

DPOA News & Events

Official Newsletter from Your
Diamante Property Owners Association

November 2021, Issue 11

Dear Neighbors!

"The golf swing is like a suitcase into which we are trying to pack one too many things," John Updike said. "I have a tip that can take off five strokes of anyone's golf game. It is called an eraser," Arnold Palmer said.

I personally want to thank Alice Hinckley and Dennis Riordan for the past 3 years of volunteering to be on the DPOA Board of Directors. The Board has greatly benefited by their professional help and guidance. We have three new individuals who have volunteered to be members—Janice Tarver, Nancy Webb, and Doug Zook will be the new DPOA Board members, beginning in January of 2022. I, the present DPOA President, will be staying on until April, when Donna Fleharty will be taking over as the new President of the DPOA Board of Directors.

In November, my wife, Melissa, and I attended the dinner and movie presentation of the "Golden Girls" at the Diamante clubhouse. What a fantastic presentation, which was directed by Faith Heinrichs! Our hats go off to her and to the entire cast! (See the article on page 6.)

The DPOA Board members hope that everybody had a very Happy Thanksgiving and that each of you are looking forward to this year's Christmas season! Since Melissa and I have

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Talking Points

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lived in Diamante, this year was the most colorful Fall in the last 5 years.

On the Monday after Thanksgiving, two DPOA Board members and several volunteers put up our annual Christmas decorations and exterior lights at the entrances of the Diamante neighborhoods (see article on page 3). We hope you enjoy the beautiful “job well done” as you pass through the entrance to your Diamante home. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** ♦

—*Bob Walker, DPOA President*



As each DPOA Board Member ends his or her 3-year term, the number of contributed articles become fewer and fewer. As a result, beginning with the January 2022 issue of the *DPOA News & Events*, we are inviting our readers to submit any article, with or without photographic images or illustrations, for consideration of inclusion in any future DPOA newsletter.

As the title of our newsletter suggests, submitted topics should provide information that would be of interest to our readers. Although the first-choice topics would normally provide news and events related to the Diamante neighborhoods and the Diamante Members Club, articles related to Hot Springs Village and the state of Arkansas would also be welcome. If you are interested in contributing an article for inclusion in future DPOA newsletters, please contact me, the editor of the *DPOA News & Events*. My contact information is on the last page of this of the newsletter. ♦ —*Dana Peick*



Treasurer's Report

As of November 10, 2021

Membership

219 members representing
217 properties and
4 nonresident members
for a total of 221 dues paid
representing 267 eligible properties

Fund Balances

Funds available for operations:

\$14,189.96

Reserve (emergency) funds:

\$7,500.00

Total funds:

\$21,689.96

If you haven't already done so, please consider becoming an active DPOA member with payment of your \$75.00 annual DPOA dues.

ALICE HINCKLEY



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

Lighting Up the Diamante Community in Celebration of the Christmas Holiday!

A hearty group of Diamante members met on Monday, November 29th, to put up this year's Christmas lights and decorations. The workers used lights, garlands, and balls to decorate the six Diamante housing entrances in

celebration of the Christmas season. Santa's helpers included Jim Bodge, Tom Ellers, Mike Fleharty, Bruce Gassaway, Kevin McMillan, Neil Phelan, Dennis Riordan, Chuck Stofer, and Doug Zook. ♦
—Phil Tyree



MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

THOMAS AND NANCY KOSKI

Tom was born in L'Anse, Michigan, and earned a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree from Eastern Michigan University. He was drafted in 1966 and served 2 years in the United States Army with one tour in Vietnam. Nancy was born in Dayton, Ohio, and earned her BBA degree from Bowling Green State University.

In 1983, Nancy and Tom met and became friends. Several years later, Tom relocated to Las Vegas and continued his career in insurance claims adjusting, and Nancy worked as the Controller in an Allstate office in Jackson, Mississippi. Periodically, Nancy would travel to California through Las Vegas and would reconnect with Tom. After they started dating and Nancy's office was scheduled to close, Nancy relocated to Las Vegas in 1999. Tom and Nancy were married in 2000.

"We lived in Las Vegas for 4 years. In 2003, we traveled to Hot Springs to play golf and attend the races at Oaklawn. Since Diamante was a ClubCorp course, we played it that Spring!"

In 2004, family needs required that they relocate to Osage Beach, Missouri. For years, they owned and operated a *Just for Dogs n Cats* retail store. "Since we loved Arkansas, our vacations were trips to Hot Springs and to the Oaklawn racetrack. In 2015, we sold our business to one of our employees and moved back into the same neighborhood in Las Vegas and rejoined the same Club,

picking up where we left off with old friends and the golf groups from our first stint in Las Vegas. Yes...you **can** go home again!"

"In 2020, we decided to search for a place with a quieter lifestyle and found our home in the Diamante community...which checked all of the boxes for us!" To top it off, their two rescue dogs, Penny and Echo, loved the critters of Arkansas that have been fun to bark at.

Nancy is an active member of both the DWGA-9 Hole golf group and the HSV Women's Golf Association 18-Hole Social League and will assume the position of Secretary in the upcoming year. Tom is a fixture at the beautiful Diamante practice facility and enjoys playing golf in the afternoon. Both Nancy and Tom have enjoyed being members of the Guys and Dolls and look forward to **"Living the Good Life"** throughout the upcoming years. ♦



"Diamante and its surrounding areas offer golf, a casino, and a racetrack in a gorgeous part of the country, which checked all of the boxes for us! We love 'Living the Good Life' here in the Diamante Members Club and its communities."

Maintenance

Rapidly Changing Seasons Are Around Us!

As the seasons change, so do our responsibilities to keep our property looking beautiful. Since the Fall season has arrived, the leaves are falling. Everyone is out blowing leaves, and some seem

to enjoy it! We should not be surprised that people enjoy it so much because leaf blowing has been around for a long time.

Through the years, scientists have discovered through a series of complicated mathematics that it is easier to blow leaves with the wind than against it. The formula used is the circumference of your yard times **Pi R-squared**, divided by the speed of the wind in kilometers per hour. The interesting thing about this formula is that no matter what numbers you plug into the equation, you always get the same answer—**FOREVER!**



To take care of our leaves at the entrance of Diamante Boulevard, we retained the same contractor that mowed the entrance through December. You may have noticed the residual funds of \$7,500 in the DPOA budget each month. Those funds are put aside to repair the aged sprinkler system that keeps the grass watered along the entrance of Diamante Boulevard. We turn the system on and off as the season changes. All of these things, and more, are funded by the DPOA members. We appreciate all the active members of the DPOA for making these projects possible. Stay warm and have a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** ♦ —Neil Phelan

THE DIAMANTE Golden Girls



Diamante Golden Girls. Jeanne Ballard (Blanche); Cle Riordan (Sophia); Suzanne Iantosca (Dorothy); Susan Anderson (Rose)

Faith Heinrich, Diamante Members Club's one-woman movie mogul, and an ensemble cast of 50 actors successfully entertained four sold-out audiences with the production of the **Diamante Golden Girls**.

Faith believes that casting is critical, attributing to more than 80% of a film's success. "Each actor must be perfect for his or her role. I promise the actors that I will provide whatever it takes to make them look very, very good." A significant majority of the actors who were selected for the ensemble cast of the **Diamante Golden Girls** are new Diamante members, which gave Faith and the entire cast the opportunity to meet and get to know one another.

The plot of the **Diamante Golden Girls** revolved around the Senior Arkansas Pageant, which was filmed at the Coronado Center with four separate cameras. Unexpectedly, the stage lights reflected red, white, and blue and affected the colors of the actors' clothing and hair, which presented a significant problem, among many other challenges. Consequently, the editing process was extremely time consuming. After filming the last scene on September 20th, Faith edited every day and every night until November 7th!

As all of us who attended the movie will agree, the production and presentation of the **Diamante Golden Girls** was an entertainment success! ♦ **—Dana Peick**



Pageant talent performance by Blanche Devereaux, played by Jeanne Ballard, dancing to "Begin the Beguine"



Pageant talent performance by Rose Nylund, played by Susan Anderson, twirling her baton to "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go"



Wiff and the Giggles. Jim Robinson (pianist); Neal Phelan (lead singer); Thad Woodside (guitarist); Kevin McMillen (guitarist); Roy Marsh (drums); Jesse Stephens (keyboard); and Marilyn Phelan (background dancer and singer)



Pageant talent performance by Dorothy Zbornak, played by Suzanne Iantosca, singing "Hard Hearted Hanna" with Heinrich's granddaughter at the piano



Senior Arkansas Pageant Judges. Played by Joan Irwin, David Brady, Cle Riordan, Keith Highes, and BJ Conner



Pageant talent performance by Harriet, played by Andrea Woodside, dancing to Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal"

Holiday Safety and Crime Prevention Tips

Our Neighborhood Watch Program

As package thieves, or “porch pirates,” become more crafty, we all need to be one step ahead when it comes to preventing package theft during the holidays. Doorbell cameras are one of the most common ways to deter package thieves. These small cameras allow homeowners to screen and monitor anyone in real time who comes to their front door. According to respondents, 50% have some type of doorbell camera, motion lights, or another type of surveillance camera to prevent package theft. Although delivery companies, such as FedEx, UPS, and Amazon Prime, have helped prevent packages from being stolen, 32% of consumers still believe these companies should be doing more than simply requiring signatures and even lock boxes.

Tips to Avoid Porch Theft

1. Ask your neighbors to pickup your packages.
2. Arrange to have your packages delivered to your place of work.
3. Leave specific drop-off instructions.
4. Insure your packages.
5. Get a post office box at your local Post Office.
6. Track your packages.
7. Require a signature on delivery.
8. Reschedule delivery, or ask the Post Office to hold all packages while you are away.

What Should You Do if You Are a Victim of a Porch Pirate

1. Check with your delivery company to ensure that your package was delivered.
2. Know what was inside of the missing box.
3. If you see the thief, then pay attention to what his or her vehicle looks like, and write down the license plate number. Second to that, report the thief’s physical description.
4. Call 9-1-1 to report the incident.
5. If you have a security camera on your home, then provide a copy of the video to police.

Where to Report Stolen Packages

1. **USPS:** <https://www.usps.com/help/claims.htm>
2. **UPS:** <https://www.ups.com/us/en/help-center/claims-support.page>
3. **FedEx:** <https://www.fedex.com/en-us/customer-support/claims.html?kbid=62548>
4. **Amazon:** https://www.amazon.com/gp/help/customer/display.html/ref=hp_bc_anchor?ie=UTF8&nodeId=508510

General Holiday Safety Tips

Leaving for the Holidays

1. Ask a friend, neighbor, or your Block Captain to watch your home.
2. Use timers for lights and radios while you are away.
3. Make arrangements for your mail and newspapers. ♦ **–Heidi Hilbert**



Diamante’s Neighborhood Watch Program Still Needs the Following Block Captains:

Alcazaba Way: Block 14, Lots 1-13

Alhaja Way: Block 16, Lots 1-11

Alhaja Way: Block 16, Lots 12-14, All of block 18

Alhaja Lane: Block 17, Lots 1-11

The Brocaws



Bobbie and Larry

"We grew up in Oklahoma City and lived only one block apart! We began dating in high school and were married in 1958. We will celebrate our 64th anniversary next August." Larry earned his Bachelor Degree in Architecture from the University of Oklahoma, and Bobbie completed 2 years at the Oklahoma College for Women. Larry and Bobbie have two sons, three grandchildren, and one great grandson.

Bobbie and Larry moved to the St. Louis area in 1971. Larry worked as a Division Staff Architect and then General Manager at Southwestern Redevelopment Corporation. Bobbie became an avid golfer and district player who also served on the Board of Directors of the St. Louis District and the Missouri State Women's Golf Associations.

The Brocaws moved to the Village in 1994, built their first Village home on the Balboa Golf Course, and became members of Diamante in 1996. They built their present home on hole #17 green in 2000. Since joining Diamante, Bobbie has managed a monthly gin rummy ladies group. This group is still going strong!

Larry has designed over 60 custom homes in the Village—19 in Diamante and 17 either completed or still under construction—as well as 20 commercial buildings, including the RE/MAX buildings on the corner of Ponce de Leon and DeSoto. He also designed Diamante's patio and is currently working on the kitchen expansion. Larry has served on the advisory boards of First Arkansas Bank & Trust, Good Samaritan Society, and is currently serving on the Village's Architectural Control Committee.

Help us celebrate our Brocaw neighbors!

Celebrating Our
NEIGHBOR

Norma Wall

Administrative Assistant

Members may know Norma Wall from her weekly Diamante email updates or from her voice on the telephone when they call the Club. Obviously, these two responsibilities are not all that Norma has been doing for the last 6 months as Diamante's Administrative Assistant. Norma designs and continually updates the Club's new website, and she also designs all the graphics for events that appear on the Club monitors, as well as manages the Club's Facebook posts and email database.

"I've been a business owner for most of my adult life, and I understand the role that good design plays in effective communication. Ensuring that the Club's messages and information are successfully



sent to the members is always, in my opinion, a matter of survival! I have learned that it is easier to create successful marketing campaigns and to manage and update websites than it is to trust others to do it."

Norma moved to the Village 6 years ago and became involved in both the Hot Springs Village Audubon Society and Chamber of Commerce. She is the Broker and Owner of a real estate company in Allen, Texas, and makes frequent visits back to that city. She has a son and grandson who live in Dallas and a daughter and grandson who live in Austin. ♦





Brilliant— Untangling the History of Christmas Lights

Every year, after the Thanksgiving holiday, the elves of Diamante decorate the seven entrances to our neighborhood. This tradition has become an expected custom of our residents, and, as usual, several of our fellow neighbors volunteered to put up thousands of lights that sparkle each evening. The primary Diamante Boulevard entrance has become the showplace in Hot Springs Village.

The following article, which was published by the *Smithsonian* magazine, recalls the history of Christmas lights.

In 1882, in a townhouse at 136 East 36th Street in New York City, Edward Hibberd Johnson had an idea that would make him the unsung set decorator of a zillion holiday snapshots. Fronted by a luxurious mustache, this loyal lieutenant to Thomas Edison was the embodiment of his era—part engineer, part businessman, and part Barnum. In 1871, Johnson hired Edison, then a 24-year-old inventor, as a consultant for the Automatic Telegraph Company. Edison “ate at this desk and slept in a chair,” Johnson later recalled. “In six weeks, he had gone through the books, written a volume of abstracts, and made two thousand experiments...and produced a solution.”

When Edison left to start a new company, Johnson followed him, quickly making

himself useful, turning Edison’s brainstorm into cash. In 1877, after Edison invented the phonograph, Johnson took the machine on tour, charging crowds to drum up excitement. When Edison patented the light bulb in 1880, its exact value was hard to gauge, since widespread electrification was still decades away. Still, Johnson, Edison, and others invested \$35,000 to form the Edison Lamp Company to sell the bulbs. Before long, Johnson had a bright idea that would affect the future of Christmas lights.

We tend to think of Christmas-season traditions as ancient, but most of them are rather recent, born in the 19th century. *A Visit From St. Nicholas* was published in 1823, and *A Christmas Carol* was published in 1843. Thomas Nast’s drawings of jolly Santa Claus debuted in 1862. Meanwhile, in 1841, Queen Victoria’s husband, Albert, introduced Britain to the Teutonic Tannenbaum—the Christmas tree—and the idea spread. In the United States, President Franklin Pierce put up a Christmas tree at the White House in 1856. By the 1870s, fresh-cut trees were being sold at Washington Square Park. The candles were what really made a tree a Christmas tree. However, although flickering flames were festive, they were also a fire hazard.

Brilliant—Untangling the History of Christmas Lights—Continued from page 9

Over at the Edison shop, Johnson saw an opportunity. Setting up a tree by the street-side window of his parlor, Johnson hand-wired 80 red, white, and blue light bulbs and strung them together around the tree with its trunk on a revolving pedestal. Both the lights and the pedestal were powered by a generator. Then he called a reporter. "At the rear of the beautiful parlors, was a large Christmas tree presenting a most picturesque and uncanny aspect," wrote W.A. Croffut, a writer for the *Detroit Post and Tribune*. "It was brilliantly lit with...eighty lights encased in these dainty glass eggs, and they were equally divided between white, red, and blue...one can hardly imagine anything prettier." The lights drew a crowd as passersby stopped to peer at the glowing marvel. Johnson turned his stunt into a tradition and also pioneered the practice of doing more each year. An 1884 New York Times article counted 120 bulbs on his dazzling tree.

Johnson's lights were indeed ahead of their time—electricity was not yet routinely available—and the lights were not inexpensive. A string of 16 vaguely flame-shaped bulbs sitting in brass sockets the size of shot glasses sold for a pricey \$12 in 1900, which would be approximately \$350 in the value of today's dollars. However, in 1894, President Cleveland put electric lights on the White House tree, and by 1914, a 16-foot string was available at a cost of only \$1.75. By the 1930s, colored bulbs and cones were everywhere.

Today, an estimated 150 million light sets are sold in America each year, adding to the tangled millions stuffed into boxes each January. They light 80 million homes and consume 6% of the nation's electrical load each December. Although the contagious joy of these lights has been co-opted orange at Halloween and red at Valentine's Day, it all started with Johnson's miracle on 36th Street at Christmas.



The Australian Canberra family set the Guinness World Record in 2011 for the most Christmas lights on a residential home with over 331,000 lights! In 2012, they lost the title to a New York family who put up more than 346,000 lights. However, David Richards and his family reclaimed the title in 2014 with 502,165 lights and 31 miles of wire.

Each month's electric bill for the holiday spectacle tops \$2,345. Lucky for the Richards family,

a local power company offered to foot approximately \$2,300 of the cost.

David Richards says that most of their neighbors support the display, but there are a few who have not spoken to them since they set the first record.

"I have always loved Christmas. Having the Christmas lights with the community coming in and sharing it is a time when you get to know people you probably should know better, I guess," Richards says. ♦

—Dennis Riordan



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Did you know that the fun-filled facts that are included in each month's "Did You Know?" feature of the DPOA newsletter, "DPOA News & Events," have been part of Diamante's newsletters since the late 1990s? The next time you see Paul Day, Diamante's interviewer extraordinaire, be sure to thank him for the following four members who were featured in the 1999 Fall issues of "The Diamond Exchange." Happy reading!

- 1 October, 1999:** Sandra Powers, a former Southwestern Bell (SWB) executive, spent 31 years at SWB. She managed approximately 700 payroll, accounting, and operation employees as the Division Manager in the Comptroller Department. Sandra is also the Treasurer of the HSV Symphony Guild.
- 2 November, 1999:** Ron Kohler is the Director of Public Works for the city of Hot Springs. He manages over 60 people and a multimillion-dollar budget that covers the streets, traffic, engineering, and animal control. Ron is also currently the Chairman of the Diamante Advisory Board. Ron and wife, Barbara, retired to Hot Springs Village in 1993 after being an Engineering Manager for Bechtel for 18 years. As you can see, Ron has some different ideas as to what retirement is all about.
- 3 December, 1999:** Norma Franklin, an entrepreneur, holds a Diamante golf record that will never be broken. She made the first hole-in-one on August 23, 1995, on hole #16. Before Norma and husband, Bobby, moved here in 1994, she founded, developed, and sold two different successful businesses: Mid South Research and My Valet Dry Cleaners, both in Memphis, Tennessee. She is currently the President of the Diamante Women's Golf Association, which has grown to 112 members.
- 4 December, 1999:** Charlie Hayes played for the Louisville Male High School Kentucky State Champion baseball team. He later competed on the Louisville team that won the National Amateur Baseball Federation Championship in Dayton, Ohio. He attended Western Kentucky University on a basketball scholarship and also played baseball. After graduating, he coached basketball and baseball for 4 years at Walton, KY, winning two district championships. Charlie and his wife, Juanita, became Diamante's first residents, moving into their home in December 1994 before the roads were paved. ♦

