

THE GRAN PACIFICA WAVE

NEWS FROM THE EDGE OF THE SEA

NOVEMBER 2015



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LETTER FROM THE CEO

MIKE COBB



Dear Property Owners,

November has brought cool breezes, green landscapes, and some great groups to Gran Pacifica. Jo-Anne Stoltz, The Wave's main contributor, truly brings the feel at the property to life in her Property Update, so you won't want to miss it. This will be a monthly feature bringing all the great news from Gran Pacifica to your inbox. The feel of expansion and excitement at the property is real, and many of you should have received an email letting you know that construction hours have expanded. There are literally so many houses being built that the construction crews couldn't keep up at their current pace, and had to expand operations. This means that property has been selling at Gran Pacifica, but it also means that many of our homeowners who had put their building plans on hold for one reason or another, are now beginning construction. It's an exciting time to be a Gran Pacifica property owner, as our town by the sea truly takes shape.



And it's not just about the homes, but the neighbors. As homes complete, some of their owners are planning to move in immediately. We are excited for the new, exciting personalities to be added to the mix. A successful Heart of ECI tour also completed in November, and its guests were amazed by the beauty and development out at Gran Pacifica. From the solar homes, to the fast-growing community of Casita Village, to the large, tasteful houses nearing completion in Phase 1, our visitors were impressed with the build quality, style, and heart of the property.

One of our guests on the tour, Susan O'Rourke, had already spent a week at Gran Pacifica planning for a conference next summer. Thanks to Patrick Hiebert and his team for taking such good care of her and helping make this event a success. Susan's organization, DISES, is made up of Special Education experts from around the world, and they've chosen Gran Pacifica as the site for their 2016 roundtable event. This will bring over 70 international experts to our shores and into Nicaragua's schools. This is a landmark event, and you can expect to receive plenty of future updates as we near the date of the conference. Also planned is a continuing study abroad program, which will help reinforce the inclusive curriculum brought to the schools by DISES. This is a great example of my, "do good while doing well," philosophy. The conference will bring increased attention and rentals to Gran Pacifica, while also having a real impact on the resort's surrounding communities.

In another case of helping our “neighbors,” Gran Pacifica’s turtle sanctuary program has been revitalized this season with a generous donation from a local philanthropist. Dani Rene Davila Artola from Finca San Diego has been hired to walk the beach and look for nesting turtles. The eggs are then carefully transferred to our on-site turtle sanctuary, where they are protected from hazards. So far, all the eggs are expected to hatch on or around New Years. We’ll all be watching for that magnificent sight, from a safe distance of course.

When not walking the beach, Dani has found time to clean the sanctuary of all debris and weeds, and re-establish the grid to identify nest areas. Dani has also mounted a sign identifying the location of the sanctuary. This stunning sign was designed, painted and donated by local artist Elias Peñas with the help of masseuse Katy Carolina Davila Vallecillo. This is just one more great example of Gran Pacifica’s community coming together for a good purpose.

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving, and that you were able to cherish your family time. I spent the weekend at Selva Negra with my family. It’s truly one of the most beautiful spots in Nicaragua; a cloud forest that grows some of the best coffee I’ve had the pleasure to enjoy.



Next time you are in Nicaragua for a long visit, I highly recommend taking a weekend to visit. It’s really something else. Of course, I spend my time there with my family, which makes it mean even more. Until next time, enjoy the lead up to the holidays.

Sincerely,

Mike Cobb

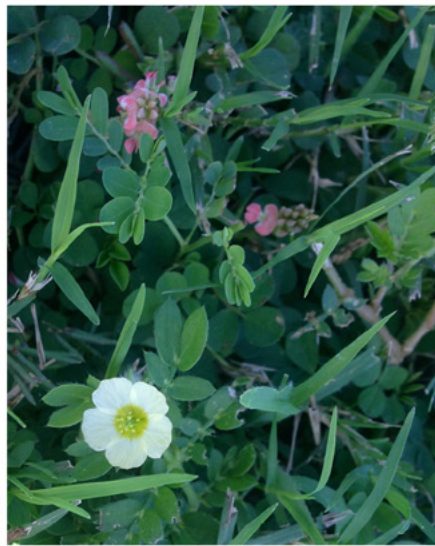
PROPERTY UPDATE

JO-ANNE STOLTZ

November a Favorite at GP

October's rain brings much beauty to our community. Morning walks are now peppered with wild flowers, the sea is calm, the neighborhoods are several shades of luxuriant green and our rotundas are simply bursting with color. The temperature can get down to 24 degrees Celsius (75o F) at night, allowing us to sleep with the windows open as fresh air and the soothing sound of waves drift through our bedrooms.

Some of our part-time residents have also started to migrate back to the property. These are just the first; December and January will bring many more. It is a lively time at Gran Pacifica, as these community members return to avoid the winter blues. It is interesting to hear them recount stories from the past few months spent in their "regular lives." A highlight is when tales are shared of different residents meeting up in their countries of origin. It speaks to the strength of the bonds that have been created right here in our community.





Operation Walk Winnipeg

Every November for the past four years, Operation Walk Winnipeg has visited Nicaragua. A group of fifty-five medical professionals work for three and a half days at Roberto Calderon hospital doing free knee replacement surgeries. This year they were able to replace 68 knees and one hip. At the end of these grueling days the group visits our property to party, unwind and enjoy.

In Manitoba, fundraising starts at the beginning of the year to pay for the cost of shipping and to subsidize the medical team's travel. The surgeons pay their own travel in its entirety; every other medical professional on this team pays a portion. The Manitoba distributors of Smith & Nephew donate the replacement joints, which have a total value of approximately \$119,000 USD.

Dr. Eric Bohm and Allison Bartel are the group's leaders, and this year their Training, Education and Event Coordinator, Amanda Osorio, has given her support to provide donations to the school in our adopted community of El Jícaro. She created several ways people could donate, including an initiative in which a person could donate \$20 to give a full backpack to a child. In addition to the backpacks themselves, every child found that their backpack was filled with scribblers, pens, pencils, colored pencils, markers, and personal hygiene items, and personalized with a nametag. The children were also gifted with sports equipment, to enjoy after school.

Since the school was built a couple of years ago, GP resident Mr. Dinh Nguyen has been trying to start a sustainable English program for the children. Now with a donation of two gently used laptops from this group, it is possible for the teachers to access a plethora of educational information and many different ESL programs to use in their classes.

We are growing

In the past two months, ten new construction sites have popped up. The sizes of these homes range from the smallest, at just under a thousand square feet of Spanish Colonial cuteness, to a substantial four thousand square foot, custom-designed villa.

This construction brings with it plenty of employment for the locals, new neighbors to get to know and lots of hustle and bustle. The neighborhood of Casita Village is bubbling with activity, with six new casitas being built. Two of which are scheduled for completion in early December. One of these popular items has already been sold.



November is simply delightful here on the property!

If you would like to know more about living in Nicaragua, please contact Jo-Anne at jstoltz@granpacificacom

COMMUNICATING HAS GOTTEN EASIER

JO-ANNE STOLTZ



Nicaragua is keeping up with the world in communication technology. In recent months, the two leading cell companies, Claro and Movistar, started offering 4G LTE coverage.

Earlier this year, several municipalities in Nicaragua installed free Wi-Fi in many central parks and public spaces. This project is huge, with 1.2 million Córdobas budgeted to install wireless in large gathering places within Managua, and 53 million Córdobas set aside to install this service in Central Parks of other cities.



I personally checked two locations, one in Matagalpa and one in San Rafael del Sur, where I found unsecured, free Internet.

In conjunction with this new offering, the government has committed to having tourist police patrol each of these free Wi-Fi areas. This is to ensure people using their mobile devices in public can do so in a safe environment.

[Here](#) you will find a video clip from April when this project started.

The article, ["3G vs 4G: What's the Difference?"](#) from PC Mag, does a great job at explaining what this new service will mean for data speeds in Nicaragua.

LIBRARY DONATIONS

JO-ANNE STOLTZ

El Jícaro Library is growing!!!

Donated by Don and Ellen Roose



Below is an inexpensive way to contribute to the children's library.

Donate your old magazines or buy one the next time you are in the supermarket. National Geographic Magazines cost only 80 Córdoba (\$2.88), are educational and full of beautiful photography.



HALLOWEEN

JO-ANNE STOLTZ

We do not have many trick-or-treaters at Gran Pacifica, but what we lack in numbers we make up for in cuteness!

Here is Cash as a fisherman, and big Sister Emmy as a Mermaid. Mom and Dad, who are not in the photo, were dressed as a starfish and a jellyfish.

