

DPOA News & Events



Official Newsletter from Your
Diamante Property Owners Association

Volume VII, Issue 7

July, 2020

Dear Neighbors!

Finally, we have restarted the **Welcome Basket program**. To catch up where we left off, 11 baskets have been made up and are now being distributed by your DPOA board members. I understand that five additional homes are scheduled to close during the upcoming month. This is very good news, as people realize Diamante is a good place to live and the Club is a great social outlet.

Several of you have noted weeds growing on Diamante Boulevard. As was reported in last month's newsletter, our landscaper has had surgery, but a replacement has been found. More information is provided on pages 3 and 4 in this newsletter. In addition, related to Diamante Boulevard, I have contacted the Hot Springs Village Property Owners' Association (HSV POA) and requested the repair of a road where it has buckled and where a hole has developed. We should see results soon.

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Talking Points

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Dear Neighbors! continued from page 1

A DPOA member asked us what could be done about the yard condition of several vacant lots in the neighborhood. The simple answer is to report it to the HSV POA and to include a picture. The POA will then contact the property owner and/or have the property cleaned and then charge the owner. We discussed the possibility of cleaning the lots ourselves, but liability issues have prevented that idea.

Again, I remind all of you to follow state guidelines related to the coronavirus. Unfortunately, the number of cases in Arkansas is skyrocketing, primarily attributable to an unwillingness to follow the precautions. Again, for your safety and for those around you, follow the state guidelines. ♦

—Tom Ellers, DPOA President



Treasurer's Report

as of July 10, 2020

211 Members, representing 213 properties

Funds Available for Use: \$14,549.00

Reserve (emergency fund): \$7,500.00

ALICE HINCKLEY

The DPOA News & Events

newsletter is published monthly for active members of the Diamante Property Owners Association. If you have questions, need information, or would like to submit an article of interest, please contact your editor, Dana Peick, or one of your DPOA Board Members.

Maintenance

Projects during the growing season completed!

Landscape Activities

This report begins with the progress of a good news–bad news situation. The monthly activities of Maurice and Alexia have been exceptional this year. Unfortunately, however, Maurice had hip surgery and had to give notice. The good news is that we have identified an individual, Jimmy Howell, who began work with a three-man crew on July 14th. Needless to say, between Maurice’s departure and Jimmy Howell’s first day on the job, we received a number of e-mail messages that indicated the entrance at DeSoto and Diamante Boulevard was overgrown with weeds and required trimming. Everything is now back in order—the bushes have been trimmed, the weeds have been pulled, and the dead Japanese Maple has been cut down and removed. Jimmy has agreed to work on a monthly basis throughout the remainder of this growing season. “Thank you, Jimmy!”



Country Club Drive

As you might recall, our last month’s newsletter identified a new plan for putting a little shine on the entrance of Country Club Drive, that is, a plan for picking up limbs and other discarded items on a continual basis. Previously, we organized a work detail, but now we decided to encourage residents to stop once or twice a week as they arrive and depart on Country Club Drive and throw a limb or two in the adjacent woods or a piece of trash in any container. I am happy to say that this plan has been working! To everyone who is helping, Danny and I say, “Thank you! It looks great!”



Maintenance

Projects during the growing season completed!—cont'd

Ditch Mowing

As reported in last month's newsletter, Casey Shepherd started mowing Diamante's ditches on July 17th and will have all of the ditches mowed before the end of this month. The first spring and the last fall mowings are provided by the Hot Springs Village Property Owners' Association. We contracted Casey to mow at least two more times during the growing season. When Kathi and I drove down Loyola Drive on Saturday evening, we noted that the ditches looked dramatically better. Thank you, Casey.



Final Items

Resolution of the stone border on both sides of Diamante Boulevard remains open. We are planning to trim with an edger on the grass side of the stone to determine whether trimming helps return the entrance closer to its original appearance.

The white reflective paint on the curb at Diamante Boulevard will be painted again. This time, the paint will be sprayed on the curb, rather than simply brushed on. Hopefully, this process will result in a cleaner appearance.

The flower beds at Maderas Drive and at the entrances at Alhaja Lane and Alhaja Way were sprayed with weed killer last week. When the grass and weeds are dead, they will be removed. ♦

—David Dolstein

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

MARILYN AND NEIL PHELAN

Marilyn and Neil Phelan moved from Malvern 5 years ago to a home on the Balboa Golf Course. After a few years later, they began to explore other possibilities. When they learned about the casual and fine-dining options available at Diamante, Neil and Marilyn became Clubhouse members. Later, they purchased an Emerald membership.

“On one of our first nights after becoming members, Richard and Sandy Carlson were heading to a social gathering on the patio and invited us to join them. That was the beginning of our love for Diamante and its members.”

After meeting Connie Vaden, who showed them several houses, they purchased their home on the 17th fairway. “When we found our home, we met with its owners, John and Sylvia Matthews, who later became our special friends and mentors.”

“When we first walked into Diamante and met Terri, Theresa, and Adrienne, we were immediately welcomed and made to feel like part of the family. We realized that Diamante was a classy place, and we knew that we wanted to be part of it.”

Marilyn and Neil were elementary and high school sweethearts. “I fell in love with Marilyn in the fourth grade and, to my surprise, it was mutual.” They have four children, Kelli, Ryan, Neil III, and Bryant.

Neil is a retired pharmacist and a current pastor. He and Marilyn owned and operated **Phelan’s Discount Pharmacy and Medical Rentals** in Malvern for 25 years, which is where Marilyn opened her first hearing clinic, **Malvern Hearing Clinic**. Neil is the Pastor of Harmony Primitive Baptist Church at Donaldson where he and Marilyn grew up. Neil is also the author of five Christian books and two children’s books, which are available on Amazon. Marilyn has her Masters Degree in audiology and speech pathology. She continues to practice audiology at the **Village Hearing Clinic**, located outside of the east gate. “Our experience is summed up with what our daughter, Kelli, said after her family’s first visit to our home in July, ‘I am jealous of what you have here. It is so beautiful!’” ♦

—**The Phelans**



“It was the people who made us want to move to Diamante. Everyone we met came up, introduced themselves, and made us feel welcome and at home. We consider it an honor to be a part of this community.”

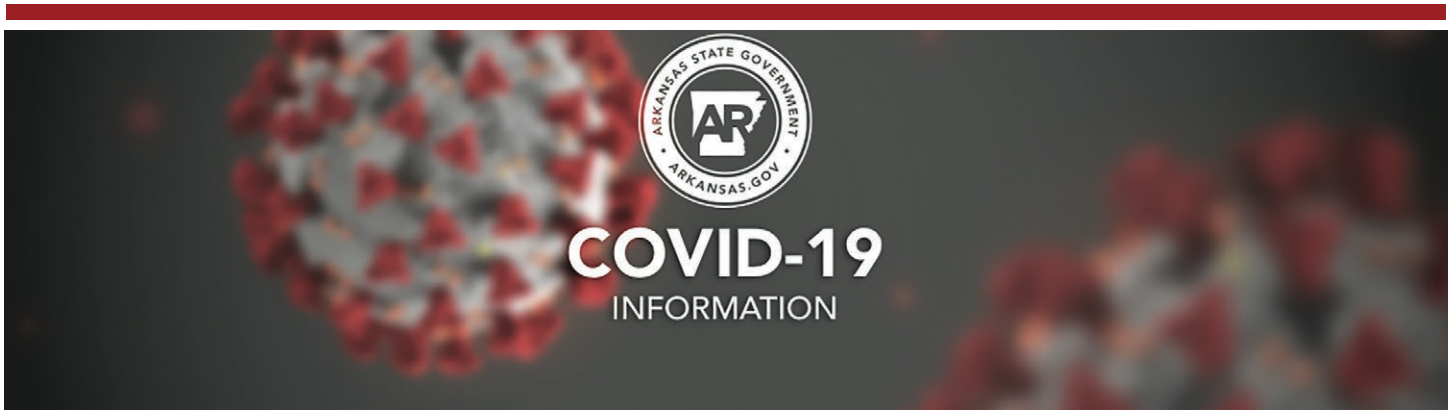


10 FUN FACTS ABOUT THE AMERICAN FLAG

Since 1916, June 14th has been set aside as National Flag Day in honor of the adoption of the Stars and Stripes of the official American Flag. The American flag unites us as a country and represents the liberty and freedom on which our country was built. Literally, the flag is only a piece of fabric, but the more you know about it, the more you come to appreciate the symbolism each thread embodies.

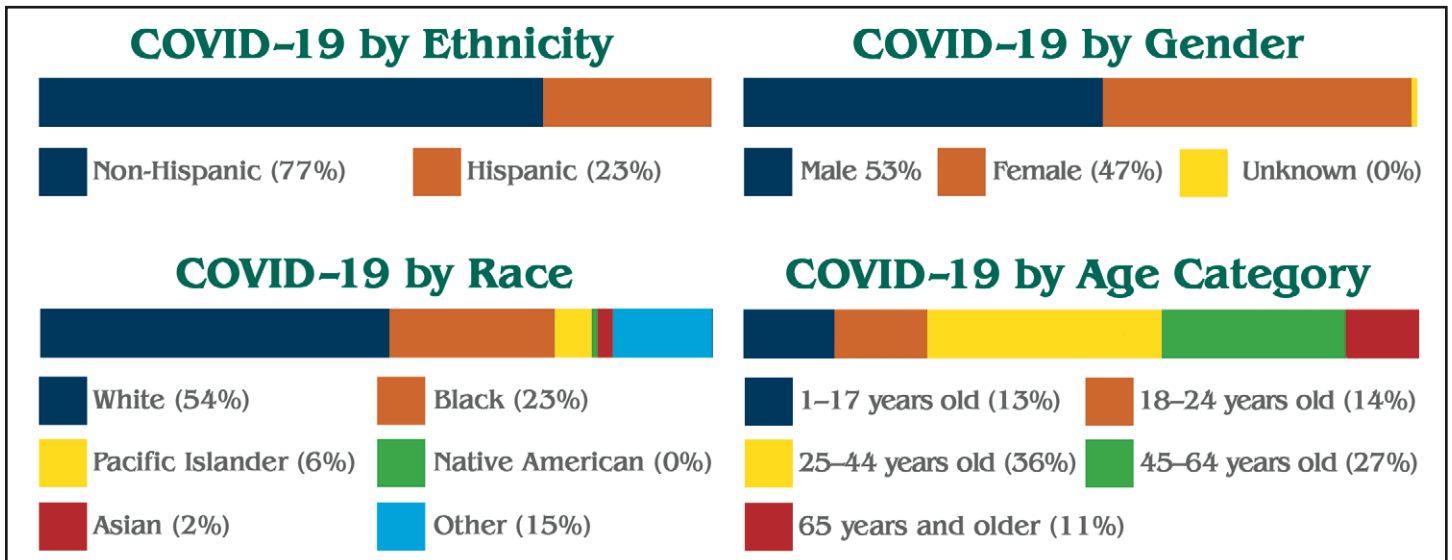
- 1 There are 50 stars and 13 stripes on the American flag. The 50 stars represent each of the 50 states in the United States, and the 13 stripes represent the original 13 colonies that became the first states in the Union.
- 2 History states that red, white, and blue were chosen to represent valor (red), liberty and purity (white), and justice and loyalty (blue).
- 3 There have been 27 official versions of the American flag, each with a different number of stars.
- 4 When Alaska and Hawaii became states, President Eisenhower received thousands of ideas for an updated flag. Robert G. Heft, a 17-year-old high school student from Ohio, submitted his version that he created for a class project. It was accepted and remains in use today. Can you believe that Robert got only a B- on his project?
- 5 Betsy Ross was a seamstress who made clothes for George Washington. In 1776, Washington approached her to make the first American flag, and the rest is, well, history.
- 6 Francis Scott Key wrote the lyrics to our national anthem after he witnessed the British attack at Fort McHenry. He watched the British "rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air," yet he still saw "that star-spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."
- 7 The 15-star, 15-stripe flag that immortalized the national anthem is on permanent display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.
- 8 After a tragedy such as September 11th in 2001 or a death of a U.S. President, the flag is flown at half staff for 30 days as a representation of the whole nation being in a state of mourning. It is called "half staff" on land and "half mast" on a ship.
- 9 Of the six American flags planted on the moon, the first one, planted by Neil Armstrong during the Apollo 11 mission, is no longer standing.
- 10 According to the U.S. Flag Code, the American flag must be illuminated when flown at night and never flown in bad weather; it can only be flown upside down to signal distress; it must be quickly raised and slowly lowered; and no other flag can be placed above it. It is a myth that the flag must be burned if it touches the ground. The flag must be burned if it is damaged and is no longer suitable for flying. ♦ **-Dennis Riordan**





The State of Arkansas is proactively responding to the outbreak of COVID-19. Both state and federal health officials urge social distancing, good hand hygiene, covering your mouth when coughing, and staying home if you are sick.

UPDATE: Arkansas Department of Health COVID-19 Cases



TOTAL COVID-19 CASES
41,759

TOTAL ACTIVE CASES
6,580

RECOVERED CASES
34,737

DEATHS
442

COVID-19 CASES IN SALINE COUNTY

Total Positive Cases
827

Total Negative Cases
14,024

Active Positive Cases
162

Recovered Cases
661

Deaths
4

TOLL-FREE HOTLINES

Arkansas Department of Health: (800) 803-7847
Concerns Regarding Children: (800) 743-3616

Updated July 31, 2020, 11:00 AM