



# THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

DIABLO COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



## HELLO SPRING!

Diablo is ready for some warm and sunny days! The DPOA volunteers have been hard at work this winter.

- ◆ Hosting Valentine's Day sweet treats and Meet & Greet with Deputy Stoffels
- ◆ Celebrating our Post Master Walter Lucas and his 45 years of service
- ◆ Coordinating and publishing 2 editions of the Devil's Advocate
- ◆ Printing and will deliver 300 Diablo Directories to DPOA members
- ◆ Decorating our post office and library with seasonal décor
- ◆ Welcoming our new Diablo residents
- ◆ Refreshing the planting at our entrances for Spring

We also have plenty of events planned for this Spring and beyond. These are tentative dates...stay tuned for any updates.

- ◆ **TBD** - Pooches and Pizza Diablo Dog Walk
- ◆ **August 18<sup>th</sup>** - The US Post Office celebrates 50 years in the Old Pro Shop building. Will include refreshments and a special Post Office History Tour led by David Mackesey
- ◆ **September 17<sup>th</sup>** - Diablo Town Hall Meeting
- ◆ **October 13<sup>th</sup>** - Diablo History Walk and luncheon
- ◆ **October 31<sup>st</sup>** - Legendary Halloween Social

All of this makes Diablo a very special place. If you have enjoyed any of the efforts above, please make your 2024 annual contribution to the DPOA at [diablopoa.org](https://diablopoa.org). Remember to check out our website at [diablopoa.org](https://diablopoa.org), follow us on Instagram @diablo\_community, and look for signs around the neighborhood to learn more about what's happening next in Diablo!

Leslie Keane  
President, DPOA

SPRING 2024

# Thank you...

Abramo	Davis	Headen	McMullen	Raphel	Spicer
Adams	Davis	Heller	McNamara	Rathbun	St. John
Aghazarian	Day	Hildalgo	McNeil	Reed	Stedman
Alioto	De Tomasi	Hilton	McNichols	Reichanadter	Steffens
Allard	DeGracia	Hobden	McQueen	Rhodes	Stern
Alworth	DePole	Hoffman	Medford	Rich	Stump
Ambrose	Dhaliwal	Hoge	Mehran	Riherd	Suciu
Amor	Dickerson	Holt/Markstein	Millar	Roden	Tancreto
Antovich	Domeno	Hora	Miller	Rodvien	Tiernan
Armano	Dunlap	Hoversen	Mini	Rossiter	Tingley
Arnold	Dunlop	Hoyle	Moeller	Ryan	Tochilnik/Koval
Aspland	DuPuy	Huete	Moore	Salisbury	Torru
Bauer	Ebert	Hyman	Murphy	Salvador	Tovey
Becker	Edwards	Jansen	Murray	Salvo	Urbelis
Bell	Eorio	Johnson	Musco	Santa Maria	Varrelmann
Beratta	Fairman	Jones	Musco	Sauer	Viggiano
Bindi	Fanning	Joseph	Nejedly	Scallan	Vitzthum
Birka-White	Feinstein	Kavayiotidis	Newby	Scarpelli	Vukelich
Black	Field	Keane	Newton	Schannon	Waldern
Boas	Field	Keane	Nicholas	Scharnell	Walker
Bolourchi	Fisher/Amiri	Kennedy	Nicholson	Schmidt	Wallunas
Bonny	Fluehr	Korkos	Nittler	Schmitz	Walsh
Brant	Forman	Krejci	Novak	Serpa	Warneke
Breitwieser	Fosse	Krouse	Nudelman	Shah	Wasko
Busquets	Freeman	Land	Nystrom	Sheinberg	Welsh
Butcher	Freeman	Landes	Ogles	Shepherd	Wilhelmy
Callison	Fulton	Langon	Osmer	Sherman	Wilmore
Capelli	Gaffey	Laversin/Myers	Ovadia	Shin	Worden
Cella	Geisler	Lee	Pappas	Sinopoli	Wynn
Challinor	Gill	Lee	Parker	Sipos	Yang
Christophe	Girzadas	Leftik	Parr	Slavonia	Yee
Chun	Gold	Lewandowski	Pass	Sloan	Yewell
Circle	Gonzales	Ligon	Pearce/Sordi	Smith	Zweiback
Cobler	Gonzalez	Liniger	Pedersen	Soule	
Cohen/Chartier	Green	Lorenz	Perino		
Coleman	Grinstead	Luecht	Perry		
Congo	Grossman	Mackesey	Phillips		
Cook	Haddad	Malakoff	Pierce		
Cooper	Haney/Yellowlees	Martinez	Pingatore		
Corkern	Hanson	McDonald	Place		
Cotton	Happel	McDonnell	Porter		
Cox	Harney	McGarry	Prosser		
Crandall	Harney	McGrew	Rago		
D'Arcy	Harvey/Zwhahlen	McIntire	Rago		
Davidson	Headen	McMillan	Rago/Corlett		



For more information about our owners association, visit [www.diablopoa.org](http://www.diablopoa.org)

## DIABLO COMMUNITY DIRECTORIES AND AUTO DECALS

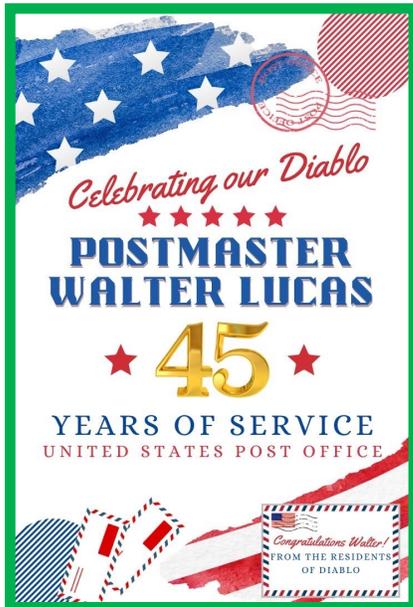
DPOA volunteers will be delivering the 2024 directory and two 2024 auto decals to all of you that have contributed to the DPOA this year. There is still time to [donate](#) if you'd like a directory and decals!

## CONGRATULATIONS, WALTER, ON 45 YEARS WITH THE POSTAL SERVICE!

Walter Lucas, our Postmaster, is celebrating 45 years with the postal service this year. Executives from the US Postal Service presented him with a service award on Friday, March 1st. Diablo residents enjoyed hot coffee and sweet treats all morning in the postal lobby.

Walter Lucas began his postal career in 1978, as a Distribution Clerk in San Francisco and served in numerous leadership roles across the east bay before coming to Diablo in September 2016. He has received several Distinguished Service Awards from the USPS during his 45 years of service. Walter is a native San Franciscan, and he and his wife Cynthia still enjoy visiting the City on weekends. They also enjoy cooking, dancing, music, reading, rooting for the Raiders and traveling.

Walter is always delighted to chat with his regular customers from our Diablo community and enjoys attending our community socials and history walking tours.



## COMMUNITIES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY: UPPER MT. DIABLO SCENIC

*Written by Jan Novak, as told by Laurie Baine, Chris Beeson, Leslie Forman, Gun Johnston, Steve Moore, Nicola Place and Marti Sketchley*

The story of Diablo's upper Mt. Diablo Scenic community begins with Mary's Haven. Built in the late 1940's, Mary's Haven was a tea house and gift shop with six rustic cabin rentals just outside the entrance to Mt. Diablo State Park. All seven structures were Pan-Abode kit homes purchased from Sears Roebuck. In 1968, the tea house/gift shop was purchased as a residence by Erskine Squary Baine, father of current Mt. Diablo Scenic residents Laurie Baine and Leslie Forman.



In 1973, Leslie and her late husband Peter purchased four acres of land just down the street and built a home. It wasn't exactly the home they expected, so they sold it to Jim and Gun Johnston later that year. Next they built a home on another portion of their property while living with their infant son in a camper. They then sold one acre of land to Leslie's father, who built another home and convinced Laurie and her horse to move here from Ohio. He and Laurie lived in that home until his death and Laurie continues to live there. Leslie, Laurie and Gun have all lived in Diablo for more than 50 years.

In 2003, Steve and Wendy Moore purchased the former Mary's Haven tea house and gift shop. Steve is an avid cyclist and saw the "For Sale" on a ride up the mountain. After living there for 18 years and thinking they REALLY needed a larger home, they finally tore it down and built a home that retained the rustic feel of the tea house but with modern amenities and a bit more space.

Marti and the late Sketch Sketchley had vowed to never move "east of the tunnel". Even so, after losing their home in the 1991 Oakland fire, they visited Diablo just to see comparative pricing in different areas. They fell in love with a cedar-shaked home on 5 acres, with a lake and a lot of trees, and moved to Diablo in 1994.

Nicola Place and Chris Beeson knew all about Mt. Diablo Scenic Boulevard, as Nicola had graduated from The Athenian School in the 70's and Chris was the Director of Admissions. In 1998, they found another "kit house" for sale on Upper Scenic that was a mess...but they fell in love with the views and the privacy. They purchased it and, after a year of renovation, moved in in 1999.

These six households formed the core of what has become a vibrant, connected community within Diablo. They have a combined 227 years of residence in what they fondly call "the outback" of Diablo. They all met and bonded quickly, even before many of them had moved in. These are very friendly people!

They have since formed a very close community with the eight other homeowners in the outback through work parties, jointly caring for a neighbor, strategizing about whether and how to annex into Diablo, and enjoying each other's company at annual block parties. They are such a close-knit community that they have "a mayor", Nicola Place, who leads their work on road safety and ensuring that the annual block party happens.

## COMMUNITIES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY: UPPER MT. DIABLO SCENIC (CONTINUED)

Their focus then evolved to caring for Helen, an elderly recluse with no family who lived in a trailer that was not visible from the road. Diablo's deputy at the time, Dean, decided he was going to make sure she was cared for. The neighbors rallied to the effort, cleaning up her property, ensuring she had food, taking her to appointments, bringing her water when her water line broke and she couldn't afford to repair it. Dean eventually resettled her into Diablo Lodge and managed the sale of her property to cover her costs of living there. When she died, the neighbors held a memorial service and scattered her ashes.

Marti and Sketch Sketchley hosted the first block party in 1999. 25 years later, it's an event not to be missed as they take turns hosting the party. The food, the laughter, the celebration of friendship and great neighbors.

When asked to describe what makes their community unique within Diablo, an obvious answer was the number of visitors heading up to the summit of Mt. Diablo. That makes for a busy and often dangerous road, but those visitors are typically friendly and happy to be in such a beautiful place. The community is quiet, nestled in the hills, with some incredible views. In their words, it's a "funky" collection of homes. More rustic than the rest of Diablo, more reflective of the mountain and its history. And, as almost everyone in Diablo would say, they feel a real connection to Diablo because of our incredible post office. That's where they see those of us who don't live in "the outback".

And if you ask the author of this article, what makes upper Mt. Diablo Scenic special is that it just seems to be full of the warmest, friendliest, funniest, most interesting people living in our glorious hills. Thank you for sharing your story with all of us!



# DIABLO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT UPDATE

## *Spring Reminders from DCSD to Keep Us All Safe*

### **Vegetation Street Encroachment**

As your vegetation bursts with color and growth this spring, please be mindful of any encroachments onto Diablo's streets. Property owners are responsible for ensuring a height clearance of 13.5 feet and a width clearance of 3 feet.

If dead grasses or duff are present at the street's edge, please remove them to maintain a 3-foot clearance. During a firestorm, such materials can easily ignite, potentially narrowing critical evacuation routes within Diablo.

Additionally, ensure that any fire hydrants on your property are clearly visible from the street and free of vegetation encroachment. If you notice a leaking or rusted hydrant, please contact EBMUD for inspection.

All encroachments must be addressed before May 31, 2024. Failure to do so may result in the DCSD hiring a third party for removal, with costs billed to the property owner. For more information on Diablo's Encroachment Ordinance, please click [here](#).

### **Golf Cart Street Rules**

Diablo's streets are designated for golf carts and other vehicles, with all golf carts subject to California Vehicle Code. It's essential that golf carts are driven only by licensed drivers. Additionally, unless a cart is specifically designed with more seats, only two individuals may ride in it.

Our deputy is authorized to stop and ticket any golf cart operated in violation of the law. Please note that golf carts driven on Diablo Country Club property are also subject to Club rules.

### **Street Parking Rule Reminder**

Given the narrowness of Diablo's streets, parking two cars opposite each other poses a safety hazard for vehicles and pedestrians. It also obstructs emergency vehicles. To maintain safety and accessibility, parked vehicles must be staggered to avoid opposite parking and should be parked as far onto the shoulder as possible.

Our deputy is authorized to ticket any vehicles obstructing the street.

### **DCSD/DMAC New Meeting Day and Time**

Please note that the DCSD and DMAC have changed their regular meeting time to 6:00 PM on the second Monday of each month. Meetings take place at the Diablo Country Club Red Horse Tavern Too (portable in upper parking lot), and meeting agenda packets and minutes are available on the DCSD's website at [www.diablocsd.org](http://www.diablocsd.org).



# COMMUNITY PHOTOS: VALENTINE'S DAY/MEET DEPUTY STOFFELS



# DEPUTY DISPATCHES: E-BIKES AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS



by Deputy Christon Stoffels

In this issue of the *Devil's Advocate*, we are going to discuss the proliferation of electric bicycles or e-bikes and electric scooters. During the past holiday season, many Diablo children received e-bikes and electric scooters. Now that the weather is getting warmer, these are being used more and more. Not a day goes by when I don't see a scooter or e-bike zipping along our roadways, often disobeying the rules of the road.

Therefore, the focus of this article is to provide basic information for the safe and legal operation of these new modes of transportation.

There are three classifications of e-bikes. Class 1: up to 20 mph, but only with pedal assistance. If you stop pedaling, you do not get any assistance from the motor. Class 2: up to 20 mph, but they have a throttle, so no need to pedal. Class 3: up to 28 mph but requires pedal assistance.

The number one rule for the safe use of electric scooters and e-bikes is to wear a helmet. All children under the age of 18 must wear a helmet, including passengers. For adults, the operation of Class 1 or 2 e-bikes does not require helmets. All operators and passengers of Class 3 e-bikes must wear a helmet. However, it is recommended that all e-bike users, regardless of age, wear a helmet.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission reported that injuries associated with "micromobility devices," i.e., bicycles, electric scooters, e-bikes, electric skateboards, etc., increased 21% in 2022 from 2021. Micromobility-related injuries have trended upward since 2017, increasing at an average of 23% annually.

All e-bikes have the same privileges and rights on the roads as a regular bicycle, including the use of designated bike lanes and riding on sidewalks, unless prohibited by local ordinance.

When a Class 2 e-bike is modified to go faster than 20 mph, it is no longer considered an e-bike, and may not be operated on the road. This type of micromobility device can only be operated on private property or off-road.

When an e-bike or electric scooter is operated on private property, the rules of the road do not apply. While the California Vehicle Code does not specifically apply in private parking lots, it is recommended that the code be followed, whether on an e-bike or a regular pedal bike.

When operated on public roadways, the same rules that apply to cyclists apply to micromobility devices. In other words, the California Vehicle Code applies to all who operate any form of transportation on public roadways, including but not limited to stop signs and speed limits.

Electric scooters are motor-propelled devices and do not have pedals. Typically, they have a maximum speed of 15 mph. Electric scooters are not allowed on sidewalks nor on Class 1 Bike Paths, which are paved rights-of-way completely separated from streets. The Iron Horse Trail is an example of this.

The bottom line: any form of micromobility device needs to be operated in a manner that is both safe and legal depending on the classification and location. See the chart on the next page for a breakdown of e-bike and electric scooter safety information.

Special thanks to the San Ramon Valley Unified School District and the Danville Police Department for contributions to this article.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, or have an idea for a future issue please e-mail me at [cstof@so.cccounty.us](mailto:cstof@so.cccounty.us).

# BICYCLE, E-BIKE AND SCOOTER SAFETY GUIDE

		Vehicle Details		User			Bike Access				East Bay Reg. Parks Trails	
		Pedal Operated	Max Assisted Speed	Minimum Age (years)	Driver License Required	Helmet Required	Class 1 Bike Path	Class 2 Bike Lane	Class 3 Bike Route	Class 4 Protected Lane	Paved Trails	Non-Paved Trails
	<b>Bicycle</b> Pedal only	✓	n/a	Bicycle n/a	✗	17 yrs & under	Bicycle ✓	✓	✓	✓	Bicycle ✓	✓
	<b>E-Bike/CLASS 1</b> Equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when rider is pedaling	✓	20 mph	Class 1 n/a	✗	17 yrs & under	Class 1 ✓	✓	✓	✓	Class 1 ✓	✓
	<b>E-Bike/CLASS 2</b> Equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bike	✗	20 mph	Class 2 n/a	✗	17 yrs & under	Class 2 ✓	✓	✓	✓	Class 2 ✓	✗
	<b>E-Bike/CLASS 3</b> Equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when rider is pedaling; equipped with a speedometer	✓	28 mph	Class 3 16 yrs	✗	Regardless of age	Class 3 ✗	✓	✓	✓	Class 3 ✗	✗
	<b>Power Scooter</b> Motor propelled	n/a	15 mph	E-Scooter 15 yrs Must have Driver License or Instructional Permit	✓	17 yrs & under	E-Scooter ✗	✓	✓	✓	E-Scooter ✗	✗

Sources: California Highway Patrol website | California Dept of Motor Vehicles website | East Bay Regional Parks website

max 15 mph on all EBRP trails

## SOCIAL NEWS

**Travis and Ashley Headen** welcomed with love their new baby boy, Wade Travis, on April 1st. He joins big sister Maggie (4) and big brother Crew (2). Grandparents **Marilee and Steve Headen** are overjoyed.

**Mavis (Sandy) Hoffman**, 94, longtime resident of Diablo, California, passed away peacefully on February 21<sup>st</sup> in El Dorado Hills. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Don, and cherished grandchildren Erik and Emily. She is survived by two sons, Keith (Maureen) and Robert (Emilia), and six grandchildren.

*Do you have social news to share with our community? Please send to [Elizabeth Birka-White](#).*

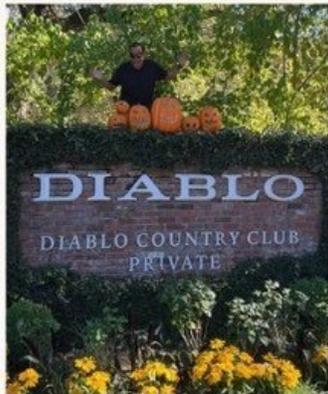
## RAISING THE FLAGS OF DIABLO



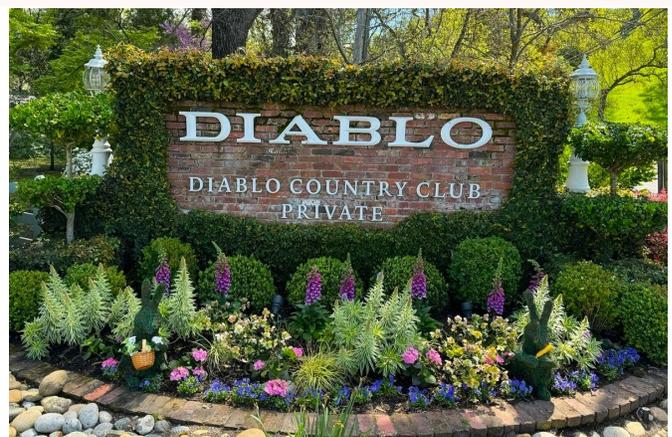
The DPOA will be raising the flags of Diablo at the entrances and on Alameda Diablo in honor of Memorial Day. If you have purchased a flag kit, please raise your flags as well. If you would like to purchase a flag kit, [contact the DPOA](#).

# BEHIND THE SCENES

## meet Aaron



If you love our patriotic flag display, Aaron is the guy to thank! He installs and uninstalls 40 flags four times a year. He's also the installation wizard behind our whimsical Halloween and holiday decor at the entrances and post office. Aaron enjoys showing off his creativity. He hand carved more than 50 unique jack-o-lantern faces in the halloween display last Fall. Aaron really enjoys working in the Diablo community. And we are so lucky to have his help. When you see Aaron installing the Memorial Day flags, please stop and say hello!



## PLEASE SEND US YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEXT DEVIL'S ADVOCATE!

We are always looking for articles of interest to our community.

- ◆ We have been featuring areas within Diablo that have really created small communities within our community. They have block parties, holiday parties, email lists to share information, ways to check in on each other when the power is out or someone is ill. We'd like to share those stories to inspire more mini-communities, to provide new ideas to those that already exist and to celebrate them. If you'd like to celebrate your mini-community, please contact [Jan Novak](#).
- ◆ Have lovely family news to share (high school or college graduations, births, weddings)? Please contact [Elizabeth Birka-White](#).

For Your  
Information...



### DIABLO COUNTRY CLUB HAS ANNOUNCED SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES BEGINNING JUNE 1ST

#### DCC's Sports

**Membership** initiation fees will increase to \$20,000 on June 1st. Prospective candidates and current Members who want to upgrade to Sports can apply at our current \$5,000 fee if they take action before June 1st.

#### Clubhouse

**Membership** initiation fees will NOT increase, but additional memberships will not be available after June 1st. Prospective candidates are encouraged to complete the application process prior to June 1st to be considered at our current \$2,500 fee.

#### The Proprietary

**Membership** initiation fees will increase, to \$100,000 as of June 1st. Prospective candidates and current DCC Members who want to upgrade to Proprietary likewise can apply at our \$90,000 initiation fee if they take action before June 1st.



## 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@diablopoa.org](mailto:membership@diablopoa.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. 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.diablopoa.org](http://www.diablopoa.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.diablopoa.org](http://www.diablopoa.org)

Email: [membership@diablopoa.org](mailto:membership@diablopoa.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 Ovidia
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](mailto:membership@dpoa.org) for meeting location.

### Diablo Community Services District Board

[www.diablocsd.org](http://www.diablocsd.org)

Kathy Urbelis, President  
[kurbelis@diablocsd.org](mailto:kurbelis@diablocsd.org)  
Matthew Cox, Vice President & Roads Commissioner  
[mcox@diablocsd.org](mailto:mcox@diablocsd.org)  
Christine Chartier, Community Liaison Commissioner  
[cchartier@diablocsd.org](mailto:cchartier@diablocsd.org)  
Greg Lorenz, Finance Commissioner  
[glorenz@diablocsd.org](mailto:glorenz@diablocsd.org)  
Jerry Slavonia, Security Commissioner  
[jslavonia@diablocsd.org](mailto:jslavonia@diablocsd.org)  
Kathy Torru, General Manager  
[generalmanager@diablocsd.org](mailto:generalmanager@diablocsd.org)  
Martin de los Angeles, Legal Counsel  
Best, Best & Krieger, LLP

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

[www.diablopoa.org](http://www.diablopoa.org)