

THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

DIABLO COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

As we near the end of 2021, we bid farewell to yet another unprecedented year amidst a pandemic that has dealt innumerable challenges to our community. We are grateful for the privilege of living in beautiful Diablo with wonderful neighbors, and we also struggled with hardships that cannot be sidestepped during this time. To meet the moment, DPOA volunteers worked hard to bring cheer and foster reconnection amongst neighbors. Here are the highlights of DPOA's contributions to the community in 2021.

- Welcomed 20 new residents to our community
- Launched the *Diablo Honors* program to highlight longtime members of our community
- Installed ever-festive seasonal decor at the entrances, post office, and library
- Raised the Flags of Diablo on Memorial Day, 4th of July, and September 11th
- Offered treats at the post office for Valentine's Day, Back to School, Halloween, and hosted a shamrock scavenger hunt
- Hosted 5 events: St. Patrick's Day social, End of Summer social, Diablo History Walking Tour, Zoning Town Hall with Contra Costa County Planners, and the annual Halloween social
- Published four editions of this newsletter, distributed a directory of property owners to all residents, and kept our community informed about the happenings in our town with regular posts on Instagram, Nextdoor and posters around the neighborhood

The DPOA exists because of generous volunteers and support from the community. This neighborhood thrives because of your participation in all these activities. We love our unique and precious community!

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays Diablo!

WINTER 2021

DIABLO HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE



**DONATE ONLINE
DECEMBER
1st-10th**



Scan Me with
Phone Camera App

give.foodbankccs.org/diablo

We truly appreciate all of you helping make past years' Food Drives so successful. This year's Holiday Food Drive will be virtual (give.foodbankccs.org/diablo) and we hope you will consider making a donation!

The need for food is urgent, with the food bank now providing food to more than 178,000 people per month. The Contra Costa & Solano Food Bank has indicated that what it needs most is monetary donations. Its bulk buying power allows the food bank to purchase food at far lower costs than we can and to get exactly what is needed to feed those in need.

Ways you can participate:

DONATE ONLINE: give.foodbankccs.org/diablo. (Preferred)

DROP OFF CASH or CHECK (payable to Food Bank of CC&S) at 1844 El Nido (Novak residence – Jan Novak (925) 785-4463)

If you have already purchased food to donate, it will also be accepted here as well.

The Food Bank is truly grateful for our collective contributions of almost \$16,000 during our virtual Holiday Food Drive in 2020.

Join us in showing once again that Diablo truly cares.

Let's all contribute to make this a great success for those in need!

Questions? Kathy Urbelis (925) 381-8709 or Julie Nejedly (925) 980-9132

HONORING MARLYS WORDEN

Resident Since 1964

By Tony & Dee Geisler

Excerpt from full article featured at the Post Office this Winter

Marlys Worden has lived in Diablo for 57 years. During a long, successful teaching career at Green Valley School, she taught many Diablo children. She proudly remembers the many wonderful Diablo parents and students in her classes and has been able to keep up with some of them through the years. Marlys was born in 1936 and grew up in Rochester, MN. She moved to California to teach third grade at Decoto school near Union City and lived in a garden apartment with friends. Marlys met her longtime husband Earl Worden at their garden apartments in San Leandro in 1959. They married in 1960, and Earl passed away in 2020. He was an accomplished physical chemist at Lawrence Livermore Labs and collaborated on the discovery of four new elements in the Periodic Table. Their son Seth was born in 1967 and attended Green Valley, Los Cerros, Monte Vista and San Francisco State.

Tame, partially tamed and wild animals have always had a presence in Diablo. Years ago, when there were no stop signs, an old basset hound looked for a sunny spot and slept in the middle of Alameda Diablo. When he saw a car coming, he would slowly move but luckily was never hit by a car. Samantha, a “tame” deer with part of her tail missing was a local sight always seeking a handout. Quail and mockingbirds were common along with an occasional opossum or raccoon. Occasionally a peacock that probably lived on upper Alameda Diablo would land on their house.



Marlys Worden



Marlys & Earl in 1985

HONORING JOHN & SHIRLEY OSMER

Resident Since 1967

By Elizabeth Leftik

Excerpt from full article featured at the Post Office this Winter

When John and Shirley moved to Diablo in 1967, it was a very different place. There was very little traffic and most homes were modest. Few people had gardeners or housekeepers. There were far fewer residents so everyone in Diablo knew each other. Diablo introduced them to the world of tennis and the joys of cycling up Mt. Diablo. Everyone played tennis in those days, including John and Shirley and their three children, Susan, Mark and Tom. Of course, it helped that the Osmers have a tennis court in their backyard! Shirley just completed her latest Mt. Diablo Challenge cycling race in October with the fastest time for any woman over the age of 70 and she was the oldest finisher. She and John have both been avid cyclists and enjoyed many organized cycling trips.

When asked why they have chosen to stay in Diablo for 55 years, the answer was simple. “We love the open space and rural feeling that still exists despite all of the changes over the years. And the people that live here. Always the people. We love our friends and neighbors.” They also have clearly enjoyed golf and tennis, the mountain for cycling and the rich history of our community. It’s enough to make them put up with the deer eating their plants, the raccoons tearing up the lawn, the turkeys devouring their impatiens, the squirrels chewing the irrigation drip lines and the coyotes stealing their newspaper.



*John & Shirley
Christmas 2018*

HONORING MARSH & MUGS FREEMAN

Resident Since 1966

By Jan Novak

Excerpt from full article to be featured at the Post Office this Winter

Marsh and Mugs Freeman met at Stanford 68 years ago when Mugs, the Indian Princess riding atop a homecoming float, stepped through the bottom of the float into the Jeepster that Marsh was driving. So, he actually first met her foot, but then met Margaret “Mugs” Stanley. Thus began a life together of adventure, family, careers, tennis, horses and exceptional contributions to the Diablo community. Marsh and Mugs moved into “Camelot Cottage”, their now 95-year-old home in 1966. They were welcomed by the tennis players just outside their home and quickly became immersed in the highly social, highly competitive tennis community. Their children—Kim, Patty and Steve--swam, played tennis, climbed the trees, roamed the hills and rode horses, bikes and mopeds everywhere in Diablo they chose to go. Kim even rode her horse to her piano lessons in the Haciendas and to the post office to get their mail.



Freeman family in 1966



Mugs



Marsh

The Freemans have contributed so much to Diablo. Marsh was President of the Diablo Property Owners' Association (DPOA) in 1971. Mugs was a Director of the Community Service District from 1983 to 1987—the first woman to hold that position. She has also been “an unrelenting force for preservation and showcasing of Diablo’s historic homes”, according to David Mackesey, Dee & Tony Geisler and the DPOA. She has devoted three decades to ensuring that Diablo’s rich history is honored and preserved, which—with Jim Stone leading and the dedication of countless others---led to Diablo’s recognition as a Historic District in 2002 and the publication of Diablo’s Treasures: The Historic Homes and Heritage Oaks of Diablo in 2020.

IN MEMORIAM

Ray Fosse, a 45-year resident of Diablo, devoted husband of 51 years to wife Carol, loving father of two married daughters and four grandchildren, starting catcher for the American League All-Star team, Oakland A's World Champion player in 1973 and 1974, and color commentator for the Oakland A's radio broadcast passed away on October 13, 2021 after a 16-year battle with cancer. We send our condolences to his family and many fans.

Maryam Ansari Mehran, born in Tehran, Iran but after an improbable voyage over land and sea brought her to the United States, and eventually to Diablo in 1955, passed away on October 26 at age 99 after a long, eventful, and productive life. Her 66 years in the large home and garden that serves as a welcoming beacon to all entering Diablo was a favorite site for town meetings and events. Maryam is survived by her son Alex, six grandchildren (one of whom, Alexander Jr. lives in Diablo with his wife Maggie and four children) and eleven great grandchildren. She will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

NEW YEAR REFRESH FOR POST OFFICE

The Diablo Post Office is, in many ways, the heart of our community. It is so historic, a place where we all see each other, and we all adore our post office employees. The DPOA is planning to "refresh" the interior and exterior of the post office and the gazebo where notices are posted. Fresh paint, fresh plants, deep cleaning, a functioning front door and a few other surprises.

If you love the post office, please contribute to the DPOA so we can maintain this heart of our community.



DIABLO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

By Kathy Urbelis

The Diablo Community Services District (DCSD) is a California Special District and is governed by residents elected to a 5-member Board of Directors. The purpose of the DCSD is to provide security services to residents, maintain and improve roads, culverts under roads, and bridges within Diablo, and maintain Kay's Trail. www.diablocsd.org.

DIABLO WEATHERED THE STORM

The "atmospheric river" that we experienced in October reminded all of us that climate change is upon us and will be presenting new dimensions in weather from now on. Because this was the first huge storm to hit the Bay Area in 2021 after a long drought, we learned where we were well prepared and where we needed improvement for the future.



*Overflowing on El Nido
on to golf course*

The important lessons:

- Be vigilant about keeping drains, especially those under catch basin grates, and downspouts clear to prevent flooding of your residence and the roads around your residence.
- Monitor the depth of any streams next to your home.
Be prepared to self-evacuate if water levels near the top of banks.
- Local fire, police and storm patrol workers are under tremendous pressure during these storms; therefore, you need to be self-reliant in weather emergencies.



*Water over flowing the culvert over the
road at El Centro and Avenida Nueva*

ENVISION CONTRA COSTA 2040 MEETING BRIEF

On October 14, a Town Hall meeting was held so that residents could hear directly from Will Nelson, Principal Planner for Contra Costa's Dept of Conservation and Development and lead for the Envision 2040 program. Envision 2040 is a comprehensive update of the County's general plan, which serves as the basis for decision-making regarding land use, zoning, subdivisions, and future development.

Since pandemic status prevented an in-person meeting, residents were invited to attend via Zoom from home or at Diablo Country Club where a large screen was set up. Will provided a general overview of the plan and its objectives, a detailed discussion of plan design algorithms, and the current status for Diablo. He entertained questions and listened thoughtfully to suggestions from the audience throughout the meeting.

If you were not able to attend and would like more information on what was presented, Will's slide deck is available from our General Manager, Kathy Torru, upon request (generalmanager@diablocsd.org). For those of you who want to follow the progress of Envision plans, go to [Envision Contra Costa 2040 / Contra Costa County, CA Official Website](https://www.contracostacounty.gov/2040) where you can see current status and timelines and provide comments.



*Residents gathered at our Town Hall
with county on zoning*

HALLOWEEN FUN 2021!

By Dana Pingatore

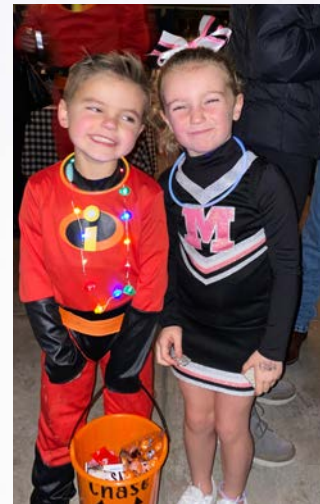
Lots of residents and guests came out to celebrate Halloween this year. After hiatus last year due to Covid, we learned that Diablo really values having a Halloween event. Roughly 200 enjoyed delicious tacos and some wicked frozen margaritas at the Haunted Home Stretch. Thank you Mark and Shannon Jones for allowing us to host the social in your driveway again this year. And to Leslie Keane, Melissa Ovardia and Alyssa Phillips for helping set up the event. The giant cookies, toys and treat bags that Jan Novak put out at the post office went fast! Speaking of our post office, you might have spotted Theresa enjoying Trick or Treat night in Diablo with her family.

Kaeti McMillan and Leslie Keane closed/opened the road from 6-8pm for the trick or treat zone. We did it successfully without Sheriff support and without incident. Carol Santa Maria, Deborah Stevens, the Novaks, DeGracias, Colemans and Nejedlys (all El Nido residents!) helped distribute candy at homes on Alameda Diablo. Don and Julie estimate that they passed out over 1,000 pieces of candy to very delightful and respectful children of all ages.

All this Halloween fun was made possible by volunteers and with contributions to the DPOA.

Consider volunteering and please contribute for 2022! www.diablopao.org





so much fun!

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS!

If you have recently moved into our community, we have a gift for you! Please let us know you are here by emailing membership@diablopooa.org.

We do not have a typical HOA. Instead residents all pitch in a nominal \$150 each year to the owners' association to cover shared community costs: plants, water weekly maintenance at the entrances, flags, decor at the post office, community activities and social events, as well as printing to deliver this newsletter to you. This is the kind of stuff that makes Diablo the special place you have chosen to make your home.



Our mission is to enhance the community through beautification, social events, communication, and historic preservation. The DPOA is run by community volunteers and funded by annual contributions by residents. Formed in 1929, it is one of the oldest such organizations in California. Though our owners' association possesses no legal power, it acts as a sounding board and works with other organizations to facilitate community affairs and events. You can find more information at www.diablopooa.org and on Instagram @Diablo_Community.

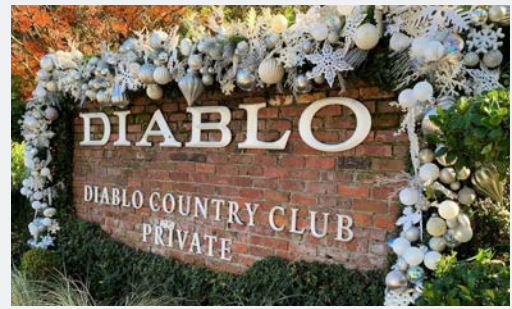
Interested in contributing to the community?

We always need Volunteers!

- Flags of Diablo
- Seasonal Decor
- Welcome Committee
- Social Events
- Newsletter
- Community Projects

The Devil's Advocate our quarterly update to share the activities and events happening in our community and a method of keeping the communication lines open between our neighbors.

THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE IS A PUBLICATION OF
THE DIABLO PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
P. O. BOX 215, DIABLO, CA 94528



CONTACT US

Diablo Property Owners' Association Volunteer Board

Website: www.diablopooa.org

Email: membership@diablopooa.org

Instagram: [@diablo_community](https://www.instagram.com/diablo_community)

Dana Pingatore - President

Ruhi Alikhan

Terri Davis - Treasurer

Leslie Keane

Elizabeth Leftik - Secretary

Alyssa Phillips

Jan Novak

Melissa Ovadia

Meeting Schedule: First Tuesday of every month at 7:30 via Zoom. Email membership@diablopooa.org for meeting link.

Diablo Community Services District Board

www.diablocsd.org

Kathy Urbelis, President and Security Commissioner

kurbelis@diablocsd.org

Leonard Becker, Vice President

lbecker@diablocd.org

Jeff Eorio, Secretary

jeorio@diablocsd.org

Greg Isom, Finance Commissioner

gisom@diablocd.org

Matthew Cox, Roads Commissioner

mcox@diablocsd.org

Kathy Torru, General Manager

generalmanager@diablocsd.org

Christie Crawl, Legal Counsel

Jarvis, Fay & Gibson, LLP

Meeting Schedule: 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm via Zoom. Visit diablocsd.org for meeting agendas, minutes, financials, history and info on both the Diablo Municipal Advisory Council and the Diablo Advisory Committee.

Historic Preservation Committee Co-Chairs

Dee Geisler 837-4670

Tony Geisler