

DPOA News & Events

DIAMANTE
A PRIVATE MEMBERSHIP GOLF CLUB

Official Newsletter from Your
Diamante Property Owners Association

August 2025

Dear Neighbors,

On behalf of the entire DPOA Board, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who took part in the DPOA Couples Golf Cocktail Party fundraiser event this past month. Thanks to your participation, we tripled the amount of funds raised vs. last year. We also couldn't have achieved this without the support of our donors, who contributed some new and unique silent auction items. And of course, I want to thank our event sponsors. A particular acknowledgment goes to Mark and Kathi Price for generously returning their 50/50 winnings to the DPOA. Finally, thank you to Tim Griffin/Griffin Motor Sports for sharing a portion of the golf cart proceeds with the DPOA. We've included a recap of this year's DPOA/CGA Fundraiser on pages 6-9 of the newsletter.

August always brings a sense of bittersweetness to me. It signifies the onset of the end of summer and prompts thoughts about the upcoming school year. This year, the anticipation of the school year is particularly challenging, as I contemplate what it will entail. Teaching and learning have integrated into my daily routine, and this autumn is no different. I will be greeting my online students on August 25, and the educational journey will begin.

Labor Day, observed on the first Monday of September in the United States, is one of our oldest federal holidays, signed into law in 1894 by President Grover Cleveland. It pays tribute to the social and economic accomplishments of American workers. This day serves to acknowledge the contributions of the labor movement and the advancements made in securing workers' rights and improving working conditions for all Americans. Although frequently regarded as the symbolic conclusion of summer, with neighborhood BBQ's, local parades and as the final, long weekend for vacations, Labor Day's more profound meaning has always been to celebrate and pay homage to the American workforce who built this great country. We celebrate its strength, its prosperity and its well-being. Enjoy a safe and deserved holiday!

As we continue to build our DPOA community, the second half of our year will be focused on some charitable and landscaping projects that we hope will benefit both Diamante, and our community. We are evaluating multiple projects in the coming months and look forward to sharing them with our DPOA Members in future newsletters, once plans are finalized.

Last but not least, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your contributions to the DPOA. Without a doubt, your time, donations and ongoing support play a crucial role in making our community the most desirable place to reside in Hot Springs Village!



-Heidi Hilbert, **DPOA President**

August DPOA

Membership

Update



Membership

As of July 31st, 189 members paid \$18,855 in DPOA dues and additional contributions for 2025.

THANK YOU

for your continued support!

A list of 2025 members based on payments received on or before July 24, 2025 is available on the Members only website, click on the DPOA tab.

If you would still like to become a 2025 member of the DPOA, please send your payment of \$80, payable to "DPOA" to:

Ford Williams, DPOA Treasurer
8 Aventura Trace
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

Note: DPOA dues are voluntary and are not tax deductible.

Financial Report

The financial report thru July 31, 2025 is included on **page 4** of this newsletter and on our Members-only website.



MEMES

of the Month

Can I pay you \$20 to put on a bikini?
I'm trying to get my hubby to mow the lawn!



DPOA Board

Heidi Hilbert

President

hhilbert@eicc.edu

Lana Prosen

Vice President

lane80@att.net

Karla Sebastiani

Secretary

kks2467@aol.com

Ford Williams

Treasurer

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Robin Persson

Assistant Treasurer

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Bill Toney

Webmaster

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Bruce Gasaway

Maintenance

bruce.gasaway49@gmail.com

Greg Hilbert

Exterior Lights/Holiday Decor

hilbe49@gmail.com

Doug Zook

Flags and DPOA Picnic

doug.zook@sbcglobal.net

Jeanne Ballard

Welcome Baskets

floballard@sbcglobal.net

Jim Baker

DMC Liaison

pjamesbaker@gmail.com

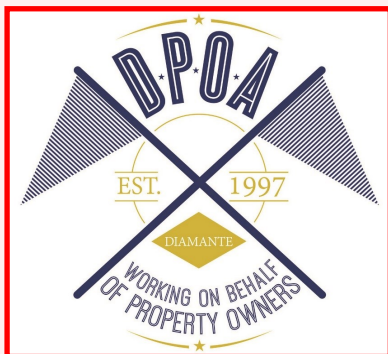
Craig Staley

Newsletter Editor

csbc801@gmail.com

The August Scorecard

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eMails to the Editor

Dear DPOA Members:

Oops! We did it again—info from the front office didn't quite trickle down to me, and we missed **Barry Russell and John Sebastiani's** birthdays last month. Apologies to both of you!

There weren't a lot of options for this month's themed masthead. But, the whole month of August is National Dog Month, and with so many of our Members being dog lovers, I thought this would be a nice tribute to Man's (and Woman's) bestie. We're blessed to have neighbors (and Janice, our mail lady) treat our two dogs like they're their god dogs. I also love the bumper sticker "Wag More, Bark Less", and think it belongs on every American's automobile (and golf cart) to serve as a reminder that it just doesn't take that much effort to be kind and friendly to others.

As you'll discover, there's no Fun & Games this month. In what I thought was going to be a 'light month' for content, this newsletter's once again exploded. So I opted to postpone the contest until next month.

Speaking of next month, the Labor Day weekend is the official kick-off of *my* favorite sport—American Football—in case you couldn't tell from the decals I plastered on our golf cart! While I'll have to wait for several months to watch Michigan pummel Ohio State, and to watch my beloved Vikings *finally* win their first Super Bowl, *I do hope to make next month's newsletter a Member tribute to these fall classics.* **PLEASE** send me any photos of you (any age) as a football jock, a cheerleader, a pom pom girl, a Homecoming King or Queen, or any other Fall Event. If I only receive 1 or 2 pics from DPOA readers, I'm going to bombard you with every picture I can digitize from my Marian Knights yearbook—and trust me, you don't want that! So please, search your albums for those fun-filled, school days and share your memories and photos with us. Include your name, approximate year that a photo was taken, and the event.

Thank you in advance! Craig

Text attachments: 817-637-8285

Email attachments: csbc801@gmail.com

P.S. You can always submit Sports or Event photos too!

DPOA Treasurer's Report

thru July 31, 2025

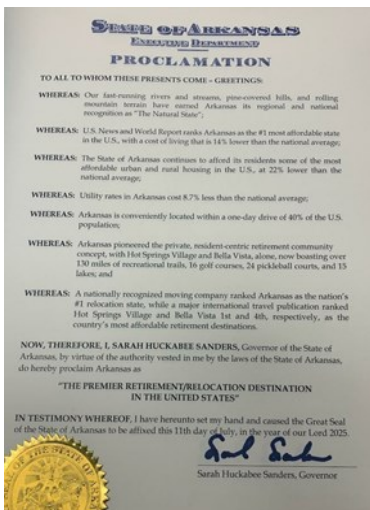
	7/31/2025 Actual Month to Date	7/31/2025 Actual Year to Date	7/31/2024 Actual Year to Date	12/31/2025		12/31/2024 Actual Year to Date
				Estimated Remaining	Forecast	
Member dues	75	11,990	13,600	3,900	15,890	17,195
Additional dues	2,500	2,940	1,100	600	3,540	1,585
Total dues revenue	2,575	14,930	14,700	4,500	19,430	18,780
Landscape Maintenance	(2,680)	(9,014)	(8,000)	(6,086)	(15,100)	(12,433)
Sprinkler repair	(1,020)	(1,020)	(1,730)	(100)	(1,120)	(1,730)
Electrical repair	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flags	-	(152)	(197)	(48)	(200)	(197)
Holiday décor	-	-	-	(100)	(100)	(61)
Welcome baskets	-	(72)	(359)	(1,200)	(1,272)	(1,301)
Storage unit	-	(515)	(515)	-	(515)	(515)
Administrative costs	-	(146)	(165)	(154)	(300)	(327)
Total operational expenses	(3,700)	(10,919)	(10,966)	(7,688)	(18,607)	(16,563)
Net operating revenue (expense)	(1,125)	4,011	3,734	(3,188)	823	2,217
Net picnic	(5,194)	(623)	(214)	-	(623)	(214)
Net cocktail party	4,589	4,839	1,709	(950)	3,889	1,745
Other fundraising	-	-	-	-	-	1,015
Net fundraising	(605)	4,216	1,495	(950)	3,266	2,546
Net revenue (expense)	(1,730)	8,228	5,229	(4,138)	4,089	4,763

Beginning Cash at 1/1/2025	14,817
Net revenue (expense) YTD	8,228
Ending Cash at 7/31/2025	23,044
Emergency Reserve	(7,500)
Funds Available for Operations	15,544

As of July 31, 2025, 189 members paid \$18,855 in DPOA dues and additional contributions for 2025.
 As of July 31, 2024, 168 members paid \$14,700 in DPOA dues and additional contributions for 2024.
 \$3,925 was received in 2024 for 2025 dues, and \$14,930 was received in 2025 for 2025 dues.
 All 2024 contributions were received in 2024.

A Great State for Retirees, but we already knew that!

For many Americans, the dream of retirement includes a peaceful, affordable, and beautiful place to call home. While traditional retirement hotspots often come to mind, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders recently set her sights on positioning Arkansas as a premier destination for the next generation of retirees. Through a combination of economic initiatives and an emphasis on the state's natural beauty, Arkansas is working to shed old perceptions and attract those looking for a high quality of life at a lower cost...and making Arkansas a retiree's 1st choice!



A key part of the state's strategy involves leveraging Arkansas's most significant advantages: its affordability and tax-friendly environment. The cost of living in Arkansas is notably lower than the national average, with housing costs being a major consideration. For those on a fixed income, this can translate to significant savings, allowing retirement funds to stretch further. The state also offers a friendly tax landscape for seniors. Social Security benefits are not taxed, and there is a generous \$6,000 deduction on other forms of retirement income, such as pensions and 401(k) withdrawals, for those aged 59 1/2 or older. This financial stability, combined with low property taxes, gives the state an attractive sales pitch for prospective retirees at all income levels.

Beyond the financial incentives, the governor's "Natural State" initiative, which focuses on enhancing and promoting Arkansas's outdoors, plays a crucial role in the retirement strategy. Arkansas is home to stunning national parks, pristine lakes, rivers and creeks. The initiative aims to improve access to and quality of these natural assets. This focus on natural beauty positions Arkansas as an alternative to more congested and expensive states.

The state's current residents are the *only ones* who truly understand what 'Arkansas: the Natural State' actually means. Because we live it everyday. It's imperative that, to build on the Natural State positioning, the state needs to include the one resource left out of the declaration—*its people*. More specific in this case—its existing *retirees*. Aside from low taxes, what do most Seniors seek in their Golden Years? One can argue three things: **Security, Quality of Life and Healthcare Affordability/Accessibility**. With the highly rated HSV and Bella Vista areas already focused on marketing their attributes to prospective retirees, the state needs to capitalize on this wealth of experience and *share the burden* of targeted marketing campaigns. The Village, Bella Vista (and Diamante) would all benefit immensely if this were the state's primary focus—and a logical starting point. Partner *with* us. Promote us.

Our communities are established and successful—but there's plenty of room for growth and improvement. And, we can always use more marketing dollars and more of the state's tourism or economic development budgets to help extend our reach—and to help build awareness—of our communities and amenities. Arguably, **there simply is no other place in the Country** that can offer the next generation of retirees what already exists in Arkansas.

The state doesn't need to start from scratch on this. But it does need a strategy, otherwise this proclamation is just words on paper. It would also seem that the quickest and most logical way to achieve a winning strategy would be to appoint Members of our existing communities to an Advisory Board. Only then will the governor's proclamation have 'teeth' and show a real commitment by the state towards achieving the primary goal of attracting the next generation of retirees to our state.

Here's a retiree campaign slogan that supports the state's 'natural' positioning:

"Retirement comes **naturally**, in Arkansas!"

Just imagine the infinite imagery that could be used with this—Seniors enjoying an active lifestyle as much as anyone from the Gen X or Millennial generations!

DPOA/CGA Fundraiser:

Front 9/Back 9 Golf Tournament



DPOA/CGA Fundraiser

Meanwhile, it was all Fun & Games at the Clubhouse!



THANK YOU for Supporting the Diamante Property Owners' Association!



THANK YOU for Supporting the Couples' Golf Association!



DPOA/CGA Fundraiser

To the Bidders, Go the Spoils!

Nancy Burk was the high bidder during the DPOA Silent Auction for the Gourmet Cooking Class donated by Connie and Gerry Vaden.

Nancy and 3 of her besties recently visited the Vaden kitchen to reap her reward, selecting the baking session.

They left with arms full of freshly baked goods, custom aprons, recipes and lots of smiles! (until they get their cholesterol checked next month!)

Thank you ladies!



DPOA & CGA Fundraiser

The Results Are In!

**\$4,589 Raised
at this year's
DPOA Auction!**

**A Special DPOA "Thank You"
to Our Event Patrons & Donors:**

Robin and David Persson

Tim Griffin/Griffin Motor Sports

Suzanne and Chuck Stofer

50/50 Drawing

More than \$600 was raised for this year's 50/50 drawing and the winners, Kathi and Mark Price, generously donated their winning share back to the DPOA. Thank you, Kathi and Mark!

The Auction Wouldn't Have Been a Success Without So Many Donated Items.

'Thank You' to the Following DPOA Donors:

Heidi and Greg Hilbert

Connie and Gerry Vaden

Martha Smither

Craig Staley & Bruce Cox

Karla and John Sebastiani

Robin & David Persson

John Sutey

30th Anniversary Committee/Suzanne Iantosca

Nicky & Jim Baker

Scott and Kim Finnell

Diamante Pro Shop

Jeanne Ballard

DPOA Board

**'Thank You' to Everyone
who attended the DPOA/
CGA Fundraiser.**

**Thank You to Members
who attended the Cocktail
Party and/or Golf Banquet
and placed bids.**

**and Finally—
CONGRATULATIONS to
All of the WINNERS!**





AROUND THE CLOCK

Member Profiles | Fun & Games | Volunteerism | Personnel



DPOA MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT: CANDY & RUSTY ADAMS

Normally, these profiles include headshots of our Members. But the Adams family requested that their 3-wheeler be featured in their photo. They're proud of it, and I'm told it's the only one within Diamante—maybe HSV? But isn't it also easier to fall off one of these scooters on your way home from the 19th Hole?!

As a native Arkansan, **Candy Adams** spent her early years growing up in Magnolia, AR. Candy was the 3rd of 4 children. She was a cheerleader throughout school and college, but most fondly remembers turning 16 and that one day a week when her mom would let her take the car for a drive to the local grocery store.

Rusty Adams was born in Monroe, LA, the middle of 3 boys. Rusty and his brothers enjoyed sports, hunting and fishing—and thick Venison steaks. They moved to

Magnolia when Rusty was in 8th grade, where he began to notice that petite blonde in the 6th grade. When asked if there were any 'memorable times' that stood out in those early days in small town America, Rusty's eyes lit up. He recalled when he turned 13 and got to ride a motorcycle solo for the first time—and how exhilarating that was. (Graduating one wheel at a time—is there a 4-wheel golf cart in Rusty's future?) Candy, on the other hand, said that one of her favorite memories was when the two of them were crowned as their school's King and Queen. That's not only an accomplishment for these two lovebirds at such an early age—but also a Kodak moment that they'll cherish for life. A golf friend of Rusty's first introduced the Adams to HSV. They learned the financial benefits of being property owners to golf on the Village courses, so the Adams bought their first HSV residence in 2017 on the Magellan course. Just two years later, they bought their first of three homes they've lived in while Members of Diamante. One big golf difference that Rusty noticed immediately, and was quick to point out, is that on Diamante's course, you can play up to 5 in a group—unlike his experience on the rest of the Village courses.

NATIONAL DOG MONTH

DPOA August Newsletter

(Adams, cont'd)

Candy and Rusty are excited about the recent changes happening at the Club, including the new and some of the returning activities by the Social Committee. They shared that the events they've attended have 'all been done very well'. They especially liked the Eclipse party last year. They also give high marks to this year's DPOA Picnic—and especially enjoyed the music of *Colt and the Old 45's!*

The two active golf Members give high marks to the Diamante course, and have echoed past newsletter interviewees, recognizing how difficult it is to maintain the course's statewide ranking due to the Club's budget limitations, and other constraints.

They also gave the Club's personnel favorable marks and again mentioned several recent initiatives and improvements that are promising. Hard to believe, but the COVID epidemic was only 5 years ago, and like the country, it's taken Diamante a few years to regain its old form. They're appreciative that the Club, and Club-sponsored activities, are returning to those pre-epidemic years.

Candy and Rusty have the Clubhouse menu memorized and they mentioned quite a few Diamante favorites, simultaneously praising the Catfish! They're also big fans of the egg rolls, the homemade chips (everybody's favorite), and the two of them can't get enough of the ranch parmesan dressing!

Switching gears, I asked Candy what's most difficult about her job in Real Estate and selling Diamante to retirees who are contemplating moving to the Village? She said "It's simple. They've never heard of Diamante before." Once they learn about the Club, the history, the growing list of amenities, and the engaged community, she said it becomes 'much, much easier to sell'. She once had a client from CA who bought a house from a live stream that Candy conducted with her phone, walking from room to room, providing measurements, providing possible updates and answering all of the client's questions. Her clients bought their Diamante home from that live stream—and didn't see the home for another 3 weeks. Four years later, they still thank her for finding them their dream home in Diamante.

Rusty has been involved in the greens and golf committee, and serves on sub-committees for the tees, updates for handicapping of the Club's 18 holes, and presenting periodic updates to the ASGA.

Candy's full-time job has her real estating across the Village. She's also been involved with the HSV Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, and a volunteer at the HSV Visitor's Center. As one of Diamante's premier advocates in the Village, Candy volunteers her time and industry expertise to Diamante's Marketing and Membership Committee.

June, 2025 was a special year for the Adams, as another Diamante couple celebrating 50th year together! To commemorate this marriage milestone, the couple journeyed to Coeur d'Alene, ID. If you're not familiar with the area, it was once rated as a 'Top 5 most beautiful lakes in the World'. Great golf—and a very romantic and picturesque setting for their celebration together. Belated congratulations to them!

During less auspicious occasions, the two enjoy flying and driving getaways that allow them to experience different parts of the country: its towns, local cultures, and the local cuisine. Most years, they journey to CA for January & February, but this year, they're hoping to be settling into their newest Diamante home.

Thank you both for all you do for the Diamante and Hot Springs Village communities!

DPOA Members **Candy and Rusty Adams** are on the move again, from **12 Darro Way**.

The Social Committee's Model Event— Where It Wasn't *Fashionable* to be Late!

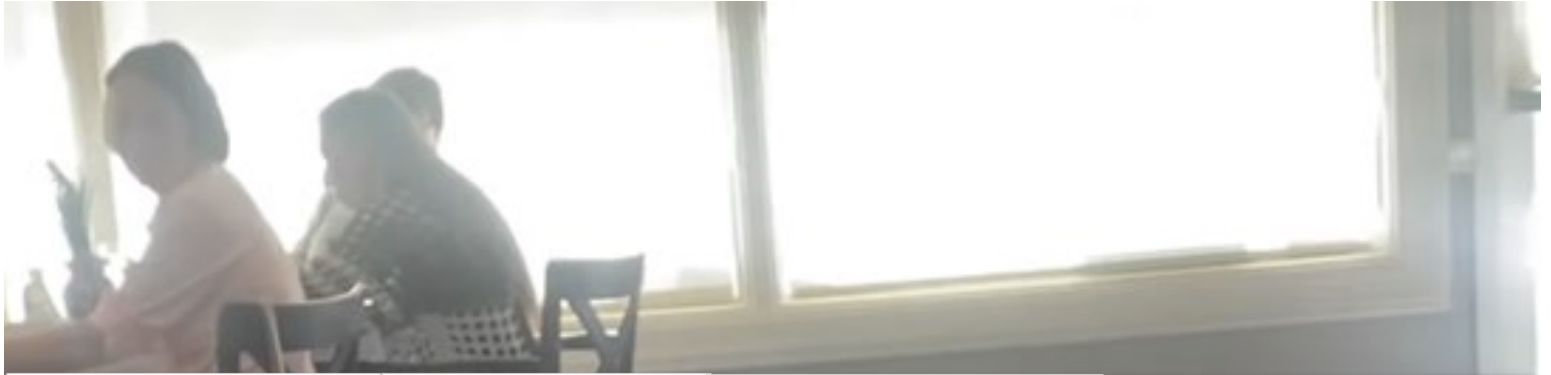


Congratulations to Jodi Woodruff and her Social Committee team for assembling such a stylish event last month at the Clubhouse. This summer's Fashion Show included some gorgeous models and some must-have fashion items for Diamante's numerous Sport and Social activities. The afternoon event was topped off with another Terry-ific luncheon.

Let's do it again next year—and maybe include some styling tips for *The Real Husbands of Diamante!*



The Big Murder Mystery Dinner Question— Did Steven's Blood Stain the New Carpet?



P.S. He was back to work the next night!

The Social Committee Calendar— Snapshot of Activities for the Fall, 2025

**WATCH YOUR INBOX FOR FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS
REGARDING THESE UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS:**

CPR and First Aid Training Courses

September 3:

This will be a 2-part demonstration by Dakota Graves of the HSV Fire Department, Coronado Station.

- The 1st course will be for Members interested in CPR or CPR recertification, and the cost for this certification is \$12.
- The 2nd course is a free, general First Aid training course. It's open to all Members who are interested in learning what to do in an emergency situation, including heat stroke, heart attack, and many more safety tips for Seniors.



30th Anniversary Cook- book Release Party (late September):

Slight delays from the Publisher, as it's their busy season. The cookbooks are scheduled to ship out on SEP 22nd. So watch for Club updates with Release Party information.

This will include Members' Recipe Samplings and Door Prizes. And, of course, you'll be able to pick up the 30th Anniversary Cookbooks that you pre-ordered. You'll also be able to purchase additional cookbooks for your entire Holiday gift list!

Upcoming Social Events*:

- ♦ SEP 1: Labor Day Shrimp Boil, DJ and optional Karaoke
- ♦ SEP 18: Sunset Sips on the Patio w/drink specials and live entertainment
- ♦ SEP 22: Ladies' Corks & Canvas; Men's *Monday Night Football* Watch Party
- ♦ OCT 11: 30th Anniversary GALA
- ♦ OCT 29: Womens' Luncheon
- ♦ NOV 13: THANKSgiving-Member Mixer
- ♦ DEC 13: Member Holiday Party
- ♦ DEC 16: Ladies' Holiday Brunch



AROUND THE CLOCK

Member Profiles | Fun & Games | **Volunteerism** | Personnel



DPOA VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

KARLA SEBASTIANI

Karla and her husband, John, have lived in Diamante for 3 years now. They come by way of Libertyville, IL, having lived there, and in Wheeling and Des Plaines most of their working careers. Karla was actually born in Skokie, IL and John in Glenview. That covers most of the Chicagoland suburbs—at least the north/northwest ones!

Karla had been dating one of John's friends, and when that romance ended, the two of them started going out, and eventually married.

As the two got closer to retirement, they traveled to check-out several places in Arkansas and Tennessee. John had lived previously in Fayetteville, and had fond memories of Arkansas. Eventually, they agreed upon their home in Diamante. It was the perfect size for them, a great fairway view and a downstairs for all of Karla's crafting supplies and inventory!

Once relocated, Karla saw an ad in the DPOA Newsletter for a Secretary. She jumped at the opportunity, as she was looking for ways to get involved in the Diamante community, and saw this role as a way of meeting other Members. During several DPOA Board Meetings, she heard Jeanne Ballard's requests about 'how' to make the Welcome Baskets more personalized for Diamante's new residents. Karla, being the 'crafter' that she is, began sharing wine glasses, coasters, cutting boards, serving plates and more, that she could customize with Diamante's logo. Now, Karla has two roles with the DPOA—that of Secretary and as the DPOA's Cricut Master!

By now, many of you are the recipients of Karla's work, as the DPOA Gift Baskets are also given out monthly at some Club events as door prizes. She's also self-taught. One day, John bought her a Cricut machine. She watched a few YouTube videos, and she was hooked!

Together, they enjoy their home in Diamante, and the surrounding HSV area. She hopes that someday, the Club will find a different term for their type of Membership. After all, they're very active—*just not golfers!*

Karla, thank you for every 'active' thing you do for the DPOA, and for the Diamante Community, in the spirit of volunteering and giving back to our community.

DPOA Member Karla Sebastiani designs are etched in stone at **6 Alcazaba Lane.**

One Word Sums Up the July Austrian Wine Dinner—'Wahnsinn!'



The 30th Anniversary Committee:

WINES OF FRANCE

WINE TASTING

with THREE HENRYS

THURSDAY AUG. 28TH, 2025
START FROM 6:00 PM

Dine with winemaker Brad Norton, owner of Three Henrys Winery, and Brice Saltzmann as they celebrate wines from the South of France.

Menu & Wine Pairings:

WELCOME: Three Henrys Brut (Blanquette de Limoux)

1st Course: **Three Henrys Sauvignon Blanc**
 Ahi tuna poke, avocado, cucumber, crispy wonton

2nd Course: **Three Henrys Rosé**
 Frisée, crispy pancetta de canard, soft poached egg, house pickles

3rd Course: **Three Henrys Pinot Noir**
 Grilled hanger steak, braised beef croquette, parsnip purée, preserved lemon & parsley salad

4th Course: **Three Henrys Red Blend**
 Camembert, smoked tomato jam, grilled baguette

5th Course: **Three Henrys Viognier**
 Peach & Viognier verrines, almond crumble, whipped crème fraîche.

.....

\$75
Per Person

Reservations open **August 14th at 9 a.m.** and close **August 22nd.**
 *48-hour cancellation policy applies.
 Call **501-922-1114** to reserve your seat.




SAVE THE DATE

For the September Wine Dinner



September 26th will include Stellekaya winery, Stellembush South Africa, hosted by wine maker Jane Lello and Brice Saltzmann.



DIAMANTE'S
30TH
ANNIVERSARY GALA
An Unforgettable Night Awaits

OCTOBER 11TH, 2025

Reservations are Now Open.

Reserve Your Table

TODAY

by Calling the Front Desk!

(501) 922-1114

The Caddy's Corner:

Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events:

August 22-24: **The Gold Cup (Men's)**

August 30-September 1: **The Diamond Cup (Men's)**

September 24-25: **The Silver Cup (Men's)**

October 6: **2nd Annual HSV Police K-9 Golf Fundraiser/Scramble**

October 18-21: **UALR Women's Collegiate Invitational Golf Tournament (Practice 18th; Tournament 19-21)**

November 10: **1st Annual Veterans Day Charity Golf Tournament, 2025 Tournament Benefiting Friends of Fisher House, AR***

To register or request more information on any of these events, Contact David Howard or the Diamante Pro Shop at (501) 922-4191.

* For Veteran's Day Tournament details, see next two pages.



DIAMANTE VETERANS DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

November 10, 2025

Hello everyone! To continue Diamante's 30th Anniversary celebration, please accept this invitation to participate in Diamante's first **VETERANS DAY CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**. This charity tournament will become an annual event benefiting our Veterans and their families.

Friends of Fisher House Arkansas in Little Rock will be our first 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 (CAVHCS)) in association with the attached hospital (John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans' Hospital in Little Rock).

The Fisher House Arkansas will support two medical campuses in Central Arkansas that serve patients from Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, and Tennessee. The 16-suite Fisher House Arkansas will provide 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 will be 100% wheelchair accessible and include elevators. The Fisher House will be a temporary residence and is **not a treatment facility or hospice center**.

Scheduled opening for Fisher House Arkansas is Summer 2025. Log on to <https://fisherhousear.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 single golfer), which will include the golf, cart, and lunch after play. 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. We will accept singles. If you can't play, perhaps you can volunteer. Jim Bodge is our volunteer coordinator and can be reached at jwbodge@sbcglobal.net or 501-915-0019 to sign up.

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 VA Hospital.

**Sign up or donate today by mailing your check
(payable to 2025 Diamante Veterans Charity Golf) along with the registration form to:
David Howard, Fisher House Golf Tournament, Diamante Country Club,
2000 Country Club Drive, HSV, AR 71909.**

2025 Diamante Veterans Day Golf Tournament BENEFITING: FRIENDS OF FISHER HOUSE ARKANSAS

Entry Form

November 10, 2025

Cost is \$600 per team (\$150/pp) which includes golf, cart, & lunch.
Field is limited to 32 teams so sign up early. Format is traditional 4-person scramble.
There will be a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. and lunch will be served after play. Sign up now and don't wait until it's too late!

NO TEAM SLOTS WILL BE HELD BY PERSONAL REQUEST. RESERVATIONS WILL BE CONFIRMED (if email information is provided) ONLY AFTER A COMPLETED ENTRY FORM AND CHECK ARE RECEIVED BY THE DIAMANTE PRO SHOP.

1. Name: _____ Hdcp _____

Address: _____

email: _____ Telephone: _____

2. Name: _____ Hdcp _____

Address: _____

email: _____ Telephone: _____

3. Name: _____ Hdcp _____

Address: _____

email: _____ Telephone: _____

4. Name: _____ Hdcp _____

Address: _____

email: _____ Telephone: _____

Would you like to "SPONSOR A HOLE"? (tee box sign) \$250.00 _____

If so, how would you like your name to appear on the Hole Sign.

Other Sponsorships:

LUNCHROOM SPONSOR (4-man team & lunch room signage) \$1,500 _____

PLATINUM (4-man team & clubhouse signage) \$2,500 _____

CORPORATE (4-man team & clubhouse signage \$5,000) + your display _____

You are welcome to provide your business logo in .jpeg format to John Matthews at hotexans@att.net.:

Donations can be made to "Diamante Country Club Friends of Fisher House AR" and left with David in the Pro Shop or Kathi in the office.

Attach checks payable to: 2025 Diamante Veterans Charity Golf

Mail to: David Howard, Diamante Country Club

Friends of Fisher House AR

2000 Country Club Drive

Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

Please call or email if you have questions: 501-984-1363 or 501-915-8533 (hotexans@att.net)

The Highland Fling—proof that old duffers never die, they just change their hats and enter the next Diamante Tournament!



Members & Club Guests Agree— In August, They're Called Heat Strokes!



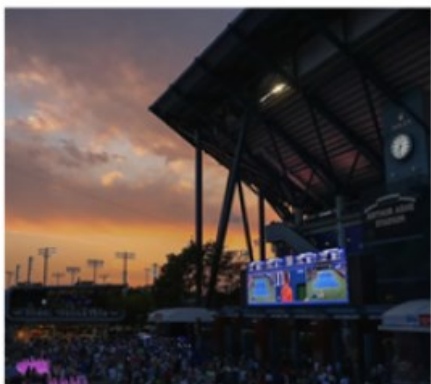
Diamante Court's Adjourned September 7th!



**The U.S. Open/Tennis Watch Party
Sunday, September 7th, 2 PM**

**Hosted by Johnny and Paula Hibbs
32 Loyola Drive**

**For more information or to RESERVE your spot on their couch,
Contact: paula.hibbs@gmail.com**



AROUND THE CLOCK

Member Profiles | Fun & Games | Volunteerism | **Personnel**



UP CLOSE AND 'PERSONNEL': MISTE ELLIS

Spend a few minutes getting to know Miste Ellis, and you'll understand why she was Russell Ellis' high school sweetheart—and why he's never let go of her during their 46 years of marriage. In fact, Miste was Rusty's 17-year old bride in their hometown of Hillsboro, TX. He was 3 years older, but after 14 -16 dates that consisted mainly of movie nights, they'd found in each other what each had been looking for.

After raising 2 children (who moved to AR first), it made sense that Miste and Rusty to head in this direction, especially to be closer to their 8 grandchildren. Their move to HSV in 2019 was their first 'move' since marrying all those years ago. Equally incredible is the fact that they moved to the Village on their 40th anniversary to a home that they had previously only viewed online—never having seen it in person! Talk about 'Jesus take the wheel'!

Miste has always been involved in some sort of bookkeeping, while her husband worked his entire TX career in the Oil & Gas industry. Moving to HSV, Miste kept busy and her accounting pencil sharp by volunteering to help with the books at Village Bible Church, where she met Madison Pope. As Rusty helped Madison with some projects around Isabella Golf Course, Madison also asked Miste if she could help Terri Socha with some Quick Books tutorials. That, my friends, is what's known as 'networking your way in the front door'!

Once an employee of Diamante, Miste admitted that her role was challenging. Despite all those years of bookkeeping, she hadn't worked in an environment where there were multiple sets of books to balance—one for Food/Beverages, one for Memberships, etc. She's thankful that the Members have made her role personally satisfying, in that "every Member's been awesome. They're so kind and so appreciative when I can help them or resolve something for them." She's also thankful that the Club is researching a new vendor for accounting software and updates, and hopeful that they'll soon be able to generate reports that the Club needs and many of the Committees ask for.

Play Miste for Us: **1)** her dream car—a Mercedes CLE. **2)** Her list for Santa—a larger patio area. **3)** Vacation time: they used to own a condo on Mustang Island in Texas, and she loved relaxing on the Gulf. **4)** Her favorite Texas town is Galveston, for the shopping and dining—and the Babe's Chicken. **5)** for BBQ, she strongly suggests a trip to a convenience store chain called "Texas Best"—she craves their brisket! **6)** Her favorite color is blue, specifically 'royal' blue!

Thank you for all that you do, Miste, for those little things you do to make Members feel special!

Miste Ellis sings Reba McEntire's greatest hits from the hilltops around her **HSV Cortez Highlands** home!

Eight Ways You Can Help to Make Diamante a Safer Community

–by Heidi Hilbert



1. MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Familiarizing yourself with your Diamante neighbors can be a win-win situation. Offer yourself as a resource in case of emergencies or help needed on their end; some neighbors might reciprocate the offer. See if they're comfortable sharing their needs.

Are there small children you should look out for? Do you live next to an older couple who stay home but sometimes need help? Does your neighbor have indoor pets, and should you call if you ever see the pets outside?

Planning get-togethers based on physical activity is a great way to get to know neighbors. Arrange to go on walks or to have your children play together outside. Ensure all kids are a safe distance away from traffic and teach them safe rules for playing outside together.

2. ORGANIZE NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY EFFORTS

Developing a neighborhood calling tree could help when things go amiss in the neighborhood, whether it's a property crime or something more sinister like a violent crime.

You could also encourage neighbors to disclose safety/burglary incidents on a neighborhood safety app such as [Is Your Neighborhood Safe? 7 Tools to Help You Find Out | SafeWise](#) so oth-

ers know what to look out for. These apps can flag specific crime occurrences so you're not just relying on perceived neighborhood safety assumptions.

3. KEEP UP YOUR YARD

A well-kept yard can help deter crime since trimmed foliage offers fewer places to hide. Backyard crime prevention measures can get pricey sometimes such as fences and additional lighting.

4. INSTALL A SECURITY SYSTEM

Overall, one of the surest options for crime prevention in your neighborhood is to get a home security system and use it properly.

5. EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN OUT OF TOWN

To choose targets, burglars often rely on easily scannable visual cues. Details like building type and signs of vacancy fall under this umbrella. We can't overstate the importance of making it look like you're home when you are away. Consider asking neighbors to keep an eye on your home when out of town. Even small efforts can deter crime. Favors might include mowing your lawn, shoveling your walks, or picking up your mail and newspapers. You could even have a neighbor park a car in your driveway occasionally while you're gone. Make sure to return the favor if payment isn't involved.

Use timers or smart switches to turn on your lights or find a smart security system that will allow you to turn lamps off and on remotely.

“Eight Ways” article (con’t)

6. CLOSE WINDOWS AND SHADES AT NIGHT

A big-screen TV is a less enticing steal if no one knows it’s there. Leaving your blinds open and lights on at night provides a free look into your house, its layout, and the habits of its occupants. And leaving the windows open at night or when you’re gone is an invitation for an uninvited guest to come in.

7. IMPROVE LIGHTING ON YOUR STREET

Burglars often prefer to target neighborhoods with lower residential density. So, if your neighborhood has few houses and lots of space, take special care to ensure that the space is well-lit. Street lamps are not the only way to do this. Ask that each household turn on their porch lights in the evenings and install motion-detector lights in the back or sides of the house so potential intruders don’t have the darkness to hide in. Burglars also prefer homes with multiple entry points or detached properties, so ensure that **all** doorways and pathways are illuminated.

8. IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

It’s not just for airports—being diligent in your neighborhood and speaking up when you see something out of place helps everyone on the block. Criminal justice expert, Dr. Ben Stickle, says neighbors working together can make a big difference, especially with crimes like package theft. He also recommends filing a police report, even though the odds of recovering goods swiped off the porch are low. Per Stickle, *“If you report it, and three of your neighbors do (out of 25 victims, for example), and they catch the person . . . they can then charge the person with three crimes instead of one. There are advantages to doing that instead of making the police go look for victims.”*

If package theft is a concern in your area of Diamante, work with neighbors to keep an eye out for deliveries and suspicious snoopers or cars. If one neighbor is home most days, see if they’re willing to collect packages that would be left unattended on other porches for hours. And if you catch a package thief on your video doorbell, share the footage with neighbors—yours may not be the only home targeted.



IN CONCLUSION:

Improving neighborhood safety is a team effort, but it needs to start with someone. As you get to know your neighbors, discuss your concerns, and apply some of the ideas above, you’ll find that the Diamante neighborhood becomes not only a safer place to be but a more enjoyable community as well..

The best thing about being over 50?

We did all our stupid stuff before the Internet was invented, so there's no proof!



2025 DPOA Members

August Birthdays

- 3rd Cindy Cheatham
- 5th Guy Quinn
- 8th Bill Brusenhan
- 9th Dan Quandt
- 10th Missy Maxey
- 12th Mark Price
- 13th Steve St. Onge
- 14th David Surguine
Joe Stafford
Glenn Laursen
- 15th Bob Hinckley
- 16th Beverly Ann Chancellor
- 17th John Hardin
- 21st Karen Simmons
Lana Prosen
- 25th Rusty Adams
- 26th Elizabeth Melson
Jeane Stewart
- 8/31 Jim Langlais
Jill Matzat

“Don't blow off another's candle, for it won't make yours shine brighter.”

—Jaachynma Agu, *The Prince and the Pauper*

*If your birthday is coming up and you wish to age in private, please send a note to the Editor and you'll be excluded from receiving celebratory wishes from your Diamante family. This list is maintained and provided to the DPOA by the Front Office at Diamante.

Our Adopted State:

Hot Springs Wiseguys: a Nod to the Area's Colorful Past



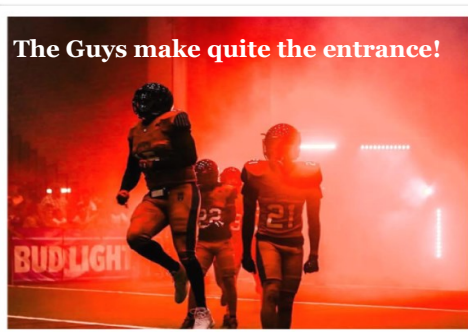
There are some **New Kids in Town**, and like The Eagles, their harmony is near perfect!

Hot Springs just finished adding a new chapter to its rich tapestry: a professional indoor football team. The team, and sports-crazed HS fans just witnessed the inaugural season of The Arena Leagues' (TAL) latest expansion team, the **Hot Springs Wiseguys**. They're not just another sports franchise—their very name and identity are a vibrant homage to the city's storied and notorious, past.

The moniker "Wiseguys" immediately conjures images of Hot Springs' fascinating history as a haven for organized crime during the Prohibition era and beyond. From the late 1800's through the mid-20th century, Hot Springs was an anomalous oasis where illegal gambling, bootlegging, and other illicit activities flourished openly, largely due to a corrupt political machine. Notorious figures like Al Capone, Lucky Luciano, and Owney "The Killer" Madden frequented the city, finding solace in its bathhouses and excitement in its bustling casinos. The Arlington Hotel served as a favorite retreat for Capone, while the Southern Club (now the wax museum) and the Ohio Club (Arkansas' oldest bar) were popular hangouts for these wiseguys of a different era. This colorful history, often explored at the city's Gangster Museum of America, has become an integral part of Hot Springs' identity. So, when The Arena League sought to establish a team in the city, the community's input in a "name-the-team" contest heavily favored themes referencing this gangster past. As General Manager **Chris Goodman** explained, "Four out of ten [name suggestions] were something to do with the gangsters, the mobsters, that enjoyed our city all those years ago. It became clear to us, we've got to focus around that area."

Beyond the criminal undertones, the Wiseguys name also subtly touches upon Hot Springs' significant connection to horse racing, primarily through Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort, a prominent fixture in the city. This dual reference – a nod to both the city's wiseguy reputation and its sporting heritage – encapsulates the unique character of Hot Springs. The Wiseguys play their home games at the Bank OZK Arena, bringing a new form of entertainment to the community. The final game of 2025 was a barn-burner with their nemesis, the Iowa Woo, and that win propelled them into the playoffs, followed by the high scoring Championship game in August. They lost that game to the Duluth Harbor Monsters. But, not bad for a bunch of start-ups!

More than just a football team, the Hot Springs Wiseguys represent a clever and engaging fusion of sports and local history. They embrace the city's intriguing past, turning a potentially shadowy legacy into a playful, yet respectful, team identity that captivated fans-young and old--in it's debut season, while honoring the "Spa City's" truly one-of-a-kind narrative. You can learn more about the team at www.hot Springs wiseguys.com and follow GM Chris Goodman on Facebook. Their 2025 games were also broadcast live on YouTube. The game and season tickets are priced to match any retiree's budget!



NATIONAL DOG MONTH

DPOA August Newsletter

Far Out, Groovy, Chill Out, and Right On Boomers Beyond the Boulevard!

LIVE IN CONCERT



THREE DOG NIGHT

LITTLE RIVER BAND

FRI. SEPTEMBER 19
FIRST SECURITY AMPHITHEATER

GET TICKETS AT [TICKETMASTER.COM](https://www.ticketmaster.com)

[THREEDOGNIGHT.COM](https://www.threedognight.com)  [REALLITTLE RIVER BAND.COM](https://www.reallittleriverband.com)

Golf Like You've Never Seen It!
THE 2025 HICKORY OPEN
Hot Springs Country Club



SPA CON

SEPTEMBER 19 - 21, 2025
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS



BIG STEAM
BLUES & ROOTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 26 & 27
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
HILL WHEATLEY PLAZA



HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

LABOR DAY WEEKEND
FIREWORKS

LAKE HAMILTON • SUNDAY, AUG. 31 AT DARK



Up Next Month—

FINDING BARGAINS GALORE
AT THOSE HSV ESTATE SALES!

