



March 2024

Dear Neighbors!

Spring is here, and it is time for you to mark your calendar for the Solar Bration. On Monday, April 8, 2024, the Solar Bration begins at 11:31 a.m. The DPOA is providing viewing glasses for all those attending the event. Solar Bration t-shirts will be available for purchase at the event and are also available in the Pro Shop. Neyna Pattison has a fabulous theme-planned menu, and the popular **Colt and the Old 45s** along with **Joe Stafford** will provide a portfolio of popular music during and after the eclipse. In addition, there will be several games offered including the popular putting competition for ladies and gentlemen, so bring your putters! We also have cornhole boards set up as part of the activities. **The Solar Bration is sold out.** We expect a large turnout for this event so remember to bring your lawn chairs to ensure that seating is available for everyone.

During this past year, we have seen several new homes built and existing homes sold in our Diamante neighborhoods, bringing in new members to the Club. The DPOA is extending warm greetings to the new members. We provide welcome baskets to new members, and if you did not receive one in the last year, please let us know.

DPOA has updated our bylaws and will be sending those out for membership approval in the near future. A special thanks to Jim Bodge, Karla Sebastian, and Doug Zook who served on the annual bylaw review committee.

“Spring is a time for plans and projects,” said Leo Tolstoy. This month the DPOA is seeking bids on several projects for this year. Without your financial assistance, the DPOA could not fund these endeavors.

—Heidi Hilbert, DPOA President



Talking Points

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Solar Bration T-shirts

Hello Darkness My Old Friend **Solar Bration T-shirts** are now available in the Pro Shop. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and we want you to celebrate it with a memento.

The shirts are unisex sizing so men can buy their usual sizes and women need to size down one size. Available sizes range from XS to 2XL, but 3XL and 4XL can be ordered. The cost per shirt is \$35 and the Buyer's Discount does not apply to these. Quantities available are limited so please purchase the shirts as soon as possible. If the Pro Shop does not have your size it can be ordered with 10-15 day delivery window.



Front of T-shirt



Back of T-shirt

Treasurer's Report

As of March 18, 2024

Membership

As of March 18, 2024,
117 members paid \$10,220 in
DPOA dues and additional contributions.

Fund Balances

Funds available for operations:

\$14, 730

Reserve (emergency) funds:

\$7, 500

Total funds:

\$22, 230

If you have not received your invoice,
please send your payment of \$80
payable to DPOA to:

Ford Williams
8 Aventura Trace
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

Email: ford.williams@me.com

Administrative Note

We have made an effort to insure all recorded DPOA members and their spouses are on the distribution list for our DPOA Newsletter. If your spouse did not receive a newsletter, please send an email to the TrustyScribe@att.net with the name and email address to be added.

If your neighbor says they didn't receive, DPOA Newsletter, let them know they should inform us as above. If you wish to be removed from the distribution list, have an email address change, whatever, please let us know. Even a suggestion or two as a property owner is welcomed.



DPOA Board

Heidi Hilbert

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Annual DPOA Picnic
hhilbert@eicc.edu

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iana80@att.net

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Greg Hilbert

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TBD

Newsletter Editor

Our Neighborhood Crime Watch

The DPOA started a Neighborhood Crime Watch program for our Diamante neighborhood in the Summer of 2016. To reacquaint the old (not in age!) and the new friends and neighbors alike, the benefit of this program is to partner with our neighbors and law enforcement to reduce crime and to have a more secure community that is better prepared for emergencies.

As we begin this new year, Block Captains are needed. Block Captains are individuals who act as liaisons between the Diamante residents and the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.

If you wish to remain a Block Captain for our Neighborhood Crime Watch program, please contact me, Heidi Hilbert, at hhilbert@eicc.edu. Block Captains who have served in the past are being called to ask for their assistance in this effort. ♦

—Heidi Hilbert



Block Captains Needed

Alcazaba Way, Blocks 1-13

Alcazaba Way, Block 14, Lots 1-13

Alhaja Way, Block 16, Lots 1-11, Lots 12-14, All of Block 18

Alhaja Lane, Block 17, Lots 1-11

Juego Way, Blocks 1-13

Morro Lane, Block 8, Lots 20-31

History of St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17, which is the anniversary of St. Patrick's death in the fifth century. St. Patrick's Day 2024 will take place on Sunday, March 17. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink, and feast on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

Who Was St. Patrick?

Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people.

In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture. Perhaps the most well-known legend of St. Patrick is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.

More than 100 St. Patrick's Day parades and celebrations are held across the United States, including New York City, Chicago, and Boston. The World's Shortest St. Patrick's Day parade is found in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, and marches down historic Bridge Street each year on March 17.

When Was the First St. Patrick's Day Celebrated?

Since around the 9th or 10th century, people in Ireland have been observing the Roman Catholic feast day of St. Patrick on March 17. The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland but in America. Records show that a St. Patrick's Day parade was held on March 17, 1601, in a Spanish colony in what is now St. Augustine, Florida. The parade and a St. Patrick's Day celebration a year earlier were organized by the Spanish Colony's Irish vicar Ricardo Artur.

More than a century later, homesick Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched in New York City on March 17, 1772, to honor the Irish patron saint. Enthusiasm for the St. Patrick's Day parades in New York City, Boston, and other early American cities only grew from there.

Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day/history-of-st-patricks-day>

Volunteers . . . The Heart of Our Community

All readers are invited to consider volunteering for one of the vacant position on the DPOA Board of Directors.

Newsletter Editor: The editor of this newsletter is responsible for soliciting materials to be published; determining the features of a publication; setting and enforcing deadlines; making a final determination about what will be published in an issue; and coordinating the frequency of the monthly publication.



*Let's Get to Know***Ford Williams****Treasurer—Diamante Property Owners Association**

Ford was born and raised in Monroe, Louisiana. He received his degrees in accounting and economics from Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana where he met his wife, Kelly. Kelly's parents owned property in the Village dating back to the mid-1970's, and when Kelly and Ford started dating, Ford made his first trip to the Village around 1982. Ford and Kelly have been coming here annually since then.

Before moving to the Village, Ford and Kelly lived in Shreveport, Houston, St. Louis and for 25 years before moving here, they lived in Coppell, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. Ford and Kelly moved to the Village and joined Diamante in April 2020 in the midst of the pandemic. Terri Socha asked, "Who joins a social club in the middle of a pandemic?" As it turned out, April 2020 was a great time to join the Club. Although the food service was through "port a go," the golf course and tennis courts remained open, and they provided a great chance for Ford and Kelly to meet lots of new friends at Diamante.

Ford and Kelly joined Christ of the Hills Methodist



church where Kelly sings in the choir and serves on several committees. Kelly is also in a P.E.O. chapter, a Village Player, and a member of Voices Rising.

Ford spent his entire career in public accounting. He started with Peat Marwick Mitchell, now known as KPMG, and then went to work for Ernst & Young. Ford spent most of his career working with corporate clients at Ernst & Young. His most notable clients included post-bankruptcy Enron and post-bankruptcy Nortel. Ford also worked with various not-for-profit organizations including both Houston Country Club and River Oaks Country Club.

Since his retirement from Ernst & Young, Ford has worked as a volunteer with the POA Finance Committee and the Diamante Finance Committee. Ford also volunteers as the assistant treasurer for the Hot Springs Village Evening Lions Club. Ford is looking forward to working with the DPOA as its new treasurer!

Four Tax Breaks for Homeowners to Know

Being a homeowner is often a big financial investment, from the down payment to home maintenance and improvements. But there are ways to save when you own a home, too — particularly on your annual tax returns.

Homeownership typically comes with several tax deductions and credits that aren't available for renters. Are you ready to save on your tax bill? Here are some perks you should have on your radar as you file your taxes.

- 1. Mortgage Interest:** You probably pay a notable amount of interest on your mortgage loans each year, especially early in your home loan term. Fortunately, you should be able to write off some of what you paid in interest. You can also deduct any interest you prepaid when closing on your loan (or refinancing).
- 2. Property Taxes:** Depending on where you live, property taxes can be quite costly. You can deduct them from your taxable income up to \$10,000 each year.
- 3. Home Office Expenses:** If you're self-employed and run your business in your home, you may qualify for a deduction. This does not apply to those who work from home for an employer, and you must use your home office exclusively and regularly for your work.
- 4. Eligible Home Improvements:** Not all home updates allow for tax deductions, but you can claim tax breaks for some improvements that make your home more energy efficient (like a solar water heater). You could also claim improvements that qualify as medically necessary under capital expenses (like installing ramps for mobility).

DPOA Solar Bration: Embrace a Little Lunacy

Embrace the Eclipse in Style!

We are looking forward to the unforgettable experience at the DPOA Solar Bration on **April 8th**, where we'll celebrate the solar eclipse in style. Thanks to all the DPOA members and their guests for making this event fully booked with no more available spots. Remember to bring your lawn chairs because seating is limited. With a fusion of entertainment, delectable food, and engaging activities, this event promises to be an extraordinary celebration of celestial wonder.

Entertainment

Get ready to groove to the tunes of **Colt and the Old 45s**, delivering an electrifying performance that will leave you captivated. Known for their timeless repertoire and infectious energy, this talented group guarantees to set the stage on fire, creating lasting memories for all attendees. This stellar ensemble of musicians and singers will elevate the ambiance and ensure an afternoon of pure enjoyment.

Additionally, our very own Joe Stafford will curate a celestial playlist featuring iconic tracks like "Total Eclipse of the Heart," "Here Comes the Sun," and "Ain't No Sunshine," adding a celestial touch to the afternoon entertainment lineup.

Food and Drinks

Indulge your taste buds with an array of cosmic delights prepared by the renowned chefs of Diamante. From Moon Burgers to Lunna Links and Galactic Grilled Dogs, there's something for every palate. For those craving a sweet finish, Connie Vaden will tantalize your senses with delectable desserts.

Quench your thirst with our stellar selection of beverages, including Capri Sun cocktails, Total Solar Eclipse libations, Lunar Margaritas, Bloody Mooneys, and Tequila Sunrises. Each guest will receive two drink tickets upon arrival, with additional tickets available for purchase.

Activities

Immerse yourself in the celestial spectacle with games, a putting contest, and an information station stocked with fascinating eclipse material. Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or a curious novice, there's something for everyone to enjoy and learn from.

We Are SOLD OUT for the Solar Bration

The DPOA Solar Bration promises to create memories that will outshine all others! Thank you for making this event a complete success - it's officially **"SOLD OUT!"**



— Doug Zook



DPOA

Active Members & Supporters

Rusty and Candy Adams

Kurt and Mary Alber

Jim and Nicky Baker

Jeanne Ballard

Fred and Glenda Bean

Randy and Nora Bergfield

John and Dianne Blake

Greg and Bertie Bloxom

Jim and Carol Bodge

Sherry Boggs

Al and Pat Bowles

Steve, and Pam Boynton

David and Suzanne Brady

Barbara Brannan

Larry Brocaw

Michael Greenoe Bros. Ventures

Larry and Nita Brown

Nancy and Jim Burk

Jeff and Joye Carr

Mark and Cindy Cheatham

Jan Coggins and LeeAnn Newcomb

Laverne Collins

Dennis and Debbie Cox

Paul and Sylvia Day

Mike and Donna Doyle

Dave and Tonya Economon

Tom and Suki Ellers

Russ and Hope Fielder

Scott and Kim Finnell

Dale Flory

Roy Foley and Veronica Curioni

Carl and Sheila Ford

Jim and Linda Fulton

Bruce and Linda Gassaway

Bill and Bertha Gianulis

Frank and Jeanne Godbold

Reece and Leslie Goodman

Ralph and Carol Hamner

Carl and Ada Harsch

Wes and Janice Harvey

Wayne and Cherie Haynes

Kurt and Cheryl Heinrich

Wade and Michelle Herguth

Greg and Heidi Hilbert

Bob and Alice Hinckley

Mark and Rebecca Hittner

Jon and Melissa Hoffman

Phil and Suzanne Iantosca

David Jaquess and Lori Brooks

Brian and Faith Jenks

Don Kennedy and Cathy King

Jim and Vanessa Langlais

John and Connie Lauer

Glenn and Mary Ellen Laursen

Dean and Kathy Link

Richard and Sandra Loufek

Steve and Sherry Lux

Mike and Sandra Mathes

John and Sylvia Matthews

Rick and Missy Maxey

Bill and Lori McGhee

Doug and Nancy McIntire

Bill and LJ McIntosh

Alex and Martha McKindra

Charles and Joni Mecca

Curtis and Carol Mundie

Sherry Newman

Bill and Lisa Noirot

Graham and Jami Parham

Guy Parker

John and Jackie Paul

David and Robin Persson

Neil and Marilyn Phelan

Doug and Irene Picano

James and Patricia Pike

DPOA ACTIVE MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS—cont'd

Bo and Sandra Powers

Mark and Kathi Price

Mike and Lana Prosen

Dan and Donna Quandt

Jim and Patricia Redman

Paul and Cheryl Reinsch

David Rich

Dennis and Cle Riordan

Mark and Roxann Ryan

Janice Schaefer

Ted and Carol Schramm

John and Karla Sebastiani

Mark and Deadra Shinabery

Ed and Karen Simmons

Merle and Linda Singleterry

Martha Smither

Steve St. Onge and Kathy Carter

Joe and Mary Jane Stafford

Tom and Mickey Stant

Jess and Jan Stephens

Chuck and Suzanne Stofer

Mike and Deedra Stofer

Bryan and Jen Stout

Jerry and Pam Sullivan

John Sutey

Don and Meja Taylor

Tommy and Dena Teaster

Richard and Linda Thomas

Bev Thompson

Bill and Sissy Toney

Phil and Kay Tyree

Gerry and Connie Vaden

Charles and Patsi Veazey

Bob and Melissa Walker

Michael and Brenda Walls

Earl and Geri Wilde

Ford and Kelly Williams

James Williams

Jane Wilson

Richard and Mary Ann Wood

Thad and Andrea Woodside

Randy and Gayle Wooten

Doug Zook and Jon Lilley

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!

The Diamante Property Owners Association (DPOA) was formed in 1997 when several property owners got together and formed the **Parseekers of Diamante (POD)**. The purpose of the POD was to ensure that the best interests of the property owners were represented when dealing with both ClubCorp and the Cooper Communities. In 2006, the POD was renamed the DPOA, which better describes the association and its function. The activities undertaken by the DPOA include maintaining common property areas and entrances; sponsoring the Neighborhood Watch Program; providing seasonal decorations of common areas; and coordinating with the Hot Springs Village Property Owners Association and the Diamante Members Club on issues of mutual interest.

To meet these goals, the DPOA incurs significant annual expenses. Although membership and the payment of its affordable annual dues are entirely voluntary, all owners of eligible properties, whether resident or nonresident, are strongly encouraged to become members and supporters. We appreciate the past and continued support.





Diamante Property Owners Association -- 2024 Dues Invoice

Property Owner Information:

First Name	
Last Name	
Preferred Email Address	
Mailing Address – Street	
Mailing Address – City, State, Zip	
Diamante Property Address if Different	

Dues Information:

Annual Dues	\$80.00
Additional Contribution	
Total Paid	

Please complete this form and send it with your check payable to “DPOA” to:

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

ATTENTION NEW RESIDENTS! (AND THOSE WITH CHANGES!)

If you wish to be included in the DPOA Directory, please remember to send your updated contact information and photos to Sylvia Matthews at hotexans@att.net

The DPOA News & Events newsletter is published monthly, and after the April issue, will be sent only to dues-paying DPOA members. On page 9, is the DPOA dues form which can be sent to Ford Williams, at 8 Aventura Trace, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909.

If you have questions, need information, or would like to submit an article of interest, please contact the president, Heidi Hilbert, or one of the DPOA Board members.