

DPOA News & Events

Official Newsletter from Your
Diamante Property Owners Association

September 2022, Issue 9

Dear Neighbors!

I have several updates and new information to share with you this month. First, the new information...The DPOA board has decided to offer a new and different kind of fundraiser this fall. As you may know, we usually have only one fundraiser each year to raise money for both the new and the constant maintenance expenditures that we face every year. This year, however, we are selling tickets for our very own "Fall Chili Cook-Off and Cake Walk." Several board members will prepare their best chili recipes for you to taste and judge. By the way, if any of you would like to submit a chili entry, it would be more than welcome. An award will be given for the best-tasting chili. You could be the winner! In addition, all ticket holders will be able to take part in the cake walk. Several specialty cakes, pies, and treats will be awarded. Last, but certainly not least, there will be a 50/50 cash-drawing raffle. For only \$20.00, each person can eat chili, win a cake, win some cash, and support the DPOA projects. What a deal! Mark your calendar for November 5th, and plan to join your friends and neighbors at this fun-filled event (see page 3 of this newsletter).

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Now, some updates...First, the stone repair and replacement project for our entrance markers is on-going and should be completed by the end of this month. Second, the order for the patio furniture was lost by the company that received it. Consequently, we have to resubmit our order, but the board members have also voted to check other sources. We still hope to have the new patio furniture on the patio by the early spring of 2023. Finally, additional projects under consideration include repair work on the wall at the Diamante Boulevard entrance, possibly helping with the cost of security cameras, and upgrading some of the Christmas decorations.

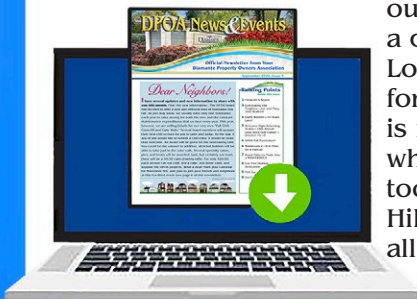
As always, **LET'S KEEP MOVING FORWARD!** ♦

—Donna Fleharty, DPOA President



Note from Your Editor

First of all, I hope you are enjoying the *DPOA News & Events* newsletter. I am certain that you can tell that I enjoy creating it, which brings me to the reason for this “Note from Your Editor.” Thanks to the contributors who provide all of the articles that appear in each issue, the DPOA newsletter is usually sent to you no later than the last week of each month. Next month, however, I will be traveling to St. Louis for my annual sibling reunion with my brothers and sisters, as well as their spouses. So...the October issue will probably not be sent out until November 5th. After all, our reunion must include, just to name a couple of activities, a trip up the St. Louis Arch and going “down to the Hill” for dinner. If you think that this wording is in error, then ask anyone you know who is from St. Louis all about it. They, too, have probably gone “down to the Hill” many times, and they can tell you all about it. 😊 ♦ —Dana Peick



Treasurer's Report

As of September 5, 2022

Membership

To date, 214 DPOA members, of 267 eligible properties, have paid their annual dues.

Fund Balances

Funds available for operations:

\$21,832.41

Reserve (emergency) funds:

\$7,500.00

Total funds:

\$29,332.41

Invoices for the 2022 annual dues were mailed to all Diamante property owners the weeks of January 7th and 14th.

If you haven't already done so, please consider becoming an active DPOA member with payment of your \$75.00 annual DPOA dues.

NANCY WEBB



The *DPOA News & Events* newsletter is published monthly and sent only to dues-paying DPOA members. If you have questions, need information, or would like to submit an article of interest, please contact your editor, Dana Peick, or one of the DPOA Board Members.

CHILI
N'
FIXINS

DPOA FALL FUNDRAISER



CHILI COOK-OFF

DESSERT CAKE WALK

Join your friends and neighbors on November 5th at the DPOA Fall Fundraiser in support of the upcoming projects that are planned to help maintain the beauty and value of our Diamante community. For only \$20.00 per person, you will be able to sample and judge the best pots of chili that will be prepared by DPOA board members and others. You will also receive all of the fixins and a chance to win a tasty dessert at the cake walk. Not only will this year's fundraiser be a great party, you may even win cash in the 50/50 raffle! Call the Diamante office at (501) 922-1114 after October 1st to make your reservations. Checks should be made payable to the Diamante Property Owners Association.

YOUR SUPPORT OF THE DPOA IS WELCOME!

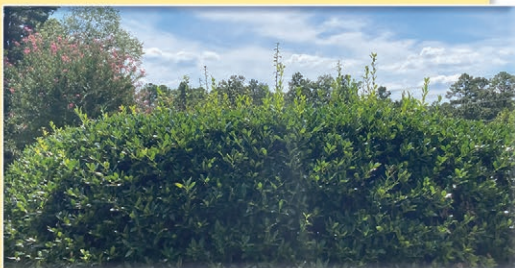
NOVEMBER Begins at **5:30 PM**

5TH

Diamante Dining Room

Maintenance

It Is Time for a Haircut!



Hello fellow Diamante members of the DPOA. What a beautiful autumn we are experiencing! With all of the rain, I expect the fall colors to be spectacular this year. The weather is also perfect for golf, and I hope you are all taking advantage of the cooler temperatures and our beautiful golf course. As the seasons change, there is always some maintenance-related project that needs to be done to ensure that our community continues to look beautiful.

You may have noticed that the shrubs at the entrance of Diamante Boulevard are in need of a haircut. As a result, we have scheduled a time for them at the beauty shop. Without your membership and support, though, we could not keep everything looking beautiful for all of our members. Thank you for your support! ♦

—Neil Phelan, JR.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

KURT AND MARY ALBER

Kurt and Mary thank God for their dear friends, Marsha and Nelson McVey, who are the reason they found Diamante! In August of 2020, Kurt was on his way to meet with a realtor in Denton, Texas. During this trip, he received a call from Nelson who encouraged him to bypass Texas and come see what Diamante had to offer. Mary looked online at houses and found an incredible home on the 16th green and 17th tee box of Diamante that they purchased, as well as a fantastic rental home. They moved to Diamante from Fremont, California, in May 2021.

Kurt was born in San Antonio, Texas, and attended Friends University in Wichita, Kansas. When asked what he studied, he quickly replies, "I majored in music and minored in ping pong." Hence, the ping pong table in their garage! He is a classically trained pianist but earned a living in the construction business as a contractor.

Mary was born in El Paso, Texas, and earned her nursing degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. For 35 years, she worked in intensive care units, in interventional radiology, and in cardiac catheterization laboratories. On April 20, 2021, she retired. Her first day of retirement was the 30th anniversary of the day when Kurt and Mary met, which was fitting since they met in a hospital when Mary was taking care of Kurt's mother who was being treated after a heart attack. They had a long-distance relationship for a year...that is, \$400 per month telephone bills since there were no cell phones back then!!

They have two children, Matt, 47, who lives in Oregon, and Bryce, 38, who lives in California. Both have inherited their dad's musical abilities and enjoy sharing their talents in various platforms, writing music for TV shows, performing concerts, and mentoring 4th through 6th graders using music as a tool.

The "Alber Inn" stays busy with out-of-town guests. Some are family, but many are friends from their former church in California. In addition, they have many treasured friends from across the country as they traveled for 8 years in a fifth wheel. They believe that God guided them to Diamante, the perfect place to host guests and enjoy their retirement. They attend Balboa Baptist church and serve on its audiovisual team.

Kurt loves to play golf, and he is improving the more he plays. Mary has just taken up golf, and they enjoy playing a few holes in the evenings. They both enjoy dominoes, card games, and watching movies. Actually, simply sitting out on the back porch enjoying the scenery or the golfers is their favorite pastime. In fact, they are hosting ten young golfers and three coaches during the upcoming UALR women's golf tournament from October 16th through the 18th in both their home and in their rental property. ♦



Lets cheer on the UALR young women with a Diamante welcome!

"Above all, we believe that God has immeasurably blessed us, not only by allowing us to spend our retirement years in the majestic scenery of Hot Springs Village, but also to be so warmly welcomed into the Diamante family!"

UA LITTLE
ROCK

It's Almost Here!

Let's Show Our Diamante Spirit!

More Spectators Are Welcome!

In just a few short weeks, Diamante will welcome 15 university women's golf teams from both the south and the Midwest. The tournament is scheduled for October 16th through the 18th. A practice round is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, October 16th; 36 holes will be played on Monday, October 17th; and the final 18 holes will be played on Tuesday, October 18th.

The tournament will feature university teams from Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) is the tournament's host. Because we have many "transplants" who have made the Diamante community and Hot Springs Village their permanent retirement home, we are guessing that you will be able to support either an alma mater or at least a home state team. For the many Texans who now call Diamante their home, we are pleased to announce that the Texans are coming! We have teams from Houston Baptist University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Tarleton University, Texas A&M-Commerce, and the University of Texas at Arlington scheduled to play.

This tournament is one of a special few that provides housing for the players and coaches, and we have 42 houses (most of them in Diamante) who will act as hosts. Competition to display school spirit is heating up with the hosts working to display banners on the decks and railings of their homes. We (the Beans) will be hanging a large UALR banner from our deck on the 14th fairway

as we welcome the UALR coach, Jenna Birch, into our home for the third year. We know banners are going up at the Hibbs' home across the fairway from us, and the Albers will be displaying a "Go Shockers" banner from their balcony (see the "Meet Your Neighbor" article on page 4). We know others will be following with "team spirit" displays. There is some competition, at least with Fred, about who is going to display the largest banner!

Let's Show Our Diamante Spirit!

- ♦ As you watch the players come through, how about serving brunch or cocktails on your deck or patio if you live on the course? A spectator gallery is welcomed, and it is a great excuse for neighbors to get together to celebrate these young athletes. You might just see the next LPGA champion as she begins her career!
- ♦ We want to give the parents of players a great Diamante welcome! If you are around the clubhouse or course, we encourage you to wear something with the Diamante logo so that they will know who can give them directions or information. They just may decide to retire here!
- ♦ Volunteers are still needed. If you are willing to give us a couple of hours during the tournament,

let the Diamante golf pro, David Howard, know (501) 922-4191.

In closing, our thanks go to the many hosts who have volunteered to support the tournament. You have made our job an easy one, and we are looking forward to October! See you there! ♦

—Glenda & Fred Bean



Agatha Alesson was recognized as the Ohio Valley Conference player of the week during the first week of September. Congratulations to Agatha as the first UALR player to receive this recognition.

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Fred Bean—E-mail address: fbean@suddenlink.net; Telephone: (501) 681-0243

The Lauers

John & Connie



Connie and John were born and raised in Chicago. Connie graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of Illinois and worked as a floor nurse for years and later in her family's Chicago business. John graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Occidental College in Los Angeles and worked for Charles Schwab in Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco. They married almost 30 years ago.

After they moved to San Francisco, John worked as the Vice President for Schwab's High Net Worth Trading Desk and was responsible for speaking engagements and for providing quotes for news outlets. John also taught a second-level economics course at the Golden Gate University.

Connie and John have two children, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. The grandkids are the reason they moved to Arkansas and became Diamante members in 2001. Connie served on Diamante's Social Committee for 6 years and on the House Committee for 1 year. She played with the DWGA 9-hole group for several years, once winning the Most Improved Player. John served as the Handicap Committee Chairman on both the MGA and Member-Guest boards for countless years. John still manages the Last Monday of the Month Golf Group. The members in this group play a Hot Springs Village golf course on the last Monday of the month. Currently, John is a Registered Investment Advisor and Certified Financial Planner™ and continues to advise people with their investment portfolios, as well as design customized portfolios. *Help us celebrate our neighbor!*

Celebrating Our

NEIGHBOR

PICKING UP DOG WASTE OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Picking up after your dog is far from glamorous, but most of us know that it must be done. Many dog owners understand the importance of picking up their dog's waste from the streets and/or from the front yards of our neighbors. Consequently, it can be frustrating to see dog walkers who do not take the time to perform this simple task.



Figuring out how to convince others to change their ways may be difficult. However, asking them in a respectful way is always the best approach. After all, many believe that feces break down naturally. In reality, it takes months or years. When it does, it can deposit bacteria and toxins in the soil. Another major misconception is that feces act as a fertilizer.

The safest way to dispose of dog waste is to bag it and throw it away! ♦ *—DPOA dog walkers*



Diamante Country Club members and staff dedicated its *Los Tres Diablos* monument, identifying its back nine, tough-as-nails, three-hole stretch. Holes 13 through 15, all par 4s, often give golfing competitors a “devil of a time” during play. *Los Tres Diablos* translates as “The Three Devils” in English.

Club members attended the dedication on Thursday, September 8, 2022, to showcase holes 13, 14, and 15 as *El Terrible*, *La Muerte*, and *El Infierno*, which translates to Terrible, Death, and Hell. These names indicate the challenge and difficulty of these infamous holes. From the championship tees, golfers face a total of 1,439 yards with large undulating greens with protective bunkers, difficult teeing ground lines, and extreme carries.

El Terrible. Hole 13 stretches 481 yards from the championship tee to the green. A player faces a dogleg to the left and a 275-yard carry with punishing rough and trees for those adventurous enough to cut the corner. Two sizable bunkers guard the entire left side of the two-tier, elevated green.

La Muerte. Hole 14 extends 472 yards from the championship tee to the green. Standing on the peninsula tee that juts out into the pond, competitors face a 230-yard carry over water. Trees, plus additional water

hazards, endanger wayward shots on both the left and right. The fairway slopes upward as it doglegs to the right. Large bunkers, one right and one left, protect the elevated two-tier green.

El Infierno. Hole 15 plays 486 yards from the championship tee to the green and doglegs slightly right. A large bunker extends across the fairway, which requires a shot that carries 275 yards to clear it. Tee shots that veer from the fairway’s center may find a large bunker on the left or trees on the right. Left, right, and back bunkers defend the elevated, two-tier green.

This private Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, golf course, designed by Tom Clark of Ault, Clark & Associates, opened in 1995. *Golf Digest* ranked Diamante as the number one golf course in Arkansas from 1997 through 2000. Currently ranked the third best course in the state, Diamante features panoramic, rolling zoysia fairways, immaculately maintained Bent grass greens, and Bermuda roughs. Diamante hosted the First Tee Arkansas Classic from 2001 through 2004, which is now known as the Korn Ferry Tour.

For more information, contact David Howard, Diamante Golf Professional, at (501) 922-4191 or dhoward@diamantecc.com. ♦

—Steve Lux



Our Neighborhood Crime Watch Program

How to Keep a Burglar Out!

The holidays will be here before we know it, and most burglaries occur during this season, especially since many of us are visiting out-of-town family members during the holidays. Burglars look for signs that indicate that the targeted home is unoccupied and has easy access. The following tips will help you keep a burglar out of your home.

❑ BURGLAR ALARM SIGNS

Prominently display all burglar alarm signs and decals.

❑ SPARE KEYS

Never leave a spare house key in a hiding place outside of your home. Burglars know about all the usual places, such as under a potted plant, the front door mat, a garden rock, or many other hiding places! Leave a spare key with a trusted neighbor.

❑ GARAGE

Never leave the garage unlocked, especially if it has a connecting door to your house. Lock away tools and store ladders away so they cannot be used by a thief. A garage that is attached to the home often provides a visual cover for a burglar.

❑ HOUSE NUMBERS

All house numbers should be easy to read, visible from the street, and have a contrasting color.

❑ SHRUBS

Shrubs should be trimmed low enough to prevent them from blocking the view of possible points of entry or concealing a potential criminal.

❑ WINDOWS

Glass is always vulnerable to attack. However, windows make noise when they break and are often visible from the street and other residences. All windows should be kept locked!

❑ DOORS

Solid-core wood doors with frames that cannot be spread apart with a pry bar should be used.

❑ LOCKS

Deadbolt locks with at least a 1-inch throw are recommended. A high-security strike plate with 3-inch screws is also recommended.

❑ LIGHTING

At the very least, light fixtures should be placed at the front, back, and garage entries. Motion detection lighting is an alternative to leaving lights on all the time. Use interior-timed lighting devices when away from home. ♦

–Heidi Hilbert





Did You Ever Wonder About the History of the Arkansas Flag and What it Symbolizes?

Early in 1912, the Pine Bluff Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) decided to present a “stand of colors” to the U.S.S. Arkansas, a new battleship. A United States flag, a naval battalion flag, and an Arkansas flag were to be included. The Secretary of State, Earle W. Hodges, who was appointed by the DAR chapter, informed the committee that Arkansas had no state flag. Consequently, the Pine Bluff Chapter of DAR immediately launched a movement to have one designed.

Through the newspapers, they asked that designs be submitted to Secretary of State Hodges, who agreed to appoint a committee. Sixty-five separate designs were submitted to Hodges’ committee. The design chosen was the work of Miss Willie Kavanaugh Hocker of Wabbaseka, a member of the Pine Bluff Chapter of DAR. The General Assembly passed a resolution on February 26, 1913, affirming the choice of the committee.

Miss Hocker’s original design essentially appeared as the flag does today, except that the central white diamond contained only three blue stars, lying in a straight line

from left to right. The selection committee asked her to place the word “Arkansas” in the center of the diamond. Miss Hocker then made a new flag, adding “Arkansas” with two stars below and one star above the name. The colors red, white, and blue signified that Arkansas was one of the United States. The white interior diamond signified that Arkansas was the nation’s first diamond-producing state. The 25 white stars bordering the white diamond signified that Arkansas was the 25th state to join the union. The two parallel white stars at the left and right points of the diamond symbolize the dual admission of Arkansas and Michigan to the Union. On February 26, 1913, the General Assembly adopted this design as the state’s official flag. The design remained unchanged until 1923 when the General Assembly added a fourth star to the interior white diamond to represent Arkansas’s membership in the Confederate States of America during the Civil War.

Although simple in appearance, the Arkansas state flag has always been rich in symbolism. ♦ **—Heidi Hilbert**



Original Arkansas State Flag



Official Arkansas State Flag

DPOA Board

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Did you know that the pages of the August, September, and October 2001 issues of *The Diamond Exchange* covered topics as varied as landscaping, theatrics, roller skating, aces, eagles, and club governance? Happy reading!

- 1** In 2000, the Property Owners of Diamante (POD), the DPOA's forerunner, developed a plan to improve the Diamante subdivision entrance. Cooper Land Development contracted with Bennett Brothers to accomplish the plan in 2001. Total cost of the residential entrance improvements came to \$17,000, of which the POD contributed \$2,500.
- 2** Mystery Dinner Theater came to Diamante in September 2001 for two performances, with new actors each night. Awards presented included the following: *best actor*: Raymond Bennett and Larry Pendleton; *best actress*: Cherri Bennett and Teresa Widdefield; *best costume, male*: Jack Tyler and Rob Bowers; *best costume, female*: Loretta Brewer and Rene Olds. Jeanne Emch solved the first night's mystery, and Patsy Grace cracked the case on night two.
- 3** B.J. Conner spent her youth as a competitive roller skater. She competed in local, state, and regional events throughout the St. Louis, Chicago, New York, and Boston areas, winning numerous trophies in the areas of dance, free style, and figure skating. She also taught skating and judged competitions. Her early skating years instilled in her a lifelong interest in aerobics and exercise, as well as a desire to become more competitive in her new sport—golf.
- 4** The great golf shots included holes-in-one by Rob Bowers on hole #12, witnessed by Larry Pendleton; and J.D. Chitwood on hole #16, witnessed by Sherry Boggs, Sally Hampton, and Margaret Johnson. Don Melton made an eagle on hole #8, witnessed by June Russell; and Guy Shaha made an eagle on hole #18, witnessed by Russ Pettit and Sam West.
- 5** Howie Watson, Diamante Advisory Board Chairman, led the following Advisory Board members during 2001: Vice-Chairman, Charlie Johnson; Secretary, Janet Willis; and board members, Cherri Bennett, Loretta Brewer, Tom Conner, Tom Curtis, Dianna Duddleson, Dick Emry, Jack Hartman, Dean Moffitt, Kathie Ritchie, Jim Russell, Merle Singleterry, and Danny Snyder. ♦ **—Jeanne Godbold**

