

VALVE

Valve's Gabe Newell bought a super mansion with its own tunnel into the sea



BY IGN STAFF

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Gabe Newell spent \$70.8 million on a super mansion in Florida, which has its own tunnel to the sea.

The billionaire Valve boss has acquired the nearly 20,000-square-foot mansion in Manalapan, Florida, the Wall Street Journal reported . Newell bought it from Cindy and Ron McMackin, founders of engineering contracting firm Pan-Pacific Mechanical, who paid \$39 million for it in 2020.

According to the WSJ, Newell's new home includes a tunnel that connects the beachfront property to the ocean via a beach. We can see what that looks like in a 2020 promotional video posted to YouTube by Premier Estate Properties, which handled the sale. A perfect location for a strange headcrab? I'd bring a crowbar... just saying.

Elsewhere, there's an outdoor pool, a pier and a boat lift. There's also an eight-car garage, a wine cellar, guest accommodation and even a wellness wing.



GABE NEWELL'S NEW SUPER MANSION HAS A TUNNEL THAT LEADS TO THE BEACH. IMAGE SOURCE: [PREMIER ESTATE PROPERTIES / YOUTUBE](#) .

Valve is a private company, meaning its finances aren't public, but we do know that Newell is one of the richest people in the video game industry, with an estimated net worth of \$11 billion. He founded Valve, created Steam, and released iconic video games like "Half-Life," "Counter-Strike" and "Dota." Steam dominates the PC sales market and earns Valve a percentage of revenue from every game sold.

In recent years, he has been living at sea, rather than near Valve's headquarters in Bellevue, Washington. He owns a number of luxury yachts. The flagship of his fleet, the Leviathan, has an onboard hospital, laboratory, spa, and of course gaming stations. He has bought a shipyard and owns a research organization called Inkfish.

In July of last year, Newell offered a rare glimpse into his life, talking about the days he lives, works and enjoys life on a boat. In a conversation with a YouTuber named Zalkar Saliev, who had just 19 subscribers at the time the interview excerpts were published , the 63-year-old Newell said he works seven days a week from his bedroom on his superyacht because it was “fun” and he “still likes to work.”



HERE'S ANOTHER PLACE FOR GABE NEWELL TO NOT WORK ON "HALF-LIFE 3," IMAGE SOURCE:
[PREMIER ESTATE PROPERTIES / YOUTUBE](#).

When asked to describe his daily routine, Newell said: "I get up, work, go diving, work some more. I either do a second dive or go to the gym for a workout. Then I work. I live on a boat, so I just hang out with everyone on the boat."

"I work seven days a week," he added. "I work from my bedroom, as you can tell. I love working. It's fun. To me, it doesn't feel like work. The things I do every day are incredible. I've said it before, but when you retire, you want to stop doing your horrible job and then go do what's more fun and entertaining. And so, in that sense, I've been retired for a long time."

Elaborating on the types of work that keeps him busy these days, Newell said: "Working with Drew and Jeremy on AI stuff or with Chris on Steam stuff... At one of the companies, we're working on a pathogen aerosol detection device so you can see all the pathogens that are in the air. Brain-computer interfaces are incredibly cool, and all the neuroscience involved is incredibly cool. So, I'm just working all the time."

"But it's not like, 'Oh my God, I've been up all night and struggling with things.' It's more like I can't sleep because I'm having fun, you know?"

But the fact that Newell has now bought a house on land suggests that he intends to spend at least some of his time living there. What does this mean for "Half-Life 3"? Nothing, unfortunately.

And just to emphasize that Newell still has at least one foot in the water, he recently began construction on a \$230 million deep-sea research vessel that will carry robots, labs, and 70 scientists to map the ocean's deepest trenches by 2028. Maybe he'll find "Half-Life 3" down there somewhere.