

DPOA News & Events

Official Newsletter from Your
Diamante Property Owners Association

Dear Neighbors!

As the end of a year arrives, we often reflect on the challenges that we have accomplished, as well as those that still need to be addressed. With your indulgence, I would like to highlight some of the challenges that your DPOA completed this year, which should, I hope, get you all excited about those projects under consideration that will be addressed going forward into the new year.

Earlier this year, we repaired the Maderas entrance post, painted the fire hydrants throughout our community, and convinced the Hot Springs Village POA to help fill some of the sunken spots in our roads. We began retiling the Diamante entrance walls, as well as repair the Realeza entrance structure. We secured the repair to the light pole on Diamante Boulevard that was damaged by a construction truck, and we gave a sizable donation that helped with the purchase of the new clock next to Diamante's putting green. We purchased two sets of tables and chairs for the clubhouse's patio, which will provide 20 additional seats. Obviously, these additions will be needed for our upcoming annual DPOA picnic, as well as throughout the upcoming new year. We continually provide welcome baskets to new property owners, and we send

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Talking Points

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the monthly **DPOA News & Events** newsletter to all active DPOA members. Last, but certainly not least, both new and replacement Christmas decorations were purchased. I think you will agree that the reindeers that were added to the sleigh are beautiful (*see page 4 of this newsletter*). To say that 2022 has been a busy year is an understatement. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the support of our dues-paying members, the many volunteers that offer their talents and skills, and the volunteers who serve on the DPOA board.

In this *Dear Neighbors!* letter, I talk about “moving forward” virtually every month. Yes...I believe that we need to check the rear-view mirror, but we must always focus on the windshield. So, moving forward, your DPOA board is determined to tackle projects that enhance the lives of our members’ community. Some assignments under consideration for the upcoming year include continuing the process of repairing the sunken spots in the roads, repairing the clubhouse drive wall, and ensuring that all mowing and lighting are up to the standards that our community needs, just to name a few missions under consideration.

Thanks to each of you, Diamante is a beautiful place in which to live, and it offers each of us the opportunity to share our special surroundings with the greatest of all neighbors. To help ensure that our community maintains its exceptional surroundings, we always welcome your suggestions to help maintain and enhance the Diamante experience.

Finally, I will be in Florida for the first few months of 2023, but I will be available by telephone and email. Rest assured, your dedicated DPOA board members will ensure that we keep moving forward. ♦

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

—Donna Fleharty, DPOA President

Treasurer’s Report

As of December 12, 2022

Membership

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

Fund Balances

Funds available for operations:

\$15,853.58

Reserve (emergency) funds:

\$7,500.00

Total funds:

\$23,353.58

Invoices for the 2023 annual dues will be mailed to all Diamante property owners in early January.

Upon receipt of your invoice, please renew your DPOA membership by paying your \$75.00 annual DPOA dues for 2023.

NANCY WEBB



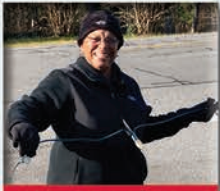
The **DPOA News & Events** newsletter is published monthly and sent only to dues-paying DPOA members. If you have questions, need information, or would like to submit an article of interest, please contact your editor, Dana Peick, or one of the DPOA Board Members.

Exterior Lights

Volunteers Spreading Christmas Cheer!

On Monday, November 28th, 32 Diamante members decorated the Diamante entrances with lights, garland, deer figurines, ribbons, bows, and, of course, Santa's sleigh. It was a brisk morning, and the workers did a great job, which should make Diamante residents proud. A special "thank you" is extended to Marilyn Phelan who brought cookies for the group. Hopefully, the list of the volunteers that follows is complete. The good news is that Santa also has this list. **—Phil Tyree**

Nora Bergfield, Randy Bergfield, Jim Bodge, David Brady, Tom Ellers, Scott Finnell, Donna Fleharty, Mike Fleharty, Jim Fulton, Linda Fulton, Bruce Gasaway, Chris Gleason, Carol Hamner, Ralph Hamner, Ada Harsch, Carl Harsch, Greg Hilbert, Keith Hughes, Mark Kincaid, Steve Lux, Roy Marsh, John Matthews, Martha McKindra, Kevin McMillin, Neil Phelan, Mark Phelps, Dan Quandt, Karla Sebastiani, Chuck Stofer, Bob Walker, James Williams, and Doug Zook. ♦



Martha McKindra



Keith Hughes



Doug Zook, Martha McKindra, Carol Hamner, James Williams



James Williams, Steve Lux, David Brady



Kevin McMillin



Jim Bodge, Keith Hughes, Carl Harsch



Greg Hilbert



Karla Sebastiani



Bruce Gasaway with other volunteers



Dan Quandt



Carol Hamner, Nora Bergfield



Chuck Stofer, Steve Lux, David Brady



Donna Fleharty, Linda Fulton

Exterior Lights

Our Friends Made the Season Bright!





Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jinglers All the Way!

I hope every member of the Diamante Country Club had a very Merry Christmas. Our community is the best place to be during the Christmas holidays, which was especially true for those who were at the homes visited by the **Diamante Jinglers**, Diamante's newest Christmas act. Yes, the **Diamante Jinglers** marked the first year for the return of an old tradition at Diamante—Christmas caroling from door to door to enhance the Christmas spirit. The best vocalists found within the United States and Canada make up the **Diamante Jinglers**. They include Phil and Suzanne Iantosca, Kevin and Devvie McMillin, Fred and Stephanie Noblett, Neil and Marilyn Phelan, Jess and Janice Stephens, Mike and Janice Tarver, and Thad and Andrea Woodside. We decorated our golf carts, put on costumes, and went from door to door singing in celebration of the Christmas season. I was the elf who got down from the shelf. We were blessed with nine gracious hosts who revived our singing efforts with refreshments along the way. These include Wesley and Janice Harvey with their guests, the McGhees, Doyles, and Hibbs; Gerry and Connie Vaden with their guests, the Picanos, Beans, and Wrens; Randy and Nora Bergfield with their guests, the Fultons, Bodes, and Robinsons; Kim and Mike Lefebvre with their family; Dana Peick and John Gourlay with their puppy, who really enjoyed the singing; Jeff and Susan Hayes; Al and Pat Bowles; and Carl and Ada Harsch. Thank you all for the wonderful treats. In addition to traditional Christmas carols, we sang a new song that I wrote for the occasion, "Grandpa Got Run Over by a Golf Cart," a carol that is sure to make the top ten in Christmas songs. I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas holiday and that each of you got everything that you asked for from Santa. Remember, Santa knew when you were naughty and nice on the golf course! —Neil Phelan, Jr.

Diamante Jingers Went A-Caroling!



Crucial Home To-Do Checklists

As a homeowner, especially after the recent record-breaking cold temperatures that we have experienced, you know that cooler temperatures bring changes in your home, especially to your heating bill. Although the best time to start winterizing your home is before the winter weather arrives, you may still choose to visit the hardware store to pick up ice melt and/or salt. Being prepared for the winter season in Arkansas is important.

Cleaning the gutters and weeding the garden are tasks that come with visible reminders during the summer months, but how are we reminded about the other maintenance tasks that might not be as noticeable in the fall and in the beginning of winter? The following lists include some essential home maintenance tasks that are often overlooked.

APPLIANCES—If you want your appliances to last for the long haul with fewer repair calls, then they need regular care and tune-ups:

- Change and clean the refrigerator drip pan.
- Wash your dryer's lint-gathering screen.
- Clean the condenser coils on your refrigerator.
- Change the water filter on your ice maker.

HVAC SYSTEMS—Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems need consistent upkeep to perform their best, which can lower energy bills.

- Check your furnace. Provide basic maintenance to keep your heating systems running smoothly throughout the winter.
- Clean the ducts and vents.
- Clean or change your furnace filter, and replace your filter at least every 3 months. Having your furnace cleaned and checked annually by a professional is recommended.
- Apply caulk around your window trims, and replace any deteriorated weather stripping to help seal in the warm air. Drafts around your windows and doors will waste energy as your furnace works harder to warm the cool air. You can also make a simple door-draft blocker to help keep heat from escaping under your door.
- Test your thermostat and heating system. If possible, schedule your furnace or heating system to be serviced before the winter season begins. Consider installing a new programmable thermostat that allows you to adjust or schedule temperatures, which may also reduce your energy bill.

PLUMBING—Snaking the drain for a few hair clogs is not effective enough to keep your

plumbing system in good working order. Be sure you also consider completing the following tasks:

- Flush the water heater.
- Check your pipes for leaks.
- Insulate your pipes in your crawl space and garage. You can purchase pipe sleeves for a short-term fix to help prevent pipes from freezing or bursting.
- Check the sprinkler system's water pressure. Winterize your sprinkler system by shutting off the water supply before freezing temperatures arrive. Drain the pipes to help prevent them from freezing during sudden cold snaps.
- Disconnect any outside hoses from the spout, and shut off water to those sources. If you have a swimming pool or an outdoor fountain, then drain and protect them as well.

SAFETY SYSTEMS—To ensure that your loved ones and belongings are safe in your home, perform the following safety checks:

- Replace the batteries in your smoke detectors.
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test your security alarm and home-access codes.
- Inspect your fence or gate for vulnerabilities.
- Hire a professional chimney sweep to clean and inspect your chimney. If you have a gas fireplace, your chimney and flue should be inspected for any blockages.
- A professional will also inspect the gas lines and vents for leaks and make necessary repairs.

OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE

- Protect your plants. If temperatures drop below 45 degrees, bring small plants indoors. For larger plants and trees, take extra steps to protect them during cooler weather.
- If possible, move outdoor equipment, furniture, and appliances into your garage or storage area. Clean and disconnect gas grills before moving them inside to ensure that they are safely stored. If storing furniture and grills inside is not an option, then you can purchase covers to protect them from the outdoor elements.
- Inspect your roof and gutters. Schedule a roof inspection to detect any problem areas. Missing shingles or clogged gutters may leave you vulnerable to damage during the winter months.

Review these checklists every few months to keep your home in top condition and your loved ones safe. ♦ —Heidi Hilbert



10 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE AMERICAN FLAG

The American flag is more than a simple fabric design. it represents the foundation of our country's structure. As a sign of the freedom we cherish, it has been carried around the world as a representation of American pride.

1 There have been 27 versions of the American Flag. The original flag in 1777 had 13 stars and 13 stripes for the American colonies.

2 The flag can be displayed for all 24 hours. Although a federal law states that the flag should be displayed from sunrise to sunset, there are measures that can be taken to show the flag for all 24 hours unless there is inclement weather. To be displayed in the evening, proper illumination of the flag should be added.

3 The colors were carefully selected. The red, white, and blue colors did not happen by accident. The founding fathers intended for the colors to convey more than aesthetic appeal. Red symbolizes hardiness and valor, white symbolizes purity and innocence, and blue represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

4 Today's flag was not professionally designed. In 1958, the design was entered in a contest by Robert G. Heft, a high school student from Lancaster, Ohio, who was only 17 years of age at the time. Out of more than 1,500 submissions, President Dwight Eisenhower selected his design.

5 Today's flag is the only one to have lasted more than 50 years. Although there have been many changes to the design of the flag, we currently observe the longest-running iteration of the symbol, probably because no states have been added to the union since 1959.

6 The *Star-Spangled Banner* was written and sold in 2011. The flag that flew at Fort McHenry, immortalized by Francis Scott Key, is a 2"x 5" swatch. This fragment brought a staggering \$38,000 at auction in 2011. The National Museum of American History of the Smithsonian Institution houses the remaining portions of the flag.

7 The Flag has a national day of recognition. After years of local celebrations, Flag Day, which commemorates the passing of the Flag Resolution of 1777, was officially declared by President Woodrow Wilson on May 30, 1916.

8 Flags should be disposed of in a "dignified manner." An American flag can be burned with respect if it is beyond repair and needs to be disposed. On Memorial Day or the 4th of July, citizens can take part in flag-burning events that are held in several localities across the nation.

9 The flag can touch the ground and still be used. The belief that once a flag touches the ground, it must be destroyed or burned, is not accurate. A flag that has become soiled or has touched the ground can still be used after being washed and dry cleaned.

10 Five American Flags have made it to the moon. Although Neil Armstrong most likely planted the American flag on the moon, others have also done so. At the conclusion of the 12, 14, 15, 16, and 17th Apollo missions, an astronaut planted a flag on the moon. ♦ **—Heidi Hilbert**



MASCOT of Our Neighborhood Watch Program

The mascot of the National Neighborhood Watch Program is Boris the Burglar. He serves as an example of the type of criminal to watch out for when searching one's neighborhood for criminal activity. He also serves as one of the Neighborhood Watch Program's trademarked iconography. Created by an unidentified source in 1972, which was the same year the Neighborhood Watch Program was established, Boris serves as one of the popular symbols for the organization.



The Boris the Burglar logo is simple in appearance. He covers most of his body in a bulky black trench coat, and his face is mostly hidden by a triangular-tipped fedora. Because of his dark, black wardrobe, only his white eyes are completely visible.

The creation of Boris is meant to serve as a warning to the public to never let the threat of burglaries, vandalism, and various other neighborhood-prominent criminal activity go unmonitored. By using Boris the Burglar logo to condemn

the threat of neighborhood criminal activity, local Americans are promoting the importance of safety, staying alert, and forming a healthy relationship with law enforcement.

The National Security Agency (NSA) must approve the usage of Boris the Burglar and the other Neighborhood Watch icons. The organization's symbology may be used only with permission, which must be requested in writing via mail. ♦ **—Heidi Hilbert**

Diamante Neighborhoods Crime Watch Block Captains



Al Bowles

Granada Drive, all Blocks; Granada Lane, all Blocks; Granada Loop, all Blocks; Granada Place and Granada Trace, all Blocks; Morro Lane, all Blocks; Morro Place, all Blocks

Winford Bradford

Alcazaba Way, Blocks 1-13

David Clark

Cruzado Lane, Block 24, Lots 1-11

Chris Gleason

Juego Way, Blocks 1-13

Heidi Hilbert

Princesa Drive, all Blocks

Keith Hughes

Loyola Drive, Block 3, Lots 1-18

Manny Machuca

Vera Lane, Block 20, Lots 1-5

Sylvia and John Matthews

Loyola Circle, Block 1, Lots 1-14; all of Block 5

Neil and Marilyn Phelan

Loyola Place, Block 1, Lots 1-15

Ted Schramm

Realeza Court, Block 1, all of the Villas

Jess Stephens

Darro Way, Block 15, Lots 19-31

Suzanne Stofer

Princesa Place and Princesa Trace, all Blocks

Phil Tyree

Darro Way, Block 15, Lots 1-18

Bob Walker

Poema Lane, lots 1-19, all of Block 21

Mike Walters

Loyola Way, Block 3, Lots 20-29

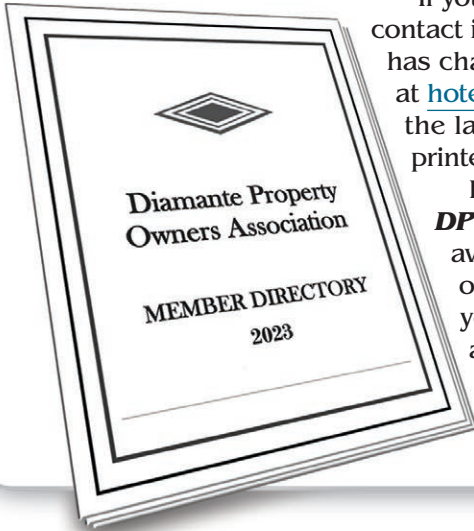
Doug Zook

Estado Circle, Block 22, Lots 1-16

Block Captains Needed for: (1) Alcazaba Way, Block 14, Lots 1-13; (2) Alhaja Way, Block 16, Lots 1-11; (2) Alhaja Way, Block 16, Lots 12-14; all of Block 18; (4) Alhaja Lane, Block 17, Lots 1-11; (4) Granada Way, Block 7, Lots 1-11, Block 8, Lots 1-11; (5) Redondo Trace, all Blocks

PRINTED MEMBER DIRECTORIES

If you would like to order a printed copy of the **DPOA Member Directory** in a three-ring binder, or if you simply want to order only printed pages for an existing binder, then please send an e-mail to Donna Fleharty at dfleharty4581@gmail.com. Printed pages with a three-ring binder will cost \$20.00, and printed pages for an existing binder will cost \$10.00.



If you were not in the last version of the **DPOA Member Directory** or if your contact information—mailing address, telephone number, and/or e-mail address—has changed or if you want to add a photo, then please contact Sylvia Matthews at hotexans@att.net to ensure that your changes or additions will be included in the last printed version of the **DPOA Member Directory**. The binders and the printed pages will be available after the first of 2023.

Finally, and most importantly, this offer to order a printed version of the **DPOA Member Directory** will be the last. Going forward, the Directory will be available only on the Diamante website and will no longer include pictures of the listed members. With such a phenomenal history of service, when you see Sylvia Matthews, please do not hesitate to express your appreciation and thankfulness for so many tireless years that she has spent to create and provide our **Member Directory**, which has allowed us to directly communicate with one another. ♦ —Donna Fleharty

THANK YOU, SYLVIA!

*When we look back on this year,
we must be so grateful for all
that we have done together.
Let's make 2023 our best year yet!*



DPOA Board

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Did you know that the past issues of Diamante newsletters reveal fascinating facts? One can learn about a “holiday happening” to a Club member and how holiday parties have changed over the years. Happy reading!!

- 1** Diamante held its first special Christmas dinner in 1995. The menu for “Christmas, Caribbean Style” included jerk pork and pineapple chicken.
- 2** Sunday Brunch with Santa Claus began in 1996, with an opportunity each year for members and their children and grandchildren to greet Santa and to share their requests with him.
- 3** The first Diamante Caroling Party was held in 1999. Members met at the Club for heavy hors d’oeuvres and cocktails. Later, they sang Christmas carols in golf carts along Diamante Boulevard or took cars and vans to sing at Good Samaritan Society. Coffee and dessert at the Club followed the singing.
- 4** New Year’s Eve parties started in 1995 with semi-formal attire, heavy hors d’oeuvres, valet parking, a band with dancing, a full breakfast buffet at midnight, and a champagne toast.
- 5** Parties in 1996 and 1997 included an open bar.
- 6** The “Black & White Millennium Ball” on December 31, 1999, included a plated dinner and was sold out in September.
- 7** Diamante members could ring in 2001 with a choice: a formal New Year’s Eve in the clubhouse with a band, which sold out in August with a waiting list, or a casual jeans and denim party in the cart barn with beer and wine and a DJ. Openings for this choice were still available in December.
- 8** The December 2000 *Diamond Exchange* reported, “June Russell was the center of attention years ago when she walked into the first-grade classroom as Santa. The children cheered and screamed with excitement. Everyone was happy to see Santa...except for one little boy. He ran over to Santa and kicked her in the shin saying, ‘That’s for not bringing me what I asked for last year.’ June said, ‘It was a small foot, and thank goodness for Santa’s tall boots, but it still hurt and the shock effect was even worse.’” ♦

—Jeanne Godbold

