



THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

DIABLO COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



HAPPY PUMPKIN SPICE SEASON, DIABLO!

The leaves are turning, acorns dropping and DPOA volunteers are busy planning some tricks & treats this season. We have 2 big events brewing that you will not want to miss:

- ♦ **Sunday October 13th - Diablo History Tour.** Our resident historian, David Mackesey, will lead a tour along upper Alameda Diablo sharing stories from the 1920s. The 2 hour tour will culminate with a delicious picnic box lunch in the garden at the Gablewood house. RSVP at diablopoa.org
- ♦ **Thursday October 31st - Diablo's legendary Halloween community social 6-8pm at 1749 Alameda Diablo.** Come enjoy tacos and beverages with your neighbors. Costumes optional! No RSVP required. All residents and guests are welcome. ALAMEDA DIABLO ENTRANCE WILL BE CLOSED TO CARS 6-8pm (Golf carts ok) Lower Alameda Diablo (from Diablo Road to La Cadena) will be closed 6-8pm on 10/31. Please PLAN AHEAD and INFORM YOUR GUESTS that no cars will be permitted on the road for these two hours. Avenida Nueva and Calle Arroyo will remain open. Prime trick-or-treat territory tends to be lower Alameda Diablo / Calle Arroyo / La Cadena but homes along the other streets welcome kids as well.

Events like these, plus all the fun holiday décor at the entrances and post office, are intended to build goodwill in our community. It's all made possible by your annual contributions to the Diablo Property Owners' Association and some very talented volunteers.

Thank you to all the volunteers who contributed content for this issue, and to Jan Novak for producing this last issue of our Devil's Advocate for 2024. If you enjoy all this great stuff, please let us know. And if you would like to get involved, please reach out! membership@diablopoa.org

Leslie Keane
Volunteer President, Diablo Property Owners' Assoc

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS AT OUR CURRENT POST OFFICE LOCATION!

by Dee and Tony Geisler

On Sunday, August 18, under the sponsorship of the Diablo Property Owners' Association (DPOA), a Walking Tour followed by a party was held to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Diablo Post Office at its present location--which had been the former Pro Shop of Diablo Country Club. On Wednesday, August 21, 1974, the first Ice Cream Social under the direction of Carol Sconyers took place to celebrate the new Post Office. A highlight was Diablo's own Dixieland Band, which included Diablo stalwarts, Mugs and Marshall Freeman.

At 4:00 pm, approximately 50 people gathered at our beloved "Squirrel" on Alameda Diablo to be led by David Mackesey, Historian of Diablo Country Club, on a tour of the 6 different locations of the Diablo Post Office since its inception in 1917. The first location was Oakwood, the home of David Colton, later converted by Robert Noble Burgess to be the Club Inn. The official unveiling took place on January 20, 1917, at the Club Inn, under the direction of our first Postmaster, J.N. Curtis. This location was meant to be temporary until its relocation to a permanent site at the Grand Barn later that year on Avenida Nueva. The Grand Barn no longer exists as it was demoed for wood for other structures by Club owner, Larry Curtola, in 1948. This forced the temporary relocation of the Post Office to Green Gables, the home of then Postmistress, Helen Cooper, in 1948. Imagine having to run a Post Office out of your own home, so much for privacy! Fortunately, later that year the Post Office moved to its 4th location in the Chalet. This also proved to be somewhat temporary as the Chalet was home to 40+ apartments. In 1953 the Post Office was relocated by Larry Curtola to the historic Milk Barn, first built in 1881 by Dan and Carrie Colton Cook for the Oakwood Park Stock Farm. Several long-time residents still living in Diablo fondly remember riding their horses to the Milk Barn to pick up their mail. The Milk Barn served as the Post Office for 21 years from 1953 to 1974 and has been lovingly restored and is part of a historic home near the upper parking lot. The last and final move was to its current location adjacent to the First Tee of Diablo Country Club.



A glorious party attended by 125 people followed in the upper parking lot next to the Post Office from 5 to 7 pm under the leadership of DPOA President, Leslie Keane and DPOA Treasurer, Dana Pingatore. The party included delicious food, wine, beer and non-alcoholic beverages and, of course, ice cream sundaes. Livening the affair was the musical accompaniment of the American and French husband and wife team, Jeff and Isobelle Magidson, known as Duo Gadjo. The performance with acoustic guitars and a virtuoso washboard was outstanding, lifting everyone's spirits.

Special guests of honor were our beloved Postmaster, Walter Lucas and his family and Theresa Blanco, an iconic figure in Diablo, and her family. We in Diablo are deeply indebted to Walter and Theresa. We were also blessed with the presence of Carol Jensen, Chairperson of the Contra Costa County Historic Landmarks Advisory Committee (HLAC) and David Yuers, HLAC Board Member. Diablo has been a Historic District under the aegis of Contra Costa County since 2002. Thank you, David Mackesey, Leslie Keane and Dana Pingatore, for making the Post Office celebration such a success.




DIABLO PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

DIABLO HISTORY WALK

A STROLL THROUGH DIABLO'S GOLDEN ERA

OCTOBER 13TH
RSVP REQUIRED



**DIABLO HALLOWEEN
SOCIAL**
6:00-8:00 PM
OCTOBER 31ST
Haunted Home Stretch
1749 Alameda Diablo
Hosted by Property Owners Assoc.



DIABLO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT (DCSD) UPDATE

The Diablo Community Services District or 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.

Are You Ready For Wildfires, Earthquakes and Winter Storms?

Fall in Diablo is beautiful with the changing of the leaves and the cooler days. Fall can also be a stressful time for residents between wildfires and earthquakes in September and October and winter storms in November and December. To help residents prepare for any combination of these events the DCSD has put together a list of things you can do, with links to State and Local agencies, to prepare and protect your family and property.

Wildfire Preparation:

1. Sign up for emergency alerts from local agencies via [Nixle](#) and the [Community Warning System](#) notification used by County Office of Emergency Services.
2. Make a personal evacuation plan that includes multiple routes in case your normal route is blocked. Research shows that people make strange decisions under duress. It's much easier to follow a pre-considered plan.
3. "Sweat the small stuff" around the outside of your home. Remove weeds and dead grasses near your home and trim trees away from your roof. Even small piles of leaves and vegetation adjacent to your house can help spread fire into overhanging eaves. Move as much as you can away from the house. Patio furniture is highly flammable (unlike interior furniture).
4. Prepare to be on your own for at least 72 hours. First responders will not be able to reach everyone immediately. Utilize the resources at [Be Ready SRV](#).

Earthquake Preparation:

Before the next big earthquake:

1. [Secure your space](#) by identifying hazards and securing moveable items.
2. [Plan to be safe](#) by creating your emergency plan and deciding how you will communicate.
3. [Organize emergency supplies](#) in convenient locations.
4. [Minimize financial hardship](#) by organizing important documents, strengthening your property, and considering insurance coverage.

During the next big earthquake, and immediately after:

1. [Drop, Cover, and Hold On](#) – if you feel shaking or get an alert.
2. [Improve safety](#) after earthquakes by evacuating if necessary, helping the injured, and preventing further injuries or damage.

After the immediate threat of the earthquake has passed:

1. [Reconnect and Restore](#) daily life by reuniting with others, repairing damage, and rebuilding community.

Winter Storm Preparation:

1. Check your property now and after each major storm for weakened/dead trees or tree limbs that might fall.

DIABLO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT (DCSD) UPDATE

2. Check your drainage catch basins now and after each major storm for leaves and debris that have collected. Left unchecked, leaves and debris can clog your drainage pipes and cause flooding.
3. If a creek runs through your property clear any obstructions that might redirect the flow of water and cause creek bank erosion or flooding. If you received a letter from ENGEO Inc. in August identifying creek, creek bank or open space concerns on your property, act now to protect your property this winter.
4. If your property is prone to flooding, stock up on sandbags now. See [Sandbag locations](#).

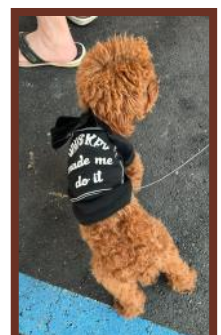
Diablo Community Services District Director Election Update

The DCSD is governed by five directors, elected to staggered four-year terms by Diablo residents. This November two directors, Kathy Urbelis and Matt Cox, are up for reelection. Kathy Urbelis has decided to retire after serving eight years as a DCSD director, serving for the last four years as President. Matt Cox and Phil Luecht were the only Diablo residents to file DCSD candidate applications with the County so there will be no election in November. Matt Cox and Phil Luecht will begin their 4-year term as DCSD directors on December 6th.

CELEBRATING THE DOGS OF DIABLO!

by Maddy Johnson

It was a beautiful night for our second annual Diablo Dog Walk on September 8th. Big dogs, little dogs, and every dog in between strolled together up Calle Arroyo from the 16th hole to the Post Office. Such a cool scene filled with all kinds of breeds! Everyone enjoyed beer and wine and a beautiful charcuterie platter with ambient music by DJ Tim Johnson, hosted by the DPOA. Lots of socializing between the doggies, parents and kids! Thanks to our volunteers for your help to make this event possible, and residents for coming out. We plan to host this event again in 2025!



DEPUTY DISPATCHES: BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDERS

By Deputy Christon Stoffels



It's that time of year again. The leaves are changing colors, summer vacations have ended, and children are back in school. Having said that, here are a few important reminders for residents.

Do pay extra attention to children riding bicycles and walking to and from school. Some children ride the school bus and, when running late or excited about getting home, may not pay attention to oncoming traffic and run out in front of a moving vehicle.

Do not forget that when operating a motor vehicle, passing a stopped school bus, one which has its lights flashing and sign extended to protect riders, will result in a traffic citation and a fine in excess of \$725.00. The obvious reason: child safety.

Just a few friendly reminders regarding e-bikes and electric scooters. Both are covered under the California Vehicle Code, which includes coming to a complete stop at stop signs. All riders under the age of 17 must wear a helmet, and in order to ride a powered scooter you must be at least 15 years of age AND possess a valid driver's license or instructional permit.

Parents are reminded that the use of golf carts on Diablo roadways is limited to a driver having a valid driver's license and obeying all state vehicle codes including the use of cell phones while operating golf carts.

Everyone also needs to be continually aware of the increased traffic congestion due to ongoing construction within the community and therefore drive accordingly. There are any number of construction workers, country club staff, and service providers driving within Diablo during the day, many of whom are unfamiliar with the narrow roads and parking issues within the community.

While patrolling the neighborhood, numerous occasions have occurred when I have to remind residents, guests, and contractors that vehicles must be parked on only one side of the street due, again, to the narrow roads. If an emergency vehicle, e.g., a fire truck or ambulance, cannot get through, lives and/or property are at risk, and that is unacceptable.

Therefore, let's all be diligent drivers and street parkers as we ease into autumn with school once again underway and days getting much shorter.

One last reminder, Halloween is just around the corner, and many little ghouls and goblins will be out trick-or-treating. Let us all be extra vigilant during this especially fun holiday for our kids.



CONGRATULATIONS, KATHY URBELIS!

by Julie Nejedly & Dana Pingatore

The DPOA board is pleased to announce that Kathy Urbelis has been selected as Diablo's 2023 Citizen of the Year. Kathy has been living in and serving our community for 48 years! Her knowledge of the inner workings of Diablo has been invaluable to BOTH our property owners' association (DPOA) and our community services district (DCSD) over the years. If you are looking for any Diablo-specific information, Kathy likely has it or can direct you to the right source. Her authentic and tireless commitment to leadership and service in our community has been so appreciated by all.

Kathy served as President of the DPOA from 2003 to 2004, collaborating, overseeing, organizing and working on countless efforts for the community. She joined the DCSD as a Director in 2016, was appointed Vice President in 2017 and elected President of the board in 2021. Throughout her time on the DCSD board, Kathy worked closely with the Board, members of the community, and county representatives to ensure that decisions on roads and security were made with the best interests of the community in mind while considering the purpose and authority of the District (as specified in our formation document). Her major accomplishments as DCSD President include updating the Procurement and Encroachment Ordinance Codes, establishing a Records Retention Policy and implementation strategy, overseeing the District's response to the flooding and infrastructure damage from historic storms on December 31, 2022 and January 2023. She also navigated the challenges of governing through COVID and the insurance crisis.



Fun Fact: Did you know that Kathy is also behind the Diablo Community Food Drive for the Food Bank of Contra Costa/Solano County? She has been organizing and coordinating our very successful community campaign for 25 YEARS.



We wish her all the best and hope she enjoys some much-earned time off when her term as DCSD President ends in December 2024. Thank you, Kathy Urbelis, for your service. Your dedication and efforts help make Diablo a special place to live!





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@diablopaa.org.

We do not have a typical HOA. Instead, all residents pitch in a nominal \$200+ each year to cover shared community costs: plants, water and maintenance at the entrances; raising the Diablo flags; holiday décor at the post office, the library and the entrances; maintaining our amazing community library; funding community activities and social events, as well as printing to deliver this newsletter to you. These things make 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 education. 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. Although 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.diablopaa.org and on Instagram@Diablo_Community.

Interested in contributing to the community?

We always need volunteers!

- Newsletter - Seasonal décor
- Welcome Committee - Social events
- Flags of Diablo - Community projects

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

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

CONTACT US

Website: www.diablopaa.org

Email: membership@diablopaa.org

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

Diablo Community Volunteers

Denise Aghazarian	Jan Novak
Elizabeth Birka-White	Shirley Osmer
Tony & Dee Geisler	Melissa Ovadia
Dana Gold	Alyssa Phillips
Amber Huete	Darcy Pierce
Maddy Johnson	Dana Pingatore
Leslie Keane	Lori Scallan
Greg & Anne Lorenz	Kathy Torru
Julie Nejedly	Julie Wallunas
Katie Nittler	

Meeting Schedule: 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. Email membership@dpoa.org for meeting location.

Diablo Community Services District Board

www.diablocsd.org

Kathy Urbelis, President
kurbelis@diablocsd.org
Matthew Cox, Vice President & Roads Commissioner
mcox@diablocsd.org
Christine Chartier, Community Liaison Commissioner
cchartier@diablocsd.org
Greg Lorenz, Finance Commissioner
glorenz@diablocsd.org
Jerry Slavonia, Security Commissioner
jslavonia@diablocsd.org
Kathy Torru, General Manager
generalmanager@diablocsd.org
Zachary Scalzo, Legal Counsel
Best, Best & Krieger, LLP

Meeting Schedule: 2nd Monday of every month at 6:00 pm. Visit diablocsd.org for meeting agendas, location, minutes, financials, history and info on the Diablo Municipal Advisory Council .

www.diablopaa.org