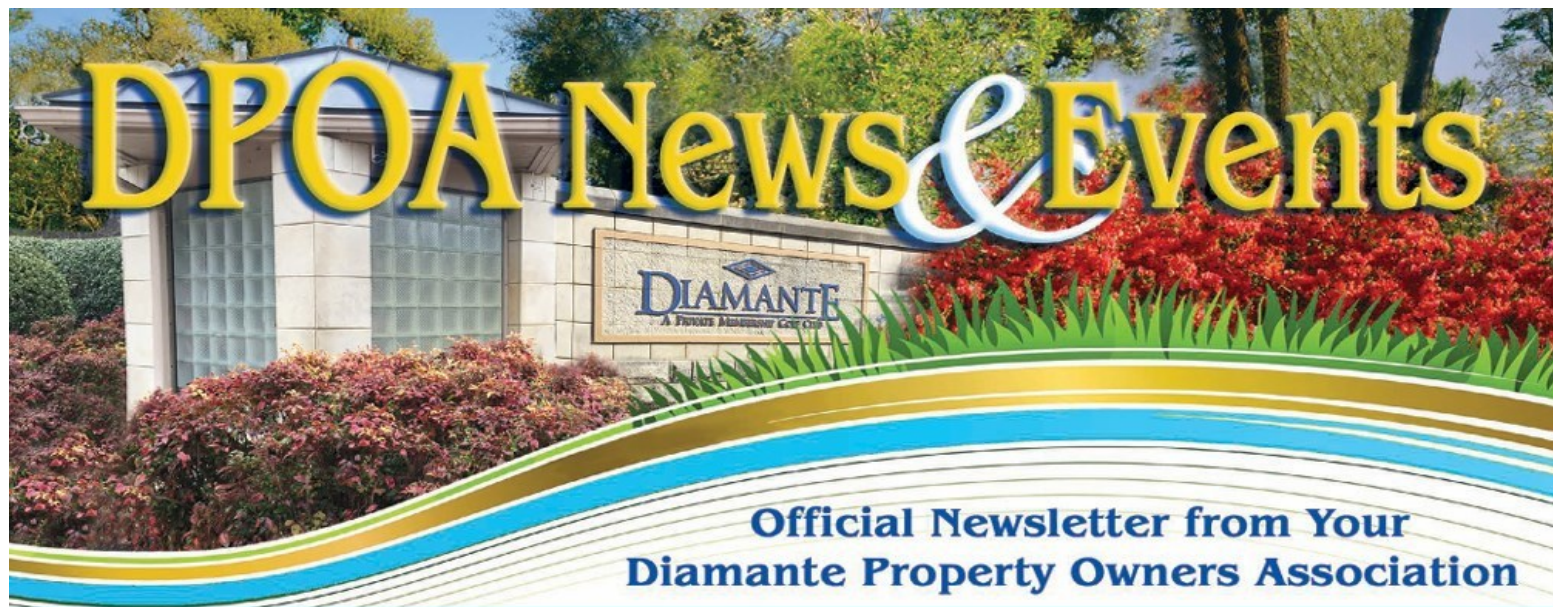




October 2026

Dear Neighbors!

Is Fall officially here... or is it? While the calendar says October, the thermometer seems to think it is still July. We might be sipping our pumpkin spice lattes over ice this year, but that won't stop us from diving into everything the autumn season has to offer. In this month's edition, we are bringing you more information on the Angel Giving drive.

The DPOA and Diamante Country Club are joining forces with Tri-Lakes CASA for our annual Angel Tree Giving Drive to bring holiday joy to children in the Central Arkansas foster care system. We are thrilled to announce that **Ford Williams** is spearheading this event on behalf of the DPOA. Thanks to your incredible generosity last year—when all 24 Angels were adopted in just seven days—we are expanding our reach to support **30 children** this holiday season. To allow even more members to get involved, we highly encourage Diamante members to **pool resources and team up** to purchase gifts for a child.

A huge shoutout and thank you to **Bob Walker!** He just finished trimming all the overgrown weeds and brush along the **Poema neighborhood**. It looks fantastic—we really appreciate your hard work, Bob!

Stay tuned for more updates next month as we gear up for an exciting final quarter of the year! We have big things in motion, and we can't wait to share what's coming next. Thank you for being such an integral part of our journey!

—**Heidi Hilbert, DPOA President**



2	October Fun Facts
3	October Birthdays
4	The Ultimate White-Out: Fashion and Food Under the Stars
5	Displaying Old Glory
6-7	2nd Annual Veterans Day Charity Golf Tournament
8-9	Pagan Past to Pumpkin Patches: History of Halloween
10	September 30, 2026, Treasurer's Newsletter Report



October Fun Facts

- **October 9** is Leif Eriksson Day.
- **October 12** is Columbus Day, a federal holiday, observed on the second Monday in October. It was October 12, 1492, that Christopher Columbus and crew landed on a small island in the Bahamas, convinced that they had reached Asia.
- **October 17** is Mulligan Day
- **October 18** is St. Luke's Little Summer. This is a date steeped in folklore. Traditionally, around Saint Luke's feast day, there is a brief period of calm, dry weather.
- **October 24** is United Nations Day, which aims to bring awareness to the work of the United Nations worldwide.
- **October 27** is Navy Day (U.S.).
- **October 31** is Halloween (All Hallows' Eve)! Do you know the true history of Halloween? It is not frightful as you might think... Learn about the origin of Halloween in this newsletter.

Famous People Born in October

Julie Andrews	October 1	Mickey Mantle	October 20
Travis Kelce	October 5	Ryan Reynolds	October 23
Vladimir Putin	October 7	Katie Perry	October 25
Jessie Jackson	October 8	Theodore Roosevelt	October 27
John Lennon	October 9	Bill Gates	October 28
Hugh Jackman	October 12	Richard Dreyfuss	October 29
Charlie Kirk	October 14	Ivanka Trump	October 30
Bryce Harper	October 16	John Candy	October 31



October Birthdays

October is predominantly recognized as a transitional period into late autumn throughout the Northern Hemisphere, characterized by striking seasonal changes including brilliant leaf coloration in shades of yellow, orange, and red, declining temperatures, and the occurrence of several major holidays and cultural events.

The major holidays and cultural events include Columbus Day, Oktoberfest (which commences in September and concludes in early October), and Halloween.

Lori Brooks	October 1
Wayne Haynes	October 2
Keith Hughes	October 3
Bruce Cox	October 5
Jerry Sullivan	October 6
Jerry Gilmore	October 7
Fred Clements	October 8
Barbara Eberhardt	October 8
Greg Reese	October 9
Jeanne Walters	October 12
Tim Godbold	October 14
Rick Maxey	October 14
Deborah Thompson	October 15
Leslie Goodman	October 18
Ken Williams	October 18
Susan Christian	October 20
Dave Rich	October 20
Dennis Vanleeuwen	October 22
James Frazier	October 23
Mike Lefebvre	October 24
Dave Economon	October 25
Tammy Frye	October 25
Chap Chancellor	October 26
Kathy Lee	October 28
Greg Hilbert	October 30
Dez Savoy	October 30



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The Ultimate White-Out: Fashion and Food Under the Stars



DISPLAYING OLD GLORY



What Does the United States Flag Code Say About Flying the American Flag Upside Down?

According to the United States flag Code, the American flag should never be flown or otherwise displayed upside down. Simply stated, flying the American flag upside down is a sign of disrespect. However, across the country, fueled by social media, a call for those who disagreed with a recent Supreme Court decision was to raise their American flags upside down. The only exception, during which it is acceptable to fly the American flag upside down, is to signal danger or distress.

Fortunately, reports of people flying the American flag upside down to get rescued are few and far between. Of course, this exception is not limited to the American flag. In many other countries, flying their respective flags upside down has also been recognized as a signal of danger or distress for centuries and still is recognized as a signal even today.

Double-Check Your American Flag When Raising It

We should double-check our flag when raising it to ensure that it is right side up. We should not wait until after the flag is raised to the top of the flagpole to discover that it is upside down. If we accidentally slide it up the flagpole upside down, then we can adjust it before raising it to the top. Again, the only time when we can fly the American flag upside down is to signal danger or distress or to seek rescue.

When Is the American Flag Flown at Half-Staff?

The United States Flag Code allows the American flag to be flown at half-staff for certain occasions. On the days of mourning, for example, we may notice that the American flag is flown at half-staff throughout the country. Memorial Day is another occasion during which it is acceptable to fly the American flag from sunrise to noon at half-staff.

In conclusion, according to the United States flag Code, the American flag should never be flown or otherwise displayed upside down. ♦

-Heidi Hilbert

DIAMANTE VETERANS DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

November 9, 2026

Please accept this invitation to participate in Diamante's second annual
VETERANS DAY CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT.

Friends of Fisher House Arkansas in Little Rock will be our beneficiary. Fisher Houses are built by Fisher House Foundation and then gifted to be owned and operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs (Central Arkansas Veterans Health Care System (CAVHS)) in association with the attached hospital (John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Hospital in Little Rock). Fisher House Arkansas supports two medical campuses in Central Arkansas that serve patients from Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, and Tennessee. The 16-suite Fisher House Arkansas provides lodging to Veterans and their families, accommodating 24 to 36 family members with a spacious common kitchen, laundry facilities, spacious dining room and a living room with a library and toys for children. The house is 100% accessible. The Fisher House is a temporary residence and is not a treatment facility or hospice center.

Fisher House Arkansas was dedicated on September 26, 2025, and began lodging families of Veteran patients being treated at John H. McClellan Memorial Veterans Hospital. Log on to <https://fisherhouse.org> to learn more about the Friends of Fisher House Arkansas and/or <https://fisherhouse.org> to learn more about the Fisher House Foundation.

The tournament entry fee is \$600 per team (\$150 per player and single players accepted), which will include golf cart, range balls, goodie bag, and lunch after play. Format is traditional 4-person scramble. There will be a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m. and lunch will be served after play. Sign up now and don't wait until it's too late!

We hope you will come, support the Veterans and their families, and enjoy your experience with the Friends of Fisher House Arkansas and Diamante Country Club Veterans.

Your support will help provide needed no-cost lodging for Veterans and their families as they work through their medical problems at John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Hospital.

Register at





DIAMANTE™



2ND ANNUAL



VETERANS DAY CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2026

10:00AM SHOTGUN START

4-PERSON SCRAMBLE



**Friends of
Fisher House
Arkansas**

- ★ **\$600 per team** (\$150 per person)
- ★ **Limited to 20 Teams** Sign up Early!
- ★ **Includes: Golfing, cart, lunch**

About the Cause

Proceeds benefit *Friends of Fisher House Arkansas*, supporting the new Fisher House in Little Rock. The 16-suite Fisher House provides lodging to Veterans and their families, accommodating 24 to 36 family members of Veterans receiving care far from home.

Sign Up or Donate Today!

Checks:

2026 Diamante Veterans Charity Golf-Fisher House
c/o Jason Gambrell
130 Breckenridge Ln
Maumelle, AR 72113



Questions?

Contact David York

dyork@afcu.org

501-463-3951

Pagan Past to Pumpkin Patches: History of Halloween

Halloween is a holiday celebrated each year on October 31. The tradition originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the 8th century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor all saints. Soon afterward, All Saints' Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve, or simply Halloween. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of trick-or-treating, carving jack-o'-lanterns, festive gatherings, wearing costumes, Halloween movies, and eating treats.

That date also marked the end of warm weather and the harvest heralded the beginning of the dark, cold winter—a time of year that was often associated with human death. The Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31, they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead could return to earth.

Beyond causing mischief and damaging crops, Celts thought these returning spirits could also make it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to predict the future. For a people entirely dependent on the volatile natural world, these prophecies were an important source of comfort and stability during a long, dark winter. To commemorate the event, Druids built huge sacred bonfires where people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to Celtic deities. During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically made of animal heads and skins, and told each other's fortunes.

When the celebration was over, they relit their home's hearth fires, which they had extinguished earlier that evening from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming winter.

By A.D. 43, the Roman Empire had conquered most of Celtic territory. During the 400 years it ruled the Celtic lands, two Roman festivals were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of Samhain.

The first was Feralia, a day in late October when the Romans commemorated the passing of the dead. The second honored Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. Pomona's symbol is the apple, and the incorporation of her celebration into Samhain likely explains the Halloween tradition of bobbing for apples.

On May 13, 609, Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome to all Christian martyrs, establishing the Catholic feast of All Martyrs Day in the Western church. Pope Gregory III later expanded the festival to include all saints as well as martyrs and moved the observance from May 13 to November 1.

By the ninth century, the influence of Christianity had spread into Celtic lands, gradually blending with and supplanting older Celtic rites. In 1000 A.D., the church made November 2 into All Souls' Day, a day to honor the dead. Many believe the church created the holiday to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a related, church-approved observance.



Continued from page 8

All Souls Day was celebrated much like Samhain, with big bonfires, parades, and dressing up in costumes as saints, angels, and devils. The All Saints' Day celebration was also called All-hallows or All-hallowmas (from Middle English *Alholowmesse* meaning All Saints' Day), and the night before it, the traditional night of Samhain in the Celtic religion, began to be called All-Hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween.

The Halloween tradition of trick-or-treating probably dates to the early All Souls' Day parades in England. During the festivities, poor citizens would beg for food, and families would give them pastries called "soul cakes" in return for their promise to pray for the family's dead relatives.

The distribution of soul cakes was encouraged by the church to replace the ancient practice of leaving food and wine for roaming spirits. The practice, which was referred to as "going a-souling," was eventually taken up by children who would visit the houses in their neighborhood and be given ale, food, and money.

The tradition of dressing in costume for Halloween has both European and Celtic roots. Hundreds of years ago, winter was an uncertain and frightening season. Food supplies often ran low and, for many people afraid of long nights, the short days brought constant worry and possible signs of seasonal affective disorder.

On Halloween, when people believed ghosts returned to the earthly world, they feared encountering spirits if they went outside. To avoid being recognized, they wore masks after dark so ghosts would mistake them for fellow spirits. To keep ghosts away from their homes, people also placed bowls of food outside to appease the spirits and prevent them from coming in.

How Did Halloween Start in America? The celebration of Halloween was extremely limited in colonial New England because of rigid Protestant beliefs. Halloween was more commonly recognized in Maryland and the southern colonies. As the beliefs and customs of different European ethnic groups and Native Americans meshed, a distinctly American version of Halloween began to emerge. The first celebrations included "play parties," which were public events held to celebrate the harvest. Neighbors would share stories of the dead, tell each other's fortunes, dance, and sing. Colonial Halloween festivities also featured the telling of ghost stories and mischief-making of all kinds. By the middle of the 19th century, annual autumn festivities were common, but Halloween was not yet celebrated everywhere in the country.

In the second half of the 19th century, America was flooded with new immigrants. These new immigrants, especially the millions of Irish fleeing the Irish Potato Famine, helped to popularize the celebration of Halloween nationally. Borrowing from European traditions, Americans began to dress up in costumes and go house to house asking for food or money, a practice that eventually became today's "trick-or-treat" tradition. Young women believed that on Halloween they could determine the name or appearance of their future husband by doing tricks with yarn, apple parings, or mirrors.

In the late 1800s, there was a move in America to mold Halloween into a holiday more about community and neighborly get-togethers than about ghosts, pranks, and witchcraft. At the turn of the century, Halloween parties for both children and adults became the most common way to celebrate the day. Parties focused on games, seasonal foods—including apples, nuts, corn, pumpkins—and festive costumes.

By blending ancient fears of winter's darkness with modern traditions of costumes, trick-or-treating, and playful commercialism, Halloween serves as a unique cultural bridge. It remains a rare, enchanting night where the boundaries between the past and the present, the sacred and the spooky, beautifully blur.

Source: History.com

September 30, 2026, Treasurer's Newsletter Report

	9/30/2026 Actual Month to Date	9/30/2026 Actual Year to Date	9/30/2025 Actual Year to Date
Member dues	-	12,460	12,070
Additional dues	-	3,090	2,960
Total dues revenue	-	15,550	15,030
Landscape Maintenance	(970)	(13,979)	(10,602)
Sprinkler repair	-	-	(1,020)
Electrical repair	-	-	-
Flags	(122)	(214)	(298)
Holiday décor	-	(3,595)	-
Welcome baskets	-	(657)	(432)
Storage unit	-	(945)	(515)
Administrative costs	-	(511)	(163)
Total operational expenses	(1,092)	(19,900)	(13,030)
Net operating revenue (expense)	(1,092)	(4,350)	2,000
Net picnic	-	86	(623)
Net cocktail party	-	2,397	4,576
Other fundraiser	-	-	-
Net fundraising	-	2,482	3,953
Donations received	-	220	-
Interest income	0	2	1
Net revenue (expense)	(1,092)	(1,646)	5,954

Beginning Cash	1/1/2026	18,709
Net revenue (expense) YTD		(1,646)
Ending Cash	9/30/2026	17,063
Emergency Reserve		(7,500)
Funds Available for Operations		9,563