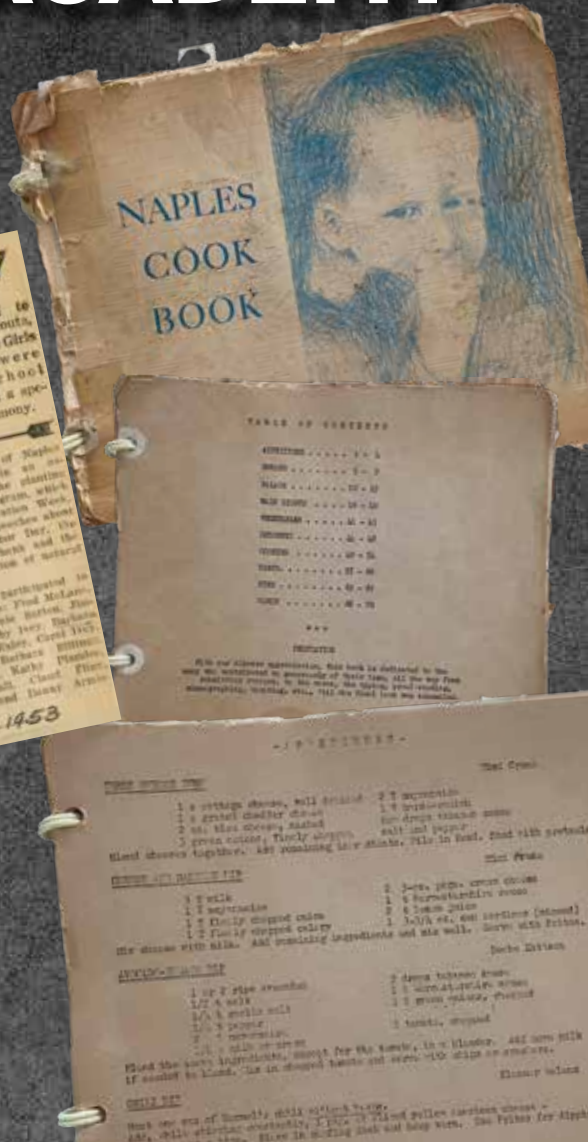
In Naples, we're all familiar with the Arbor Day traditions associated with Naples Bayside Academy and Naples Islands Garden Club...but did you know, over 70 years ago, NBA partnered with The Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Camp Fire Girls and Blue Birds to celebrate the day? The focus was on conservation of natural resources and the life of American botanist Luther Burbank.



Opened in 1925 serving Kinder - 6th grades, Naples Elementary School grew from a collection of "bungalows" to a sizable permanent building in 1930.



In 1963, Naples PTA published Naples Cook Book... a 76-page compendium of popular recipes of the time, as contributed by PTA members, school staff, faculty, and Naples neighbors. Though we're not certain, it was likely a project to raise funds for school amenities and student activities. The dedication reads: "With our sincere appreciation, this book is dedicated to the many who contributed so generously of their time, all the way from submitting recipes, to the cover, the typing, proof-reading, mimeographing, counting, etc., 'til the final book was assembled."



1925

1929

1935

1939

1946

1949

1954

1957

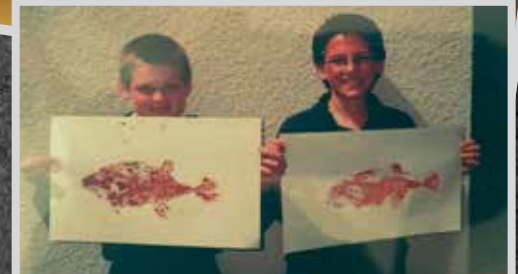
1964

1970

Speak up about hurts I have caused • To right wrongs • To help others • I will build peace at home, at school, and in my community each day.

ROCKIN' THROUGH A CENTURY

assembled and annotated by John Angelo



ABOVE: From the mid-'80s through the 2000's, Naples School was renowned for its focus on Marine Biology and Marine Sciences. In the 2010's, focus shifted to computer sciences.

Circa 2000, LBUSD transitions 6th grade to middle school status. NBA becomes Kinder - 5th grade.



Throughout the '60s and '70s, Naples School hosted a much-beloved, annual cake decorating competition for all the students.

Everything Was Sweet At Naples School Cake Decorating Contest

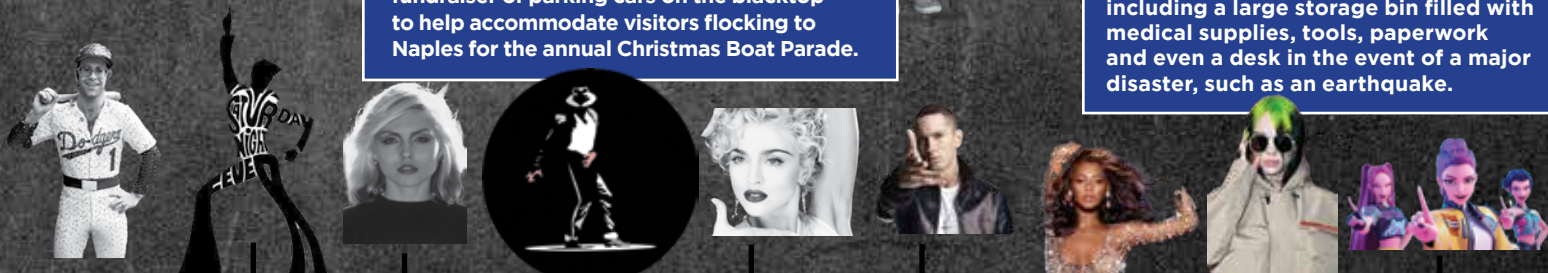


Current principal Paula Spenker



Community: For nearly 20 years, the campus served as the keeper of the island's CERT emergency supplies... including a large storage bin filled with medical supplies, tools, paperwork and even a desk in the event of a major disaster, such as an earthquake.

Community: For many years the school made a fundraiser of parking cars on the blacktop to help accommodate visitors flocking to Naples for the annual Christmas Boat Parade.



1975 1977 1980 1983 1990 2000 2009 2019 2025

STREET DANCE '25

photos by Ian Holmes

The NIA bid farewell to summer '25 with its annual, end-of-season Street Dance. King Salmon had residents waving hands in the air and shaking their groove things like they just didn't care! Thank you to our Street Dance sponsor, Andy Dane Carter. We'll see everyone next year when we kick off our Summer '26 Concerts-in-the-Park series! Now we turn our focus to winter events such as December's Boat Parade and February's NIA Holiday Awards & Community Celebration at LBYC.



NIA Membership Roster... continued from back cover

COMMUNITY ADVOCATE: \$100+ (continued...)

Plamondon, Anastasia and Brian
Potter, Marguerite and Jay
Price, Jeb
Reid, Christopher and Olga
Reiser, Lauren and Craig
Renzi, Jennie and Patrick
Riach, Victoria
Richards, John
Rinebold, Angela and Rory
Ripoll, Jessica and Raff
Sagahon, Gig and Catherine
Salinas, Terie
Scanlin, Joe and Laurie
Schilder, Donna and Drew
Schneider, Vickie
Schwandt, Ron and Kelly
Scott, Charlene
Shotwell, Kimberly and JP
Sims, Susan
Singer, Alison and Paul
Somers, April and Dana
Stagner, Bob and Laurel
Stelter, Jeffrey and Lorena
Stewart, Carrie and Mark
Storey, Megan
Suntharaphat, Joe and John
Supple, Anne and Charley
Suttie, Jeanne
Svilich, Arlene
Swerdloff, Ronald and Christina
Taylor, Debra
Tebrich, Michael and Debbie
Telling, Sharon and David
Tholen, Sandy and John
Thomas, Lisa and Robert
Thomson, Chris and Amanda
Tippett, Suzanne
Tolle, Arleen and Gary
Townsend, Wayne and Susan
Wallace, Cynthia
Wangness, Lois and Joe
Weiss, John and Elaine
Wells, Deborah
West, Elizabeth and CW
Williams, Karen
Womble, Albert
Wood, Ron and Elaine
Wooten, Michael and Rhea
Wratschko, Michael and Emily
Wroblicky, Holly and Peter

Zack, Paul and Mary
Zagnoev, Michael and Daphne
Zohrabian, Isabel and Edward

COMMUNITY SUPPORTER: \$50+

Armstrong, Susie
Atkinson, Stephanie
Bareford, John
Beers, Randy
Behm, Angie
Bergeman, Anthony
Bergkvist, Kim and Michael
Bice, Rebecca
Blakeman, Laurie
Block, Richard and Jan
Bonney, Lewis and Emily
Borah, Eloisa
Bostre, Arnel and Anita Lee
Brisson, Marvin and Terri
Brobst, Robert
Brooks, Jeanne
Brounstein, Dana and Eric
Calvert, Melanie
Charland, Jon and Penney
Charles, Leslie and Charmaine
Cleary, Fredericka and William
Cohen, Maureen and Jeff
Connelly, Jennifer and Jennifer
Creamer, John and Gloria
Cullen, Jana
Dahlen, Jeff and Barbara Spencer
Davis, Chuck and Gail
Deraddo, Ruth
Dobovanszky, George
Dottore, Niki
Edrich, Susan
Elias, Mike and Leane
Engle, Martie and Mike
Erickson, Carol
Evans, Melissa
Everson, Tina
Farfan, Lana and Salvador
Felix, Kelly and Kim
Flanigan, Maria and Connor
Franzoi, Lynn
Frost, Jean and Ken
Garcia, Michael and Burt
Gesselman, Mike
Golding, Harriet
Gomme, Terry
Gonzales, Melissa
Govereau, Kyle
Graber, Edie
Grimaldi, Theresa and Mike
Hanks, Pearl and Nakee
Hanning, Michael and Jerome
Harter, Frank and Eva
Hatlen, Sara and Tim
Hauhl, Eileen and Dan
Hayslip, Jo and Richard
Heinrich, Jim and Kendra
Henry, Sharron
Hoherd, Michelle and Mark
Holmes, Ian and Liz
Hu, Ping and Oanh
Hurston, Cat
Jonas, Michael and Kay
Kalunian, Shannon
Kober, Norma and Charles Booeey
Koerner, Casey
Koll, Cheryl and Doug
Kraus, Donna and Daniel
Krino, Toni and John
LaBarge, Janet
Landers, Ashley and Jeff
Lannon, Brian and Kayla
Lindahl, Kay
Lum, Joyce
Lynn, Derek and Danielle
Macias, Genevieve and Matt
Madrigal, Joyce
Mais, Michael and Sara
Manuel, David and Kate
Marich, Mitch
Markle, Catherine and Clay
Martin, Christine and Pete
Mathias, Judy
Mattern, Dolores
McClure, Rosemary
McCombs, Mary Anne and Jeff
McGee, Laurie and Mike
McGree, Kathleen and Chuck
Meier, Rhonda
Miller, Catherine and Loren
Muirhead, Trevor and Darcy
Murachver, Enette
Murphy, Cindy and Jerry
Nason, Kirk and Mary
Nucho, Mireille and Ramsay
Pachter, Linda and Michael
Peters, Amy
Petronelli, Ariel
Pinckert, Nancy
Pinto, Joyce
Polancic, Ally and Allen Kruzhkov
Potiker, Haley
Prisk, Stephanie
Raheb, Bill and Debbie

Ramirez, Arlene
Ramsdale, Phil
Reep, Fatima
Robarts, Austin and Milan
Roberts, Penny
Robinson, Kathy and Jon
Roelfsema, Helen
Ruegg, Carol
Ryan, Eileen
Sage, Jerald and Carol
Sandberg, Stephen
Sandoval, Geovane
Sangmeister, John and Sarah
Sawtelle, Bill and Victoria
Schmidt, John and Carol
Schnack, Jonathan and Peter
Scott, Cindy and John
Sepe, Mary and Robert
Shea, Kevin and Michelle
Shober, Lynn and Marty
Simonian, Andre and Silvana
Simonian, Sam
Sleight, Jill
Small, Kent and Frances
Smith, Todd and Cathy
Smitheran, Warren
Solano, Estela and Liam
Sondomowicz, Sandra
Sprague, Douglas and Judith
Stanley, James and Anita
Stone, Jeff and Robin
Stone, Lauren and Sergii Novosad
Stynes, Frank and Kim
Sullivan, Susan
Sullivan, Wes and Mary
Taba, Serge and Marie Christine
Tschida, Katrina
Tuchman, Roberta
Tucker, Lona
Tyner, Ruth Ann and Dan
Vandenberg, Catherine and David
Vaught, Barbara
Wehner, Matthew
West, Joanna and Brian
Westberg, Fred and Sue
Whelan, Allan
Willard, Tom and Sandy
Wright, Caitlin and Ruben Aranda
Ramirez
Wright, Phillip and Lana
Zirretta, Joseph and Kristine
Zweben, Peggy
Zwieback, Edgar and Mona

NAPLES Milestones



PASSINGS

Frank Harter

Naples Neighbor in the Angels' Jacket

Naples lost long-time resident Frank Harter on September 18th. Born in 1943, he landed finally on Savona Walk in 1993. He flipped pancakes for a few of the annual breakfasts and served on the CERT team.

Frank was a musician who played all the woodwinds, beginning his career in 1968 joining the Broadway touring company of "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever."

Back in SoCal Frank picked up gigs with various classical and jazz groups, and recorded for Disney Productions, Warner Brothers, CBS, and KTLA. His favorite post, however, was his full-time, ten-year stint with the Long Beach Municipal Band. Frank eventually took a job at Boeing in the late 80's and an early retirement in the mid-2000's.

You probably saw Frank on his almost-daily walk, even if you didn't get to know him. An Angel fan in his vintage silk team jacket and cap, his last few months he toured the 'hood in a wheelchair pushed by his adoring wife, also a Naples resident, whom he married in 2022. Everyone who met Frank appreciated his unassuming manner, his kindness, and his easy laugh. He loved music and meeting his Naples neighbors, even Dodger fans.

SHARE YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS: Submit Milestones (births, marriages and passings of Naples residents) to Naples News editor, NaplesNewsMagazine@gmail.com. Submissions for the next issue are due by March 15 for announcements spanning November 1, 2025 - March 15, 2026.

Thank You

for your support, NIA Members

NIA Membership roster as of December 1, 2025. Membership runs through May 31, 2026. Help us reach our goal of 600 households by adding your name to the growing list. You can register online with credit card or PayPal naplesislands.org/membership. Listing corrections?... Email membership.nia@gmail.com.

ARTHUR PARSONS CIRCLE: \$2,000

Olaes, Tony and Grace

LA BELLA FONTANA CIRCLE: \$1,000

Allen, John
Brascia, Michael and Mimi
Burcham, David
Ciarelli, Damon and Boo Wong
Davis, W. Howard
Digiovanni, Tony and Christine
Fisher, Sarah and Ted
Thacker, Jack and Sharon
Thacker, Michael and Veronica
Tuckman, Rob and Erik

COMMUNITY STAR: \$500+

Adams, Rick and Cheryl
Carter, Andy Dane
Carter, Chip and Marie
Cox, Marty and Louise
Dempsey, Laurie and Joe
Eisner, Hank and Nancy
Emslie, Jim and Nancy
Emslie, Nancy
Hooper, Mari
La Bounty, Mark
Levinson, Joyce and David
Lohfeld, Holger and Alison
Martin, Patti and Randy
Mitchell, Christine and Mark
Muirhead, Keith and Cathy
Nosworthy, Suzanne and David
O'Toole Family, Gondola Getaway
Parkhouse, James and Carol
Schultz, Terry and Maureen
Shadden, John and Patricia
Slater, Myrna and Scott
Sopp, Linda and Randy
Szafaryn, Len and Nada
Trutanich, Nuch and Noreen
Utterback, Laura and Tom
Voss, Rosemary
Williams, Carol and William Bill

COMMUNITY CHAMPION: \$250+

Achauer, Tamara and Terry
Atwood, Susie
Bambam, Richard and Cindy
Barth, Amy and Steven
Bastasch, Donna
Bell, Dana and Sam
Blitzer, Jonathan and Carole
Boller, Carl and Janet
Bozanich, Pamela and Peter
Bozarth, Michael and Donna
Brodsky, Joel and Edie
Brown, Steven and Annie
Burri, Margie and Fred
Burt, Vivien and Bob
Butters Lane, Beverly and Bob
Buxton, Ann and Brooks
Case, Barbara and Joe

Cash, David and Heather
Conger, Nancy and Robert
Cortes, Zenia and Edward
Countryman, Sky and Madina
Delpit, Susan and Larry
Delson, Jennifer

Doyle, Michael and Dorothy
Duran, John and Esther
Durnin, Brenda and Colby
Duthie, Christina and Bonnie
Eldred, Cameron and Clare
Erman, Jill and Howard
Fields, Gary and Lindsey
First, Don and Wendy
Fisher, Ben and Kristen
Fopiano, Patria
Frame, Linda and Michael
Garcia, Benny and Sahar
Garrison, Sookie
Goetsch, JD and Tifani
Gonzales, Sil and Taide
Gonzalez, Marissa
Green, Karen and Chris
Griffin, Robert and Marta
Grimm, Joyce and Steven
Hamme, Bill and Kathie
Hill, Bart and Eugenia Ether
Hite, Michael and Jennifer
Hopkins, Lisa
Horenstein, Janet
Horvath, Jack and Christine
Kane, Stephen and MaryBeth
Kawamoto, Kenneth and Patricia
Keliher, Jo and George
Kellogg, Jeff and Pamela
Kessler, Laura
King, Steve and Stacey
Knopf, Shirley and Merrill
Kosturos, William and Kelly
Kunkler, Kathleen and Brooke
Leipold, John
Londre, Larry and Patti
Martin, Judy
McCormick, Rob and Jan
McGarry, Diane
McGee, Chris and Zelna
Miller, Michael and Chrissy
Milroy, Bill and V Tse-Horiuchi
Minarovic, Joseph
Montoya, Chris and Dolores
Nelson, Richard
Odegard, Cindy and David
Pillsbury, Rick and Linda
Powell, Roger
Prlich, Michael and Mariana
Pruitt, Steve and Kirsten
Punim, Donna and Jeff
Rahaeuser, Rainer and Lynda
Rahn, Linda and Allan
Rich, Norman and Valerie
Richmond, Tim and Debbie
Ridder, Cathy and Peter
Robie, Theresa and Donna
Schooley, Vern and Trish
Seaver, Patrick and Sonja
Shah, Roopal and Bharati
Simonian, Katy and Sam
Sisneros, Laurie and Fred
Sjoberg, Carl and Dorothy
Sollitto, Jordon and Yolanda
Sparks, David and Lusheia
Spencer, Curtis and Dory
Stacey, Ray and Caroline

Stalberger, Becky and Bill
Suttles, Stephen and Kathleen
Taboada, Henry
Tillman, David and Karen
Trossen, Ken and Judy
Ulmer, Doug and Jeanne
Van Mechelen, Kecia
Vaught, Alan and Rebecca
Wakefield, Sherri and Jim
Wall, Steven and Michael
Watkins, Ryan and Esther
Westling, Gary and Stacey
Witul, Melissa and Steve
Wiviott, Jay and Teresa
Yanagisawa, Sherry and Albert
Zuccherro, Joe and Karen

COMMUNITY ADVOCATE: \$100+

Ackerman, Kris and John Anselmo
Ahadpour, David and Molly
Amico, Pete and Lita
Angelo-Neumann Family
Ashbrook, Todd and Erika
Aspey, Stace and Phil
Baghranian, Mike and Carol
Bailey, J. Kay
Baires, David and Eileen
Baker, David
Ball, David and Debra
Ball, William and Rosita
Balusik, Sarah and Rick
Bardygula, Oksana
Barnes, Tyler and Candy
Beazley, Brent
Beazley, William
Becker, Barry and Judith
Behl, Richard and Krisztina
Bell, Cat and Tom
Bello, Richard
Beltran, Alex and Darcy
Bennett, Drake and Kaelyn Estes
Berg, Kay
Bittle, Marilyn
Bittner, Thomas and Susan
Blair, Heidi
Blodgett, Barry and Kathy
Boezinger, John
Bogart, Don and Judy
Bowers, Russ and Jennifer
Brannon, Lauri and Don
Buchbinder, Gregg and Madson
Bunch, Brian and Mark
Burke, Jenna
Burke, Sean-Patrick
Burnight, Larry and Carol
Burns, Nikki and Robert
Cardarelli Painter, Cynthia
Carey, Jennifer and Brent
Carlin, Terry and Barbara
Case, Seandra
Charchenko, Kathleen and Doug
Chenen, Lynn and Art
Clark, Sally and Ron
Cohen, Marsha
Cojohn, Linda and Desmond
Colbert, Joel and Donna
Colliver, Dick and Robin
Comstock, Bryan
Conway, Richard and Elizabeth
Cooper, Christine and Chris
Cormie, Marian
Cousimano, Dora and Tony
Coyne-Jones, Jan
Cross, Alexander and Barbara Hounsell
Davidson, Sandy and Bill
DeGiorgio, Janet
Denisac, Sandra
Dilday, Diane
Dilday, Susan
DiPiazza, Jim and Marjan
Doeve, Dawn and Mary Jo
Drake, David and Cheryl
DuBrock, MarJean
Ehrlich, Deborah
Eisenman, Sam and Kelly

Escobar, Tara and George
Fendell, Susan
Fifth Church of Christ, Scientist
Forbes, David and Lisa
Foster, Andrew
Foster, Bob and Nancy
Fox, Ronald and Karen
Freeborn, Helen
Freeman, Ardis
Freeman, Dawn and Roger
Fyles, Kalinda
Gagnon, Bill and Teresa
Gardner, Ann Mari
Gdovin, Ron
Gerdt, Jim and Ria
Gildard, Trisa and Sunday
Gladinus, Gayle and Jay
Golden, Sheila
Gorham, Janice
GOUGH, Julia and Patrick
Graham, Heather and Ken
Griner, Dale and Steve Burmeister
Gross, Dan and Diane
Hercus, Mark and Betty
Hernandez, Michael
Hodges, Monica and Ron
Honey, Paul and Monica
Howard, Charles and Kris
Hunt, John and Janeen
Hunter, Pat and Ed
Irwin, Victor and Barbara
Jenkins, Donald and Charlene
Jensen, Diane and Michael
Johnson, Anne and Robert
Jones, David and Sharon
Jones, Nicole and Delano
Jordan, Mike and Lynette
Kaiser, Curtis and Kristie
Kaplan, Kathleen and Rick
Karle, Pamela and John
Keller, Kari and Larry
Kenny, Tom and Julie
Kern, Morton and Margaret
Kiley, Cindy and Thomas
Kimball, Ed and Anne
King, Lana and Natalie
Kiser, Eric and Kim
Klein, Eileen and Hal
Kott, Margaret
Krauss, Jeanne
Labac, Deb
LaBounty, Eric
Lamb, Judy and Ron
Landel, Jana and Rob
Lane, Bob and Jeff Hoffman
Leavitt, Sara and Steve
Little, Gary and Lynn
Livesay, Kym
Lorbeer, Carmen
Louis, Shawn and Elizabeth
Manwaring, Robert and Sigrid
Marty, Jerry and Elena
McCredie, Pam and Don
McDonald, Roderick and Susan
McKenna, Kevin and Jodi
McLean, Jenny and Michael
Meyer, Heather and Scott
Miller, Gary and Caryl
Mitlin, Victoria and Reginald
Morelli, Mari Lou
Nairne, Kristie and Ken
Nash, Mardell
Naylor, Wendy and Michael
Nissov, Morten and Mehrsheed
Noonan, Marty and Sandy
Olsen, Randi and Kenneth
Olson, Elisa and Elliott
Orlando, Chris
Orndorff, Linda
Owens, Lisa
Packman, Tiffany
Pando, Robert and Karole
Paul, Teri and Gary
Perley, Jules
Piercy, Robert and Paula

(continued on page 31)