

DPOA News & Events

DIAMANTE
A PRIVATE MEMBERSHIP GOLF CLUB

**Official Newsletter from Your
Diamante Property Owners Association**

Volume XII, Issue 12

December, 2020

 *Dear Neighbors!*

Merry Christmas everyone! Although more details are included in an article on page 3 of this newsletter, I extend kudos to Phil Tyree for organizing this year's Christmas decorating efforts. It looks festive out there! In addition, our newest board member, Neil Phelan, led the effort to clear the fifth Diamante lot in partnership with the DMC. It will probably not be on the market for long, and the area looks significantly neater (see article on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter).

It is difficult to believe that my 3-year term on the DPOA Board is ending. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience, especially being its President for 2 years. The fun part of the job was the opportunity to work with so many people, both on and off the Board, who selflessly worked

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Talking Points

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Dear Neighbors! Continued from page 1

for the betterment of the Diamante neighborhood. I commend all of you who have supported the Board with your dues and your labor on our projects. We live in a great and welcoming community. I salute the current board members and wish them and you all the best for 2021. ♦

—Tom Ellers, DPOA President



Treasurer's Report

As of December 10, 2020

212 members
representing 214 properties

Fund Balances

Funds available for operations:

\$5,176.00

Reserve (emergency) funds:

\$7,500.00

No significant expenses are expected before the end of 2020

2021 Dues Invoices will be mailed to DPOA residents during the middle of January, 2021

ALICE HINCKLEY



LET'S CONTINUE TO CREATE BRIGHTER FUTURES

Yes, our clothing drive continues to support several HSV residents whose family members live in Honduras and have lost everything inside their destroyed homes after Hurricane Eta.

As previously announced, space in the Diamante cart barn continues to be a collecting area for all donated items. The Bonilla family makes weekly trips to pick up the donated items. Please join your neighbors, friends, and Club members by donating warm-weather clothing, kitchen items, first-aid supplies, and any other items stored in your overflowing attic. It's not too late! ♦

—Dana Peick

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.

Exterior Lights

Lighting Up Our Neighborhood in Celebration of the Christmas Holiday!

On Monday, November 1, a hearty group volunteered to put up this year's Christmas decorations around the Diamante housing entrances. Jim Bodge, Tom Ellers, Mike Fleharty, Bruce Gasaway, Gary Irwin, John Matthews, David Paul, Neil Phelan,

Dennis Riordan, Jess Stephens, Chuck Stofer, Bob Walker, and I spent 4 hours putting up lights, garland, Christmas balls, and a sleigh in 40-degree weather. Merry Christmas to all, and we hope you enjoy the holiday lights! ♦ —Phil Tyree



Maintenance

Diamante Is a Beautiful Home that We Share Together!

Some people look for a beautiful place, but others make a place beautiful!



It is hard for me to believe that December is my last month serving on the Diamante Property Owners Association (DPOA) Board of Directors. Honestly, I have to say that I enjoyed the activities and positive feedback that were received from so many Diamante friends and neighbors. I also believe that my replacement, Neil Phelan, appears motivated, competent, and excited to assume the maintenance responsibilities moving forward.

Some of Our 2020 Accomplishments

- ◆ Chemically treated every Diamante street sign to remove and prevent future algae growth;
- ◆ Cleared debris and overgrowth from the flat rock border that lines the pull-over area on both sides of the Diamante Boulevard entrance;
- ◆ Added new black mulch around the primary entrance and boulevard beds; and
- ◆ Applied weed and fire-ant treatment at all entrances.

A big thank you is extended to the DPOA Board, the mowing and landscape contractors, and all of the volunteers throughout 2020! I wish everyone a healthy, safe, and happy 2021! ♦

—David Dolstein

Maintenance

AN UPDATE

Lot-Clearing Project—cont'd

Thanks are extended to all of the volunteers who are helping clear the Diamante Members Club (DMC) lots. They look GREAT! We are completing each job in record time—approximately within 2 hours. A special thanks goes to Roy Marsh for bringing his tractor and trailer. We hope to tackle the next lot sometime after the Christmas holiday, since this is the best time of the year...no snakes, ticks, or chiggers, and there are no leaves left on the trees to challenge the workers to remove them after they fall to the ground. The DMC—and that means you and me—collectively own 65 lots. Approximately one-half of these lots came with the Club when they were purchased, and the remaining lots were taken back with settlements that amount to approximately \$800,000 to date. Because the settlement money has been poured back into the clubhouse and golf course, the lots now need to become dues-paying properties. *(Continued on page 6)*



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Maintenance

AN UPDATE— Lot-Clearing Project

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Simply stated, the volunteers have made these lots more appealing to prospective buyers. We are happy to report that Sylvia Matthews and Bill Toney have been marketing DMC lots and have sold four this year. In fact, one new home is under construction, and three are going to be built after the first of the year. Since now is a great time to sell lots, we are hoping that most will be sold in the near future. The help of our volunteers to clear and make these lots more appealing is extremely important. Please join me in thanking Richard Carlson, Mike and Donna Fleharty, Roy Marsh, John and Sylvia Matthews, Kelvin McMillin, Dennis Riordan, Jess Stephens, John Sutey, Phil Tyree, and Dennis VanLeeuwen. I hope all of you have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year. ♦ **—Neil Phelan**



MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

THE FLEHARTYS

When Mike and Donna sold their low-voltage contracting business in late 2014, they were looking for a place to retire that offered a lot of available activities. In addition, they could enjoy spending time with a more mature age group in a nice, quiet neighborhood. They have lived in Saline County since 1980 and already knew all about Hot Springs Village and what it had to offer. So, they headed out to “the Village” to explore all there was to do and the places to live. After several visits, Diamante seemed to have everything they were looking for. “The clubhouse, swimming pool, and activities were what we hoped to find for retirement living,” said Mike.

After checking out several homes, they decided on 32 Princesa Drive. Although the home was built in 1997 and needed to be updated, these needs were no chore for the Flehartys. They had built homes in Saline county since 1990 and were not intimidated by the process.

“We never had time to play golf when we were working, so this sport was something we always wanted to learn,” said Donna. “We are by no means good at the game, but we enjoy playing with

good friends and neighbors on our beautiful golf course.” Diamante has been the perfect fit since they travel several months a year but still get to spend quality time with their family who live “just down the road.”

Recently, Mike and Donna have started on a new adventure in Diamante. They have sold their house on Princesa Drive and, after another remodeling project, are moving to 12 Loyola Drive.

The Flehartys are looking forward to many years of good times and fellowship in their welcoming neighborhood and as members of Diamante Golf and Country Club. ♦



“Diamante seemed to be just the right fit for us. It is close to the East gate, which is important because we have eight grandchildren living in the Benton and Bryant areas.”

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Exterior Lights

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The holidays at Diamante have always been special—particularly Christmas! From the early days of the club, Diamante members have enjoyed celebrating the season with one another. Come take a sleigh ride down Diamante’s memory lane. Happy Reading!

- 1** “Sunday Brunch with Santa” began in 1996. After the members and their families dined on prime rib, leg of lamb, omelets, and waffles, the kiddos told the Jolly Old Elf their gift requests and had photos taken with him.
- 2** Doris Stofer, the 1997 WGA president, asked members to bring a wrapped Christmas ornament along with a wrapped “white elephant” gift to exchange at the December WGA Christmas luncheon. As Doris said of the white elephant gifts, “The yuckiest, the better, so it can be passed on next year.”
- 3** Christmas caroling came to Diamante in 1999. Members gathered at the club for hors d’oeuvres and cocktails. After caroling in golf carts to homes on Diamante Boulevard or in a caravan of cars to carol on the Good Sam’s campus, members returned to the club for a delicious dessert.
- 4** December 2001 was the last year that Norma Franklin’s Annalee Mobiltee doll collection was intact. Beginning with her favorite, the Big Santa, Norma began collecting in 1980 to give them to her grandchildren.
- 5** Ralph Arboe’s collection of Danish Christmas plates were dated from 1905 to 1988. Visitors viewed them on display inside the entrance to his and Sally’s Granada Lane home. Ralph purchased them during his many trips to Copenhagen while visiting relatives.
- 6** The first annual Diamante Christmas Mailbox Decorating Contest was held in 2002. The winners were: 1st place, Jack and Lavena Tyler at 32 Granada Drive; 2nd place, John and Sylvia Matthews, 90 Diamante Boulevard; 3rd place was a tie: John and Jeane Stewart at 33 Princesa Drive and Barry and Jeanine Jacobsen at 4 Redondo Way; 5th place, Bill Wood and Joyce Leunemann at 1 Alcazaba Way; and 6th place, Bill and Dianna Duddleson at 35 Loyola Drive. ♦

—Jeanne Godbold






HOW THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WENT FROM A PR GIMMICK TO A PATRIOTIC VOW

Who Is the Author of Our Pledge?

On October 21, 1892, children at schools across the country rose to their feet, faced an American flag, and recited 23 words. The author, Francis Bellamy, a man who few people can name today, wrote "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands—one nation indivisible—with liberty and justice for all."

Francis Bellamy reportedly wrote the Pledge of Allegiance in 2 hours, but it was the culmination of nearly 2 years of work at the *Youth's Companion*, the country's largest circulation magazine. In a marketing gimmick, the *Youth's Companion* offered U.S. flags to readers who sold subscriptions. With the looming 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the New World, the magazine planned to raise the Stars and Stripes "over every public school from the Atlantic to the Pacific."

Bellamy, a former Baptist preacher, irritated his flock with his socialist ideas. However, as a writer and publicist at the *Youth's Companion*, he "let 'em rip." In speeches and editorials that were equal parts marketing, political theory, and racism, he argued that the gilded age of capitalism eroded traditional values.

"Americanism Will Not Perish..."

Bellamy argued that pledging allegiance would ensure "that the distinctive principles of true Americanism will not perish as long as free, public education endures."

By World War II, many public schools required a morning recitation of the pledge. In 1954, Congress added the words "under God" to distinguish the United States from "godless Communism." One atheist, believing his kindergarten-aged daughter was coerced into proclaiming an expression of faith, protested all the way to the Supreme Court. In 2004, the Court determined that the plaintiff did not have standing to bring the lawsuit. Three of the justices argued that "under God" did not violate the constitutional separation of church and state.

Today, 46 States Require Public Schools to Recite the Pledge

Only Vermont, Iowa, Wyoming, and Hawaii do not. It is a daily order of business for the United States Senate and House of Representatives. In addition, hundreds of thousands of newly minted citizens pledge allegiance during the U.S. naturalization ceremony. Yet the pledge continues to have its critics. The historian Richard J. Ellis, author of the 2005 book, *To the Flag: The Unlikely History of the Pledge of Allegiance*, acknowledges that the oath is "paradoxical and puzzling," but he also admired the aspirational quality of its spare poetry. "The appeal of Bellamy's pledge is the statement of universal principles," he says, "which transcends the particular biases or agendas of the people who created it." ♦ **—Dennis Riordan**

From the Smithsonian Magazine.

