

DPOA News & Events

DIAMANTE
A PRIVATE MEMBERSHIP GOLF CLUB

Official Newsletter from Your
Diamante Property Owners Association

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Dear Neighbors,

Did you know that July was named after Julius Caesar and symbolizes celebration, freedom, and is the height of summer? The celebration began with several events at Diamante Country Club, including a July 4th social event and several golf tournaments. The DPOA and Couples Golf Association (CGA) will hold a cocktail party and Front 9 versus Back 9 Golf Tournament on July 19-20. The proceeds from the silent auction and the 50/50 raffle will help beautify our common properties in the Diamante neighborhoods. We would like to express our gratitude to all the members of the DPOA and the CGA for their ongoing support, which includes both financial contributions and volunteering their time throughout the year. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Finally, we have located a person to mow our ditches! After reaching out to six different vendors, Bruce Gasaway successfully hired a contractor to trim and weed our shared properties. Additionally, this month we encountered an unforeseen expense due to a leak in our sprinkler system, which has now been repaired.

Several new families are relocating to Diamante, and it is important for us to recognize our long-standing Club members who provide support to one another. Our objective is to uphold a top-notch facility, express our gratitude towards the DCC staff, and consistently promote the exceptional quality of life in the Diamante neighborhoods. I consider the residents of Diamante to be both my family and friends. Together, we strive to ensure our community continues to grow and thrive. Yes, July is a month filled with celebrations, both big and small, and it is a time for appreciating what we have at the Diamante and Hot Springs Village communities.

-Heidi Hilbert, DPOA President



July DPOA Newsletter

DPOA July Scorecard

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MEME of the Month!





July DPOA Newsletter

July DPOA

Membership

Update



Membership

As of June 30th, 188 members paid \$16,280 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 June 30, 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 June 30, 2025 is included on page 12 of this newsletter.

eMails to the Editor

Dear DPOA Members,

I'll start with an apology: I missed **Jim Burk's** birthday on June 5th. It wasn't intentional, he just wasn't on the master list I receive from the Front Office. I notified them of this needed update, so we'll catch you on *your 39th* birthday next year Jim!

I also want to single out a person on the DPOA Board, **Bruce Gasaway**. The weeds in the ditches were becoming pretty tall—in fact taller than the baby fawns running through them. Bruce was already on top of things, and trying to find a replacement for our old contractor who'd retired this year. Well, not only did Bruce find a replacement, but the guy was quick to show up and he's done a fantastic job—at least in our neighborhood. The guy mowed much deeper into the ditches than the POA ever did and our streets look much nicer than the Village's do. It's a thankless job Bruce, but I'm hoping the residents of Diamante appreciate the extra effort it took on your part. Kudos to you for a job well done!

There are 3 big Diamante events happening in the next couple of weeks. I've tried to call them out for you in the newsletter, but here are the Cliffs Notes version of the events for you:

First, **Heidi Hilbert and the DPOA** will be hosting this year's 2-Day **Cocktail Party and Fundraiser**, and partnering with the **CGA on Day 2**, hosting a **Front 9/Back 9 Golf Tournament**. **They're happening this weekend, the 19th and 20th**. The fundraiser kicks off on the 19th and includes a charcuterie board and several Member-donated items to bid on, *plus a new Golf Cart*. The cart is customized, featuring Diamante's Los Tres Diablos logo. On the 20th, Diamante couples take to the links. The CGA will host a rare, Sunday banquet at the Clubhouse and it's open to all DPOA Members. Reserve your spot by calling the Club **today**, (501) 922-1114.

Not to be outdone, **Lori McGhee and the Social Committee** is hosting a **Mystery Dinner on the 24th**. It's not that the seats will be limited—but that the personas and costumes will be. If one of the items on your bucket list is to become a big Hollywood star/starlet, you might sign up for this Mystery Dinner to see if your acting is as good as you think it is. I'm hoping committee members are not the casualties in all of this as they have so many more events planned for the year!

Last, but not least, **July 31st** is **Suzanne Iantosca and the 30th Anniversary Committee's Austrian Wine Dinner**. (next page)



July DPOA Newsletter

DPOA Board

Heidi Hilbert
President

Annual DPOA Picnic
hhilbert@eicc.edu

Lana Prosen
Vice President

Neighborhood Watch
lane80@att.net

Karla Sebastiani
Secretary

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Ford Williams
Treasurer

ford.williams@me.com

TBA
Assistant Treasurer

DPOA Committees

Bill Toney
Webmaster

zamazing@att.net

Bruce Gasaway
Maintenance

bruce.gasaway49@gmail.com

Greg Hilbert
Exterior Lights
Christmas Décor

hilbe49@gmail.com

Doug Zook

Diamante Neighborhood
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

(Editor, cont'd)

Reservations are open, and the evening will feature wines and cuisine from Austria. These dinners truly are the best value at the Club. Each event features several wine courses paired with some of the best cuisine to come out of the Diamante kitchen. Plus, it's educational—a win-win!

I'm so proud of our Club's volunteers who make all of these things happen month after month and for *all Members to enjoy*. Member volunteers are a Diamante hidden and unspoken amenity.

I wrote a note to one of the BOD Members recently. I truly think that we underappreciate what we have here. Living in an area where residency automatically qualifies us as members of 8 other golf courses, and living within the confines of the 9th—with ours consistently ranked as a Top 5 Arkansas course. This place is like no other place on Earth. When combined with new, world-class pickleball courts, a picturesque tennis campus, and a club-sized pool, Diamante's even more incomparable. With the recent changes and additions to the Clubhouse, like the new carpeting and large-screen TV's, the Clubhouse is also an aesthetically pleasing place to relax and enjoy fellow Members. There's more for the non-golfing Members too, and a monthly calendar filled with Member activities. If you're not getting your money's worth this Summer, you must be a watermelon. Under **Paul Murrison's** direction, the Food Service staff is also stepping it up with concepts like Taco Tuesday, the Wine Dinners and a new, seasonal menu. Diamante is becoming so much more than just 'Living the Good Life'.

As I end this month, I hope that everyone at Diamante feels a sense of Pride in what's been built here over the past 30 years—much of it by you, and your neighbors. If something's missing, you have representative and responsive BOD and DPOA Members living amongst you. If you *don't* see something, say something. Better yet, volunteer to start something new. If you can't volunteer time and energy, there's always a committee seeking donations for the Club's various fundraising efforts. Get involved. Stay involved. It's a great way for old Members to meet new Members—and vice versa.

To paraphrase one of our former Presidents, "Ask not what Diamante can do for you. Ask what you can do for Diamante." After all, we're all in this together.



Take a break and get a cold glass of lemonade so you can settle in and enjoy the rest of the July DPOA Newsletter. Happy Summer! CS



July DPOA Newsletter

Diamonds at Diamante, Golfers Galore, and some Brilliant Play!



July DPOA Newsletter

Diamonds at Diamante, To the Victors Belong the Spoils!





July DPOA Newsletter

AROUND THE CLOCK

Member Profiles | Fun & Games | Volunteerism | Personnel



DPOA MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT: CONNIE AND GERRY VADEN

I'd been working on the Diamante 30th Anniversary cookbook with Connie Vaden for several weeks. From each meeting, email or phone call, I kept learning new things about her life, the Club and its Members, and that she authored 3 cookbooks on her own. I just had to meet her other half to see if he was as interesting, talented and successful as his wife? When they agreed to sit down for an interview, it was like another Christmas in July. What a joy it was to spend time with them.

And they were prepared! Connie forwarded their bios to me in advance so I had the key information about each of their backgrounds. But, from the time I walked into their home, my focus shifted to what was obviously a home that had been built with love. There were framed pictures in the bookcases and down the hallway as far as I could see of their 6 children at various ages, and even more photos of the 18 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren that Connie and Gerry have been blessed with. I stood there, imagining what the holidays and family reunions must have been like through the years with these two loving parents.

Gerry's story began sadly, but typical for young families in the 40's. Imagine being born in Malvern, AR and not seeing your father or hearing his voice until you were 18 months old. That's what happened to baby Gerry as his father had been called to serve during that time during WWII. Connie, on the other hand, was born in McCook, NB, a town of 7,000 residents and situated in the cornfields between Lincoln to the East and Denver to the West. Connie's father had roots in Arkansas and eventually Connie and Gerry's paths would cross.

Gerry recalled that his earliest jobs were that of a farmer and as a gas pump jockey. Remember those days when your dad or mom would pull into the gas station, and while you waited for the tank to fill, the young, local high school boys would also check your oil and wash your windshields? You never had to leave your car! That was Gerry's introduction to the workforce, and capitalism.

Connie's first job, on the other hand, was related to something she is still passionate about today—cooking and baking. At the young age of 11, Connie started baking pies and perfecting her cakes at the Fishing Lure Restaurant. I'm guessing some of those early favorite desserts made their way into Connie's 3 cookbooks as those generational recipes are so much better than the quick-and-easy desserts of the modern era.

If you're wondering how the two met, it all started at Greers Ferry Lake. Gerry had been working in the insurance industry back in the late 60's. He was assigned a very difficult client, who needed a top notch accountant, for his exclusive club on an island within Greers Ferry Lake. Connie just happened to be working at the Club. But shortly after their meeting, Connie moved back to the Little Rock area. They kept in touch, started dating, and in 1975, they got married. This fall, they'll celebrate their 50th anniversary.



(Vaden, cont'd)

Gerry's 35-year business career focused mainly on public accounting and financial services, including several positions and titles with Stephens Diversified Leasing in the Little Rock area. As the result of being acquired by SunTrust Bank, Gerry's final career move was being named the very successful Chairman and CEO of SunTrust Credit Corporation, growing that business to \$400Mil by the time he retired in 2001—a long way from those early days of pumping gas!

Connie had a more entrepreneurial spirit about her, owning, operating and selling three successful businesses in the Little Rock area. And if that weren't enough, she'd also authored cookbooks and has spent more than 30 years in the real estate business. Imagine accomplishing all of this, while raising six children!

Gerry recalls that in the 90's, he began traveling to the Village to play golf. In 1998, he was invited to play at Diamante. It was love at first flight, and they joined as associate members. When they moved to the Village, their first home was on Lake Balboa, but they also bought a lot at Diamante so they could continue their membership here. In December, 2007, they bought their current home in Diamante, and have been DPOA Members ever since.

Between the two of them, the Vaden's have more awards, nominations and recognition than a feral cat has kittens. I sensed that Gerry was very proud that he was one of the original Members who made the trip to Dallas to negotiate the Club's break from Club Corp and Cooper. You know the rest of that story. Connie was proud to be a part of the HS/HSV Symphony Guild's inaugural committee that founded the Children's Concert, an October event that has mushroomed to more than 2,500 students attending from more than 8 school districts. She also started a back-to-school clothing and school supplies drive outside of a local Walmart store, which is now supported by local Rotary Clubs, and has become an annual event sponsored by Walmart's corporate offices.

So what do these two overachievers do for fun? They were asked a handful of random questions:

- ◆ **Favorite travel destination?** Connie-Florida, every JAN and FEB. Gerry- New England, but also loved the 21-day tour of the Rocky Mountain National Parks that went north into Whistler, B.C.
- ◆ **If you could have dinner with someone past or present, who would that be?** Both answered "Ayn Rand", and Gerry added 'because she's the greatest female author ever'. To which Connie also added the names of 'Ronald Reagan' and 'Nostradamus'.
- ◆ **Favorite area attraction?** Gerry shared that they have a box at Oak Lawn and enjoy horseracing at all the major tracks.
- ◆ **Most famous people you've met?** Bill Clinton, when he was Governor. They'd also met Sam Walton, and his daughter, Alice.
- ◆ **Their favorite music** is anything Country, but their favorite concert was attending Neil Diamond's Farewell Tour at the AAC in Dallas.
- ◆ **Favorite Club event?** They both loved the Eclipse Party last year, and that Connie enjoyed making the deserts for that once in a lifetime gathering.
- ◆ **What's missing at 'today's' Club?** Activities have picked up this year. Amenities are now very attractive. Need to work on 'the fine dining experience' a bit more.
- ◆ **Gerry's favorite food from his cookbook author's wife:** Her crabmeat souffle! His pick for dessert? Connie's "Gran Marnier" souffle is extra special!

While retirement allows them time to enjoy Golf and Travel, Connie's also kept busy as a Volunteer working on the Social Committee's 30th Anniversary Cookbook and Fundraiser. She's one of the Editors, as well as keeping tabs on orders and the pre-payments from fellow Members.

Connie and Gerry also graciously donated a cooking or baking class for 4 people as part of this weekend's DPOA Silent Auction. They'll play host to the high bidder 'in the kitchen with Connie'. You can learn more on pages 9-10 about this weekend's DPOA Silent Auction, and the Vaden's' generous gift.

Thank you Connie and Gerry for all you've done *and all that you continue to do* for the Members at Diamante!

DPOA Members *Connie and Gerry Vaden* concoct their travel itineraries at 21 Realeza Court.



July DPOA Newsletter

DPOA Fundraiser & CGA Golf

Be silent, or let thy 'bids' be worth more than silence.

The Diamante Property Owners Association

in partnership with

Couples Golf Association

INVITE YOU TO THIS 2-DAY EVENT:

July 19th DPOA COCKTAIL PARTY/SILENT AUCTION BEGINS:

**EAT,
DRINK
and BID!**

- ◆ In the Diamond Room, 5-7 PM
- ◆ Charcuterie Style Buffet
- ◆ \$18 per Member and \$20 for non-members
- ◆ Reservations thru 7/16 by contacting Ford Williams
- ◆ 50/50 Raffle begins (2-day)
- ◆ Silent Auction begins (see next page)
- ◆ Door Prizes, including Brunch Tickets
A DPOA Gift Basket,
30th Anniversary Pin Flag,
and more!

July 20th COUPLES GOLF ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT & BANQUET, DPOA's SILENT AUCTION & 50/50 FINALE:

- ◆ Front 9 / Back 9 Golf Tournament
- ◆ Banquet & Awards at 5:30 PM. Dinner is open to all DPOA Members—but make reservations in advance with **Doug Picano or David Howard**. Billed to Members' accounts by the Club.
- ◆ Fried chicken, whipped potatoes, veggie, salad, roll. Per Person: \$18.50++
 - ◆ Silent Auction results announced after dinner
 - ◆ 2-Night 50/50 Drawing held on the 20th



July DPOA Newsletter



The DPOA's

silent

**JULY 19th, from 5-7 PM
and during the
JULY 20th Golf Banquet,
5:30 PM**

DPOA Fundraiser & Silent Auction Items

Over \$13K in Auction items at the DPOA's 2025 Fundraiser:

Some of This Year's Items up for Auction:

- ◆ A New, **Diamante-Customized Golf Cart**, sponsored by the DPOA and Griffin Motor Sports, valued at over \$11K (item has a reserve)
- ◆ A **Wine Tasting Party** at a Private Home for 8, donated by the Hilberts & Sebastianis
- ◆ A Private, **Cooking Class for 4**, donated by Connie and Gerry Vaden
- ◆ 8 Blue Sky **Christmas Tea Lights**, donated by John Sutey
- ◆ 5 Large **30th Anniversary Keepsake Golf Pin Flags**—donated by 30th Anniversary Committee. These are a Diamante collectible-perfect for framing!
- ◆ 5 Small **30th Anniversary Keepsake Golf Pin Flags**—donated by 30th Anniversary Committee. Commemorative and collectible!
- ◆ **'Pickleball People'** Door Mat, donated by Craig Staley/Bruce Cox
- ◆ A **Wine Basket**, including Diamante Etched Wine Glasses, donated by Karla and John Sebastiani and Heidi and Greg Hilbert
- ◆ **Set of 4 DOF Whiskey Glasses/Golf Ball Chill Stones/Whiskey Smoker Kit**, donated by Nicky and Jim Baker and Craig Staley and Bruce Cox
- ◆ Large 41" High **Jewelry Chest**, with 2 side doors, donated by John Sutey
- ◆ **Pickleball Charcuterie Board**, donated by Craig Staley and Bruce Cox

More donations are still coming in!

Make plans to attend both nights!



DPOA COCKTAIL PARTY FUNDRAISER

Saturday, July 19— 5 to 7 pm

DPOA Cocktail Party Reservation

Printed full name of person sending check Check# Dollar amount

All Diamante and DPOA Members and Property Owners - \$18.00

Guests-\$20.00

_____	_____
Full name	Full name
_____	_____
Full name	Full name
_____	_____
Full name	Full name
_____	_____
Full name	Full name
_____	_____
Full name	Full name

Please make your check payable to the DPOA

Call in your reservation by July 16, 2025 to:

**Ford Williams
8 Aventura Trace
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909
214.356.8283**

**or via email to:
ford.williams@me.com**



July DPOA Newsletter

DPOA Treasurer's Report

(Ford's back from vacation—so we have a report thru 6/30/25)

	6/30/2025 Actual Month to Date	6/30/2025 Actual Year to Date	12/31/2025 Estimated		6/30/2024 Actual Year to Date
			Remaining	Forecast	
Member dues	75	11,915	5,785	17,700	12,880
Additional dues	-	440	1,460	1,900	1,040
Total dues revenue	75	12,355	7,245	19,600	13,920
Landscape Maintenance	(720)	(6,334)	(8,766)	(15,100)	(4,803)
Sprinkler repair	-	-	(1,900)	(1,900)	-
Electrical repair	-	-	-	-	-
Flags	-	(152)	(48)	(200)	-
Holiday décor	-	-	(100)	(100)	-
Welcome baskets	-	(72)	(1,328)	(1,400)	(359)
Storage unit	-	(515)	-	(515)	(515)
Administrative costs	-	(146)	(154)	(300)	(134)
Total operational expenses	(720)	(7,219)	(12,296)	(19,515)	(5,811)
Net operating revenue (expense)	(645)	5,136	(5,051)	85	8,109
Net picnic	(55)	4,571	(5,710)	(1,139)	(214)
Net cocktail party	-	250	1,650	1,900	
Other fundraising	-	-	-	-	-
Net fundraising	(55)	4,821	(4,060)	761	(214)
Net revenue (expense)	(700)	9,957	(9,111)	846	7,895

Beginning Cash	14,817
Net revenue (expense)	9,957
Ending Cash	24,774
Emergency Reserve	(7,500)
Funds Available for Operations	17,274

As of June 30, 2025, 188 members paid \$16,280 in DPOA dues and additional contributions for 2025. \$3,925 was received in 2024 for 2025 dues, and \$12,355 was received in 2025 for 2025 dues. This compares to 167 members who paid \$14,520 in dues and additional contributions as of June 30, 2024 for 2024. All 2024 contributions were received in 2024.

If You Attend this Social Committee Event, You might be a Witness, or you could be the Victim!

JOIN US FOR A

Murder

MYSTERY DINNER



Calling all sleuths! There may be a crime to solve at our upcoming dinner.....prepare now to be part of an unforgettable evening to LAUGH and SOLVE during this evening of MURDER, MYSTERY & COMEDY!

A Murder Mystery Dinner Experience Unlike Anything Else!

July 24th

5:00pm Cocktails
5:45pm Dinner & Show

\$65.00

Join us for a 'killer' party

RSVP 501.922.1114



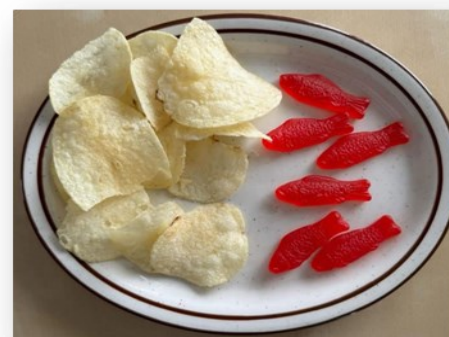
The Social Committee's Cookbooks are Coming!

Watch for updates in the DPOA's August newsletter and the Club's weekly bulletin about the 30th Anniversary Cookbook's final delivery date—and a recipe sampling event.

Unfortunately, two of my submissions didn't make the Editor's final cut:



Momma's No-Bake M&M Casserole



Couch Potato Fish & Chips

P.S. WHO KNEW THAT DYING COULD BE SO MUCH FUN?!?

July DPOA Newsletter

JULY 4th's Official Club Colors: Red, White, Blue *and YOU!*



July DPOA Newsletter

Red, White, Blue and YOU!



July DPOA Newsletter

Red, White, Blue and YOU!





July DPOA Newsletter



AROUND THE CLOCK

Member Profiles | Fun & Games | Volunteerism | Personnel



DPOA MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT:

DON KENNEDY & BILL MCGHEE

Note to self: don't ever try to find Fun & Games contestants hanging around the Clubhouse —at least not during the afternoon of a shotgun golf tournament. When these golfers' names get posted, they'll bolt from you faster than a shoplifter running from a Dollar General store manager! Eventually, I caught up with them to finish this month's game: **ROAD TRIP**. If you grew up in a large, Catholic family like I did, then you probably

had one of those 60's or 70's station wagons that hauled the tribe around—the kind with that jump seat in the very back—and the seat faced the traffic behind you? My siblings and I fought over that seat and eventually settled in to play "Slug Bug" or the license plate game—a road trip marathon game to see who could first identify and 'collect' the most individual state license plates of the cars and trucks passing us on the road.

Don and Bill's game is an adult version of the latter. I've shown them license plates of 12 states with their 2025 state slogans, and the gents needed to guess which state each is from. Before I share their scores, a bit more about each of these DPOA Members.

Don was born and grew up in Lawton, OK. He started playing golf at the age of 11, and hasn't quit. Don and Susan moved to Diamante from Plano, TX in 2020. Outside of Diamante, his favorite HSV course is Granada. He says that Diamante #2 gives him the most trouble, while #7 is his favorite. He fashions his game after Scottie Scheffler's (although Scottie would never be caught dead in that hat!). Asked how he fared in the Wednesday shotgun, Don said he won a skin with a birdie/net Eagle on #6. So why isn't #6 his favorite hole? Guess I'll never understand golf!

Bill is a native Arkansan, and proudly calls one of the 319 households in Humphrey, AR as his boyhood home. He and Lori spent many years in the Benton area before becoming Diamante Members in 2019. A late bloomer, Bill didn't begin playing golf until he was 55 (quick learner!). Bill's other favorite HSV course is also Granada. Diamante #2 appears to be *The Hole* that most challenges golfers here, but #17 is Bill's favorite hole on the DCC course. Maybe one of the reasons Bill has conquered the game so quickly is because he emulates the play of Tiger Woods. As far as the shotgun game goes, Bill says that he came in 2nd (this has not been verified as of this printing).

What I can verify is that Don beat Bill ever-so-slightly as they played **ROAD TRIP** head-to-head, with Don edging out Bill by two license places, and their **final scores being Don-9, Bill-7**.

The game starts on the next page. See if you can beat the guys' scores! Answers are on the last page.

DPOA Members Don Kennedy and Bill McGhee can be seen drag racing in their golf chariots, along the Princessa strip to the Clubhouse, to seek the latest shotgun pairings.

July DPOA Newsletter



Name Each Plate's State!

<Constitution State?
America's Dairyland?>



<Vacationland?
The Ocean State?>



<Wild, Wonderful?
Land of Enchantment?
>



<Live Free or Die?
Great Faces.
Great Places?>



<Garden State?
Sportsman's Paradise?>



<First in Flight?
Greatest Snow on Earth?>





July DPOA Newsletter

Imagine Mozart's Waltz in F Major, Paired with a Nice Austrian Wine, and Feast!

Celebrate the

WINES of Austria

with an Austrian Wine Dinner with Brice Saltzmann

Thursday, July 31

Welcome wine Christoph Hoch, Kalkspitz pet nat

First Course -- Jurtschitsch, "Stein", Grüner veltliner
paired with shrimp and avocado salad, grilled peach, lime vinaigrette

Second Course -- Vorspannhof Mayr, Zweigelt (red)
paired with pan seared pork belly on cauliflower puree, smoked onion salad, cherry gastrique

Third Course -- Wachter wiesler, Ried Weinberg blaufränkisch (red)
paired with black tea crusted goat cheese, blackberry pepper jam, lavosh

Fourth Course -- Vorspannhof, Grüner veltliner
paired with meyer lemon creme brulee, gingersnap cookie

Come at 6:00 pm to enjoy the welcome wine
and talk with our wine expert.

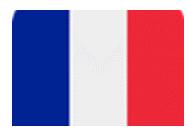
\$85.00++ per person

Reservations open July 8 at 9 am and
close July 18.

48-hour cancellation policy
501-922-1114



If you haven't had a chance to enjoy these dinners, you really should make plans to attend one. Not only are the dinners educational and the wines exceptional, you'll experience some of the best cuisine to come from the Diamante kitchen. Here's a sneak peek at Suzanne's plans for upcoming 30th Anniversary Wine Dinners:



August 28th features the South of France/ Trois Henry vineyard, and owner Brad Norton will join Brice Saltzmann.



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

July DPOA Newsletter

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

The German Wine Dinner 'es war Wunderbar'!



Greg, are those legs insured?



This was the sixth Wine Dinner of the year, and like it's predecessors, it didn't disappoint. Another amazing night thanks to Suzanne Iantosca, the 30th Anniversary Committee, Neyna and the Diamante kitchen and wait staffs.





July DPOA Newsletter

30th Anniversary Committee News

DIAMANTE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

An Unforgettable Night Awaits

OCTOBER 11TH, 2025

Get ready to celebrate 30 incredible years of memories, milestones, and moments that define what it means to be part of the Diamante family.

Join us for a spectacular evening under the stars as we honor our past and toast to the future. The 30th Anniversary Gala will feature:

- Cocktails at Sunset
- An Exquisite Dining Experience
- Live Music & Dancing Beneath the Stars
- Unforgettable Moments with Your Diamante Family

From elegant surroundings to heartfelt connections, this will be a night to remember — filled with laughter, stories, and the extraordinary spirit that makes Diamante so special.

Mark your calendar for **October 11th** and get ready to make new memories as we celebrate three decades of excellence, community, and celebration. This is more than a gala. It's a legacy in the making.

Reservations open Thursday, July 31st



Recent 30th Anniversary Committee's Drink Coupon winners pictured below.

From left to right: **Karen Exsted, Trish Lehtola, Jim Robinson and Renee Robinson.**

There are still lots of unclaimed coupons hidden on the Diamante property, with additional coupons being hidden at the end of every month—through the October celebration. Happy Hunting!

P.S. If you find one, take a selfie and send it to the Front Desk or to me: csbc801@gmail.com

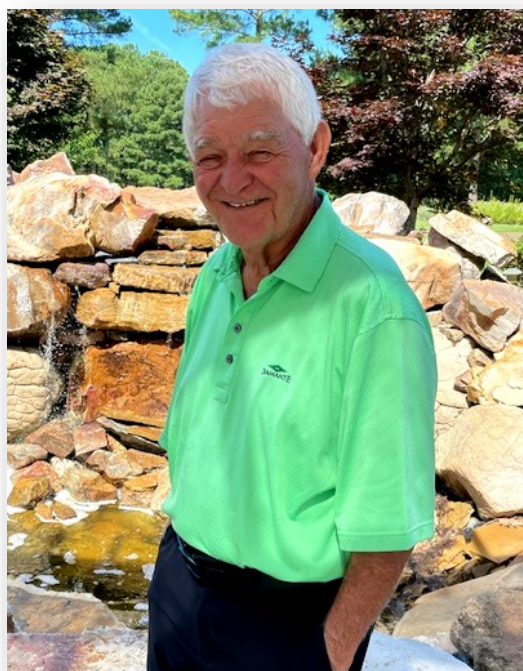




July DPOA Newsletter

AROUND THE CLOCK

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



DPOA VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

BRUCE GASAWAY

It's time you meet the DPOA Volunteer who has all the power—well, at least the largest budget. Bruce Gasaway has been in charge of oversight for all maintenance-related issues for the DPOA. He inherited this role about 3 years ago from a retiring DPOA Board Member. He's no stranger to budgets, or money, as Bruce still makes occasional trips down to Dumas, AR, where he attended school *and still serves on the Board of a local Dumas bank.*

Bruce is another native Arkansan, and was born in the thriving town of Pickens, AR. If Bruce would have been born just a few years earlier, his birth certificate would have read 'Walnut Lake', as this unincorporated area changed its name in 1932 to honor the Pickens family that settled the region. And if you don't know where Pickens is on the map, it's about 3 miles south of Dumas!

Bruce and his wife, Linda, enjoyed a condo on Lake Hamilton in the 80's. A friend introduced them to the Village and Diamante, and they bought a lot here to enjoy Diamante's course. They lived on Isabella for 12 years, and settled into their current Diamante home in 2022.

As a golf addict, Bruce enjoys the other HSV courses too. Cortez is his favorite, and he thinks Granada comes in second to Diamante in terms of overall beauty. He's a fan of Café Isabella and Mulligan's when it comes to other clubs and their golfer menus. Everybody seems to love Diamante's Sunday Brunch, and Bruce and Linda are no exception.

When he's not tending to DPOA maintenance responsibilities like mulching, mowing, trimming shrubs, landscaping the front entrances and fixing leaky irrigation systems, you can find him tending to many of the same chores at home. He really enjoys yardwork—and walking. He also enjoys spending time (and money?) with the ponies at Oaklawn, and added that his cousin's horse won the Kentucky Derby in 2024. For Bruce, horse racing is just an afternoon of 'pure enjoyment'. A favorite day trip for Bruce would have to be the drive to Devil's Dam, which is a natural rock formation inside of Devil's Den State Park. It's located about a half hour's drive outside of Fayetteville.

Golfing since 2011, Bruce says he still drives his original golf cart, but quickly added that that will probably change this year or next. His lowest score on the Diamante course is 72, a score that even his favorite golfer, Arnold Palmer, would covet!

Thank You, Bruce—for all you do for the DPOA—and for making the Diamante campus the best looking in HSV!

DPOA Member Bruce Gasaway shines his one and only golf cart at 52 Loyola Drive.



Business Tips & ‘Best Practices’— Helping Volunteers Achieve Success!



No matter how you feel, get up, get dressed and show up. You never know when or how others may be depending on you.

Show up early, not just on time. Being five minutes early says you value other people’s time.

There’s no such thing as a bad idea. Even if an idea can’t be implemented, it may spark other ideas or solutions than can be.

Involve everyone. Learn the backgrounds, interests and strengths of your peers and consider their expertise and interests, enabling them succeed.

Listen first, speak second. Focus fully on understanding an opportunity before responding.

Say what you mean clearly. Use simple words, give direct answers and make decisions.



Bring solutions, not just problems. Come with ideas to solve issues—just pointing them out.

Keep your word, every time. Do what you promise, even when it’s hard or no one notices.

You don’t need to win every argument—agree to disagree, respectfully.

Go the extra mile, consistently. Do a little more than what’s expected in everything you tackle.

Under promise and over deliver, and seek advice when needed. You’ll be a superstar.

Take ownership when you mess up. So you’re not perfect. We all make mistakes. Just own it instead of making excuses or blaming others.

Ask for honest feedback. And, at critical stages.

What others may think of you is none of your business. Master this, and you’ll have added energy to dedicate to the team.



Make room for others to shine and recognize them when they succeed. Public/peer recognition is a powerful incentive for individuals to do well.

Stay curious, not judgmental. Ask questions to understand rather than jumping to conclusions.

Not everyone you meet is going to be your best friend. It’s ok to be different and have different opinions, goals and objectives. After all, we each have different life experiences to contribute.

Every project should have KPIs for Success. Key Performance Indicators help to evaluate whether an effort was successful—or worthwhile. Don’t forget to evaluate ‘time’ too. Set goals before a project kicks off, not after.

Make time for post mortems. What did we learn? Where can we improve? If we do it again, what do we want to change? Customers feedback? Did we make money (goal or ROI)?



Above all else: remember that your fellow committee Members are Volunteers too. They don’t need to be here, they’re offering to help!

Two Sports for One Cause:

'Cover the Courts' Fundraiser, Silent & Live Auction/May 2025



Congrats to the winners of the 'Cover the Courts' Golf Tournament and all the winners at the Silent & Live Auction Event, held in May. Your participation, sponsorships and donations contributed \$29K to the campaign's effort!

The Court Sports Volunteers were the REAL winners!

Congrats!





On Your Mark, Get Set, GOLF!

The Diamante Golf Classic, June 2025



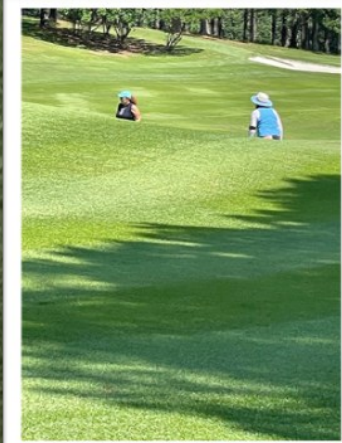
Random Member Shots

from Random Diamante Spots



July DPOA Newsletter

Just Another Day in Paradise





July DPOA Newsletter

AROUND THE CLOCK

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UP CLOSE AND ‘PERSONNEL’:

KATHI PAULSON

What a delight it was to spend some time with Kathi Paulson, aka “the Front Desk”, for this month’s Club personnel profile! Kathi was born in Casper, WY, but has strong ties to the Arkansas area. Her father lives in Arkansas, while her mother is a resident of Casper. And Kathi’s husband, Roy, now a retired dentist of 30 years, was born in Hot Springs. Kathi worked for over 10 years at Rocky Mountain Power Company. In their down-time, she and Roy enjoyed golf and the club life at the Casper Country Club, Paradise Valley and a 3rd club on the other side of town. Given their outdoorsy lifestyle, their biggest frustration was that one can only, reliably golf 4 months out of the year in Casper.

As her husband neared retirement age, HSV was at the top of their consideration list. Being familiar with this area and it having a much longer golf season, plus the beauty of the state, HSV made their relo decision much easier. They bought a lot on Isabella in 2014 and moved here in 2021. Kathi’s been employed at the Club for almost 3 years, and

shared that her current role is a ‘dream’ job. She added that Roy works in the cart barn periodically. They both enjoy golfing when they can, and she loves several of the other employee perks—especially the Sunday brunch omelets and the eggrolls! What makes her job especially rewarding is that the Diamante Members “are so good to me”. The most frequently asked questions from visitors appearing at her desk? “What’s the price for Membership?” and, “What are the demographics of the Club?”

Kathi said that she loves the energy that Paul Murrison has brought to the Club. This energy and pride trickles down to the employees, and with all of the new activities, there’s a noticeable impact. Members are coming back to the Clubhouse—*even by themselves!* When asked about her favorite activities, she couldn’t name one. She named five! St. Pat’s was a ‘huge hit’. Motown was a ‘blast’. One of the best attended events was the Galentine party. She thinks that Taco Tuesday is ‘fantastic’ as it’s a weekly, affordable gathering for Members and takes advantage of the patio area. And, she’s heard rave reviews about the DPOA Picnic.

From her vantage point, Kathi sees one of the biggest challenges for the staff is to deliver ‘consistency’ when it comes to the Members’ experience. She knows firsthand that Members pay a lot of money to belong to a Club, and they have a right to expect consistency in all aspects of Club operations. It’s human nature, she said, ‘if you do a bad job, that person will tell 10 people. If you do a good job, they’ll only tell 1’. Kathi’s made it her personal mission to ‘always exceed’ Members’ expectations.

Kathi’s guilty pleasure: Knob Creek. Her favorite food: homemade chicken & noodles—her grandmother’s recipe, with the mashed potatoes! Favorite vacation spot: it used to be HSV, but now that they live here, it would have to be Hawaii—and Maui. Kathi’s favorite Hot Springs attraction: the petting zoo at the Alligator Farm where you can pet the baby alligators.

Our favorite things **about** Kathi: her smile, her kindness, her willingness to help, her knowledge of the Club—and most of all—her daily contributions that allow us all to enjoy our memberships at Diamante. **Thanks for all you do, Kathi!**

Kathi and Ray Paulson keep in touch with their 6 children and 10 grandchildren weekly from their home on the Isabella Golf Course, in Hot Springs Village.

Here's to another year of your questionable life choices!

July Birthdays



- 2nd Ralph Hamner
- 3rd Janice Harvey
- 4th Bill Noirt
- 6th Roy Hopkinson
- 7th Paige Baumbach
Kurt Heinrich
Thomas Koski
- 8th Sissy Toney
- 9th Jocelyn Robbins
- 10th Robin Persson
Donald Kennedy
- 12th Phil Matzat
Charolette Paul
- 13th Monique Lynne
Maeva Kleinschmidt
Debbie Cox
- 14th Linda Maxey
- 17th Curtis Mundie
Doug Picano
Phil Tyree
- 18th Carla Enna
- 20th Leeann Newcomb
Bill Gianutis
- 21st Christine Hopkinson
Marynall Brusenhan
- 22nd Jan Coggins
- 24th Mickey Stant
Nancy Burk
- 25th James Robinson
- 26th Cornell Woods
- 27th Mark Anstad
- 28th Tom Stant
Mark Kincaid
- 29th Maxwell Wetzel

**“The older you get—the better you get.
Unless you’re a banana.” —Betty White**

*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.



Getting to Know Our Adopted State:

Did You know that Rice is King in Arkansas?

Once you make the curve around the southern tip of Little Rock, on your way to Memphis, you start to notice the terrain changing. Gone are the pine trees of the Village. In their place, miles and miles of flat lands—some marsh-like and others more like prairie. Welcome to the home of East Arkansas' rice fields!

The rice industry in Arkansas is rooted in the early 20th century, with significant growth during the World War II era. In fact, Arkansas has become the leading rice-producing state in the US and the state's crop accounts for over 40% of the nation's rice production. If you look at the map below, it's grown primarily in the eastern part of the state (green areas), but it's expanded to over half of Arkansas' counties.

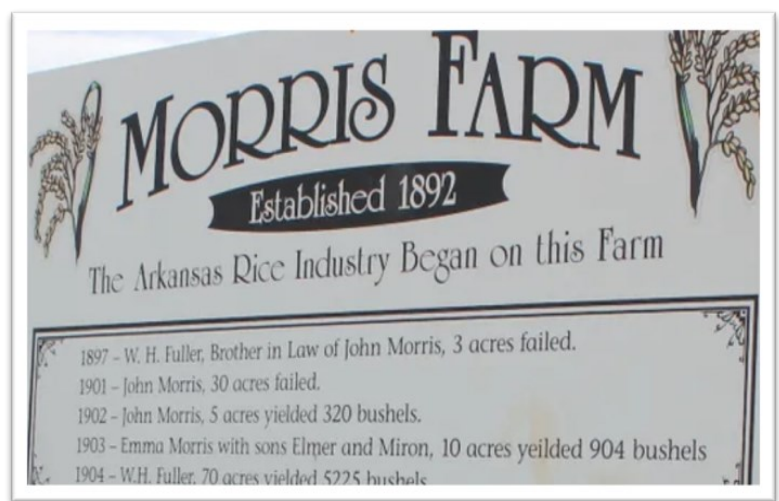
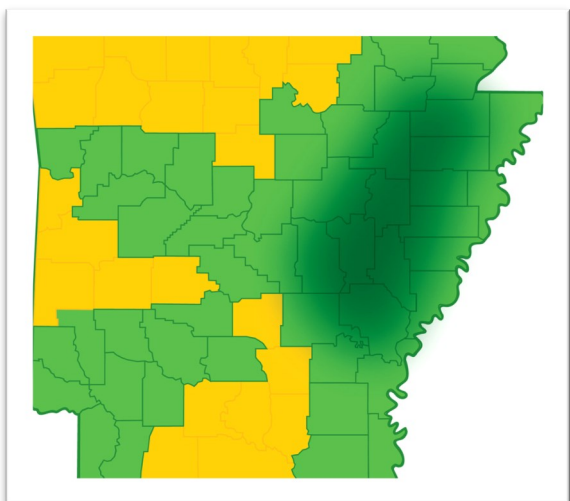
While some historical records suggest rice was grown in Arkansas before the Civil War, large-scale production credits the work of W.H. Fuller in the early 1900s for its modern day expansion. W.H. Fuller, inspired by rice cultivation in Louisiana, began experimenting with rice on his farm in Lonoke County in 1903. After initial setbacks, he returned to Louisiana to learn rice farming techniques. He returned in 1904 and, with investors, planted 70 acres, producing a substantial yield. His success inspired other farmers, and by 1910, rice production, research, and milling were established in Arkansas. The industry saw further expansion after World War II due to advancements in farm mechanization.

Beyond Fuller, individuals like John Morris and his wife Emma played a crucial role in establishing the early rice industry. The Morris family, near Carlisle, continues to farm rice to this day, representing five generations of rice farmers. And, the Riceland Food Cooperative has become the major rice miller and area rice farmers' gateway to the global market. Stuttgart, Arkansas, is often called the "Rice Capital of the World" due to its central role in rice production and processing.

Today, rice is grown in more than 40 of the state's 75 counties, as farms have expanded west and south to the Ouachita and Red River Valleys. Varieties include long and medium grain rice's, including Wells and Bengal, two varieties developed by Arkansas universities. There's also a variety called Yamada Nishiki that's primarily used to produce Sake, hence Arkansas' first and only Sake brewery in Hot Springs, called Origami Sake.

The rice crop is vital to Arkansas' agricultural community, with its annual harvest generating more than a Billion dollars to the state's economy. The industry is also credited with employing more than 25,000 Arkansans. The state saluted this crop in 2007 by naming rice as its official state grain.

Did you notice that Diamante has 5 potato side dishes on its menu, but not one permanent entry to salute Arkansas' #1 crop? Bring on the rice sides! And, how about a Sake Festival while we're at it!



Up Next Month—

Surge in lactose intolerance causes shortage of milk jugs amongst Diamante residents, forcing cancelation of its August Milk Carton Boat Races.



Editor's Note: the recent flooding in Texas was not only horrific, but very close to home for many of Diamante's transplants from the area. Some of you may still have family and friends living in the area. The Hill Country is arguably the most beautiful part of Texas, but it's history of flooding also makes it one of the most treacherous areas to live in. When natural disasters like this happen, I tend to shy away from the more familiar relief organizations as I want my contributions to *go directly* to the families most affected and in need. If you would like to help, but don't want your donation going towards administrative costs, staff salaries and unsolicited marketing campaigns for the next 12 months, consider two local Hill Country organizations that are working directly with victims' families to help recovery efforts and provide immediate assistance.

Learn more on their websites:

Texsar.networkforgood.com

Cftexashillcountry.fcsuite.com



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ROAD TRIP RESULTS:

<Constitution State

Connecticut

America's Dairyland>

Wisconsin

<Vacationland

Maine

The Ocean State>

Rhode Island

<Wild, Wonderful

West Virginia

Land of Enchantment>

New Mexico

<Live Free or Die

New Hampshire

Great Faces.

Great Places>

South Dakota

<Garden State

New Jersey

Sportsman's Paradise>

Louisiana

<First in Flight

North Carolina

Greatest Snow on Earth>

Utah

