

# THE GRAN PACIFICA WAVE

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## NEWS FROM THE EDGE OF THE SEA

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### MARCH 2015

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# GP PROPERTY OWNERS

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION



*An important message from Gran Pacifica Property Owners Association.*

Good Afternoon, Gran Pacifica Residents,

Over Valentine's Day weekend, an automobile accident occurred on the property involving two vehicles that collided with each other at an intersection. One vehicle T-boned the other. Fortunately, no one was hurt – but they could have been.

We are told several factors contributed to this accident, including speed, lack of caution at an unmarked intersection, a truck parked in the street partially obstructing a clear view of the intersection and, perhaps, sun reflection

THIS IS A GOOD LESSON FOR ALL OF US.....

Please help keep Gran Pacifica safe for residents, tenants, guests

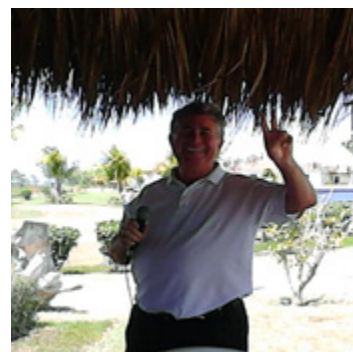
## BASICS OF SAFE DRIVING

- Remind yourself, your tenants and guests, Gran Pacifica may feel like a wide open country road but it is not.
- Speeds must not exceed 25 miles/hour for ANYONE.
- STOP and look at all intersections before passing through them.
- Vehicles are not allowed to park in the street – residents and tenants are required to park on the area that was created for such when the home they live in was built.

# HAPPENINGS

The Yoga Retreat at Gran Pacifica Resort lasting several weeks was a success, with serenity floating through the air along with the aroma of many fruits and vegetables, as the yoga group was eating an entirely vegetarian menu. Melissa Boyles and I had fun making very organic recipes for smoothies and serving them to our yoga guests for breakfast. They have gone now, back to the scattered places on the Earth from whence they came, and the restaurant is back to its normal, non-banquet style seating and the normal serenity that can't be missed by gazing out to the sea while having dinner or hanging out at the pool.

The community picnic on the 21 February was another bang up job by Gran Pacifica. It is a great effort in bringing people together, here, at Gran Pacifica Resort, to have a meal together and share what is happening in one another's lives.



**Kent Payne welcomed all the guests at the picnic. He also led the blessing.**

Gran Pacifica's next community picnic will be Saturday, 21 March. See you there for another great lunch and friendly connections.

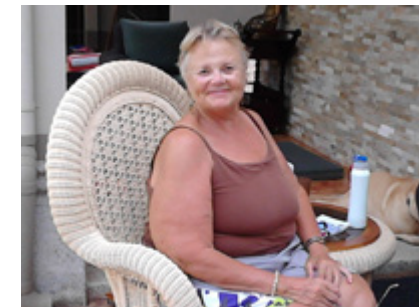
Semana Santa is 27 March to 6 April. There are still some rentals available at Gran Pacific Resort, but they are going fast so now is the time to reserve a spot before they are sold out!

The Property Owners' community meeting is scheduled for 25 April, so mark your calendars. Details to follow.

There are three new turtle nests at the Turtle Sanctuary courtesy of Dinh Nguyen, one of Gran Pacifica's resident/owners. More on the Olive Ridley Turtles in the next issue.

# FEATURED GUEST

## COLLEEN GILES



I first met Colleen on my second day at Gran Pacifica last year. Cee Cee and I had walked to the pool and spent a few minutes on the beach. After we'd climbed the steps back up to the pool area, I realized how hot and tired we'd both gotten walking from the casita to the beach. We hadn't adjusted to the climate yet. I stopped at a table where a lady sat, gazing out at the surf. Out of necessity, I plopped down in a chair while I asked, "Could I sit for a moment." My back was acting up, so I rested it as I sat for a while and cooled off.

As we chatted, Colleen shared that she had retired as a nurse practitioner in anesthesiology. It made sense to me that I did what I normally would never do – barge in on someone else's space. I'm a nurse too, and kidded her about her 'in charge' way of speaking. Someone said once it takes one to know one. Colleen said she was visiting her son and his family and was renting a house on the Gran Pacifica property. I saw her once or twice after that, then she left.

As I was sitting at my book signing table at Gran Pacifica's community picnic a couple months ago, she came up and greeted me with a great big smile. I caught her up on my year in Gran Pacifica, and we agreed to meet up soon. She picked up Cee Cee and me one day and we went to her house for a swim and some watermelon.

Colleen is one of the most serene-looking people I have ever met. Upon entering her space, I felt a 'soft environment.' I guess what I mean by that is peaceful and stress free. She has been coming from Massachusetts to Gran Pacifica since 2010 to see her son, Larry Giles, and his family, and to bask in the beauty and sun of Gran Pacifica Resort. She has an eight-year-old granddaughter, Taylor, whom she adores. When we set our meet up, she had to make sure we scheduled our time around her 'play date' with Taylor.

The calm on the outside emanates and reflects Colleen's inner strength. A nurse practitioner, she worked for thirty years in anesthesiology while raising her two children. When her children were grown, she left her marriage to begin life anew.

She and her partner, whom she has known for many years, have built a very close and trusting relationship. Colleen says they are anticipating her partner's retirement in two years. They plan on travelling, including visiting Gran Pacifica Resort and Colleen's family.



Colleen displays the self-caring behavior many strive for and never reach. She maintains a schedule of daily exercise, eats healthy and sleeps well. Toss in meditation each day with her partner, and you have a well-rounded and balanced life.

Her richness of spirit speaks through her eyes as she describes her life with her partner. Without a doubt, they have a long lasting, very loving relationship.

It is said that people will come into and out of your life, always with a reason or lesson of some sort. When Colleen ends this year's visit, she will have touched my life.

# FEATURED RESIDENT

## OSMAN MARTINEZ PICADO



If you spend any time at the reservation office, surf shop, or the Sea Salt Restaurant at Gran Pacifica Resort, you will no doubt come upon the friendly face of a young man named Osman. He's usually running around with a clipboard organizing his next day tour for guests, always with a friendly greeting.

Osman is the other half of Angela, and they have a two-year-old cutie of a son named Kaiden. Angela is the office manager at Gran Pacifica resort, as well as assistant to Patrick Hiebert, CEO of Vida del Mar, which handles all of the resort reservations for Las Perlas condominiums and the Sea Salt Restaurant at Gran Pacifica's Resort by the sea.

Osman was born and raised in the small community of Ticuantepe, between Managua and Masaya. People live off the land and there are miles of pineapple plantations. The area grows more pineapples than any other area in the country. The Nicaraguan National Zoo is also located in Ticuantepe.

Before Gran Pacifica, Osman had been working at a Private Nature Reserve. That's where he and Angela met shortly after her Peace Core service ended in 2008. She and Osman had worked together at the reserve for about a year, when they heard about a couples' job opportunity at Gran Pacifica. Osman worked as supervisor to the ground workers. He said he decided to learn English, so spent his 'off time' doing that. In the meantime, he and Angela spent their time working and hopping from rental to rental until they were blessed with their own home at Gran Pacifica.

Osman explained how they have both worked very hard, and now see a light at the end of the tunnel with new opportunities coming. They are excited about the positive changes they see happening. Patrick Hiebert is focusing on heavily marketing the tourism and transportation department at Gran Pacifica, and Osman is at the front end of that, booking guests and conducting various tours. He has taken groups on trips to Granada and Volcano Mombacho. He also brings guests to el Mirador de Catarina above Laguna de Apoyo. It is a gorgeous vista with restaurants and many stands where you can purchase Nicaraguan memorables made by the hands and hearts of the people. The colors of the blue and green lake and sky contrast with the bright colors of the local folks to create a stunning tapestry.

He has also organized trips to Volcano Masaya, but his eyes lit up when he spoke of his bird watching tours. He began to tell me about some of the birds and their behaviors. One bird, the Long Tail Manekin, also known as the Bird of Fire because of the bright red feathers on his head, performs quite the mating ritual. With a bright headdress of red feathers, blue feathers on his back and white and blue on his chest, the male pairs up with another male on a branch and they do a mating dance, jumping over one another and fluttering their feathers. When the male wants to see if the female is willing, he hops over to the brown shaded lady and bumps her chest with his head. When the female has made her choice, the two males continue to dance so the loser can learn from the winner. See the link at the bottom of this article for a video of this avian species doing their dance.

To arrange one of these tours by Osman, email the reservations desk at:  
[reservations@vidadelmarnicaragua.com](mailto:reservations@vidadelmarnicaragua.com).

Click to watch the dancing birds video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o42C6ajjqWg>

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



■ CHERYL NICHOLAS

Well, here we are with the second issue of The Grand Pacifica Wave. I'm loving the opportunity to bring news that connects the community within and without. I also get to be legitimately nosey and talk about it!

The opportunity to learn about our guests and residents is priceless. It brings a 'humanness' to this life that is an adventure. You know, we aren't just people living in close proximity to one another. We are people who have chosen to live away from our roots, next to the sea, most of us in a foreign land. That makes us partners, in a way. Some of us live here a few months out of the year. To others, Gran Pacifica is one of many travel stops make throughout the year. A few, like me, choose to live here all year long.

Every group, community or 'sub culture' has its mores, or ways of doing things. I am still learning what they are in this community of Gran Pacifica. Since my arrival on February 27th, 2014, I have been challenged with figuring out who is who. My knowledge is gradually shrinking the jumble of names of people who own homes, names of the houses themselves, streets and no streets. Little by little I'm connecting people to their homes.

Why, I asked myself, does such a small space, relative to the world, feel so confusing to me? Part of the reason I was feeling that way is that I've been the "lone pioneer" over in Casita Village, separated from the main neighborhood. (See Property Update to learn why that is no longer the case!) Another, certain people pointed out, is that the yearlong residents number about eight. But that encourages the people who live here all year long to have somewhat of a 'compadre connection.' It is different, interesting, curious, challenging, fun ... and then there is the sea. I wouldn't have it any other way.



# ECO SUSTAINABILITY: MAKING THE SUN WORK FOR YOU



■ PATRICK HIEBERT

Before moving permanently to Gran Pacifica last fall, I lived with my son on a sail boat off Vancouver Island, Canada. I love sailing; it is extremely freeing to know you can go nearly anywhere in the world using only the power of Mother Nature.

Living on a boat has its pros and cons. Besides the pros of always having a waterfront home, never forgetting anything when you travel, and having your food supply swimming right beneath you, there are some cons to living on a boat. Availability of fresh water and electrical power are an ongoing problem.

Many people over the past few years have talked about natural sources of power and 'eco-friendly' environments, but that talk hasn't turned into much action. After my experiences on my boat, knowing the fear of possible consequences of aimlessly floating on the ocean, and much time to peruse over the power issue, an idea began to brew.

Why can't the power of the sun and wind be harnessed to provide energy where there is no wired electricity? I was well aware of the power of the wind, and wondered how that, too, could be harnessed.

Then, I was introduced to Gran Pacifica and knew I would live here one day. I was a bit troubled over the power issues, so after purchasing land for my future home, I recalled the experiences with the power of Mother Nature on the sea and conceived the idea of a sub community at Gran Pacifica. I became passionate about combining "book knowledge" with my personal experience on the sea with my son.

Rather than being a fanatic or an activist on Eco-friendly communities, I think of myself as Eco-sensible. I like the things that make life easier and more enjoyable, such as an icy cold beer and my flat screen TV as much as the next guy, but I'm also intrigued by the idea of being self-sufficient power-wise with no electricity bill.

I began to move towards making that idea a reality at Gran Pacifica, and conceived the project where we now have a growing community with two homes completed, three under construction and negotiating for the construction to begin on three more. This special sub community, named Milagro Verde, is completely powered by the sun. Soon, there will be food growing within that burgeoning self-sufficient community, putting us another step closer to complete Eco-Sustainability.

When I began this project, there were many naysayers and skeptics, and there still are. However, your neighbors and fellow residents, Gordon and Shamin, (aka Pita) have been living in their solar powered home located within Milagro Verde for over two years. They are truly “off the grid,” and are not hooked up to any electricity from any source other than their own solar panels on their roof. They live normal lives with a big refrigerator, washer and dryer, and participate in all the power hungry activities we engage in on a daily basis.

Last month while we were at maximum occupancy at the Las Perlas condominiums with the yoga retreat, I gave up my condo suite and moved to Milagro Verde, into the newly completed solar powered Casa Colibri (House of the Hummingbird) owned by a couple from Edmonton, Canada. If I had any doubts about the efficiency of solar power, they were wiped out during this amazing experience of living in a house powered only by the sun! I had great fun turning on the air conditioning, grabbing a cold drink from the big fridge, and having all the fans and lights on while doing my laundry! I was almost giddy with the thought that there would be no electricity bill at the end of the month!

Like the freedom I felt while on the sailboat, it felt great knowing it didn't matter how much electricity I used. It wouldn't shut down, and it will be there tomorrow as well ... free!



# NICARAGUAN BIRDS



CHERYL NICHOLAS

One morning as Cee Cee, my Labrador/shepherd mix, and I took our morning walk, I spotted a bird caught in the shade of a lamppost. It was a large bird with a bright yellow belly. I watched its frantically flapping wings as its body banged against the inside of the glass enclosure in a futile attempt to find the hole it had flown through. It was a steamy hot morning and I became fearful the bird would die from the heat. “Ayudame!” Help me! I exclaimed as I ran to one of the workmen. He followed me to the lamppost.

The workman looked at me and made gestures to his arm, “Morder!” Bite! I turned and raced to the house, grabbed a towel and a step stool and raced back to the frantic bird and our rescuer. After a few minutes of jockeying with the bird, the workman was able to get ahold of him and gently pull him out of the bottom of the glass lamppost shade. The beautiful bird flew away a very happy camper, I'm sure. When I returned from the drama, I looked up the bird and managed to find a picture, but couldn't be sure, among three different yellow breasted birds I found, which one was our saved bird.

I've become entranced with the avian life I find around Gran Pacifica Resort. Having come from Washington State, I have never paid much attention to birds except to gaze at hummingbirds, robins and plain brown wrens. Except for the eagles. Bald Eagles are the claim to fame where I came from, and seeing their majestic profiles in the trees or on the edges of cliffs is wondrous.

The sounds of the bird life surrounding my new home have been peaceful, curious, and mesmerizing. There are early morning birds and late afternoon birds, then the sounds of the day birds quieting for the night and the nocturnals awakening. Mesmorization comes in abundance as I stand in the quiet of twilight and listen to the many sounds of the fading day.

Each morning I hear the same “Hoo oo Hoo” of owls from where I come. I thought perhaps the poor thing was circadianly confused and had his days and nights mixed up. Every morning off in the distance in the trees, I'd hear the “Hoo oo Hoo.” What is it with owls in Nicaragua who have it backwards? Then, I spoke with Osman and he told me they were doves--white winged doves! I needed to see one so I looked up a picture of the bird so I would recognize it if I saw it come flying out of a grove of trees.





Now, I need to put in my two cents on a huge disappointment bird wise (well, maybe just a little disappointment.) My childhood, like many, was filled with cartoon characters. One of those characters morphed into an icon:



One day a friend was bringing me back from town, and a bunch of brown birds were meandering across the road. “What are those birds and why don’t they fly away?” I asked

“They are Road Runners,” my friend responded. “What? Those plain brown birds are Roadrunners?” Burst my childhood bubble.



**ROAD RUNER**

# PROPERTY UPDATE



Besides the person of Kent Payne popping around the property with clients, building construction is popping around Gran Pacifica Resort. Over the past couple of months, many lots have been sold – seven of them at Casita Village. There are several houses just finished, just started or mid-way finished.

I can no longer say I am “The Lone Pioneer” of Casita Village, and I can no longer tell people I’m in one of the first two houses you see upon entering the property. Now, you see a light blue casita first. Two additional houses have been completed in ‘The Village,’ and there is to be construction on two more new houses beginning within a week or so.

The monthly community picnics at Gran Pacifica have generated a great deal of interest in the current growth and future plans of Gran Pacifica.

More on building projects in Gran Pacifica to follow in the next issue.

Gran Pacifica’s construction team is picking up steam, with 11 houses already under construction. Will yours be number 12? Contact [info@granpacifica.com](mailto:info@granpacifica.com) for additional information

# SURFING – FROM A PERPETUAL BEGINNER

■ JO-ANNE STOLTZ ■

Six years ago when I lived in Carlsbad, California, I bought my first surfboard. I had envisioned joining all the surfers beyond the break as we talked about the conditions and took turns catching barrels.

My first attempt at surfing I was full of anticipation. Trying to paddle out past the break was a lot more difficult than I had imagined. Getting knocked off of my board and spun around like I was in the spin cycle of a washing machine was terrifying, and it happened more than once. Trying to figure out which waves to catch and which ones to let roll past was like trying to unlock an indecipherable code. After a half an hour of keeping a death grip on my board and trying not to wash up on shore looking like a beached whale, I was exhausted. Realizing that surfing was going to be much more challenging than I first thought, I dragged myself and my board out of the water and went home to study..

YouTube videos encouraged me to practice the “pop up” which is not unlike the burpees I had to do in gym class in middle school. The maneuver takes one from a prone to a standing position in one motion. To familiarize myself with the surf culture I read books like the “Salt Water Buddha” and brushed up on my surf vocabulary by checking out the “Riptionary.” After a week or so, I was ready to try again.

The second and third attempts were equally as demoralizing. I would go out every other week to try again and found that the progress from one session to the next was minimal at best. My visions of standing atop my surf board, catching barrels were fading. Discouraged, I gave up. During a long “dry period,” I had come to know Gran Pacifica in Nicaragua and moved there. The water temperature was a lot more welcoming, and I learned that the surf forecast was a great tool to use to choose days that were appropriate for a beginner like me.

After five years of living in this surfer’s paradise, I am blessed to surf once a week when the waves are between one and three feet high. That is not enough of a time commitment to make me a good surfer, but some notable changes have occurred. The death grip on my board has loosened, rides through the spin cycle happen only occasionally, I can stand up on the board and ride a wave in to shore.



My dream of becoming “a surfer” and hanging out with the surfing crowd, talking about catching barrels is no longer something I long for. Now, I paddle out past the break at sunset and become mesmerized while my arms dip through the surface of the water the sun has turned into warm liquid gold. Getting into the ocean and becoming enveloped by nature has become enough.

You may contact Jo-Anne at any time at [joanne.stoltz@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.stoltz@gmail.com). She is available to answer questions about life here at Gran Pacifica and offer information on how you might own a home or condo here at the beach

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Editor’s note:

For more information on Saltwater Buddha, click the link:

<http://www.amazon.com/Saltwater-Buddha-Surfers-Quest-Find/dp/0861715357>

For detailed surfing conditions, click here:

<http://magicseaweed.com/Masachapa-Surf-Report/2560>



# CHAIRS FOR CHILDREN

MIKE COBB

Dear Readers,

Gran Pacifica always strives to give back to the community, and some of you may have donated to a great cause last year: providing chairs for the schools of Villa El Carmen. Well, the day has come, and we delivered the new chairs from the workshop in San Juan del Sur to the schools on March 12th.

Students and teachers from both schools were waiting for the chairs like a godsend just to satisfy a basic need. They were very happy to receive this donation. Helio, our Corporate Social Responsibility Employee in Villa El Carmen, spoke on behalf of all of us to the teachers and students, saying that Gran Pacifica and their friends are excited to contribute to the community and its inhabitants with this small project.

This project benefits 36 students or more. I say more, because at California primary school, some students attend classes in the morning and others students go to school in the afternoon, so the chairs are going to be used during both shifts.

Students said THANK YOU, and teachers said we need MORE chairs. The beneficiary schools of San Diego and California were selected among all schools of the municipality.

Thank you for supporting this community and its children, who are the future of Nicaragua. We will keep doing more of these projects, and will keep you in the loop in case you want to be a part of them.

Thank you once again in the name of the children and the community of Villa el Carmen.

Take care and hopefully I will see you again soon.

Sincerely,  
Mike Cobb



ENGLISH TEACHER  
IN  
VILLA EI CARMEN  
SCHOOLS

