

THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

DIABLO COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS HERE!

by The Diablo Property Owners' Association

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving as we look forward to the holidays and enter into the New Year of 2021. The Devil's Advocate is a great way to share the activities and events happening in our community and a method of keeping the communication lines open between our neighbors. Please also refer to the website or Instagram page for ongoing announcements and photos.

Happy Holidays Diablo!

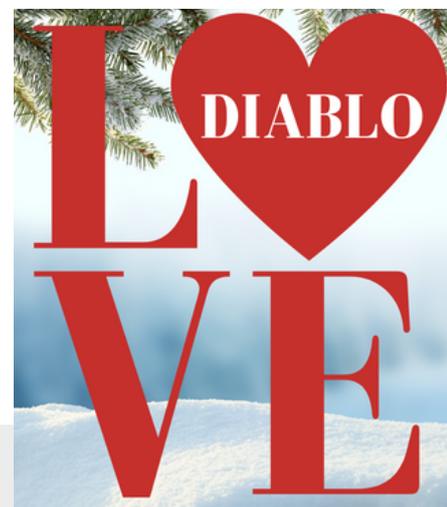


WINTER 2020

DIABLO CARES

The Gift of Gratitude and Giving Back

To say it mildly, 2020 has been challenging, eye opening and overwhelming. We all can benefit from pausing to notice and appreciate things that we often take for granted. Gratitude is one of several positive emotions - it is about focusing on what's good in our lives and being thankful for what we have. It is also about giving...and we welcome the start of The Diablo Holiday Food Drive going virtual this year, and Diablo Country Club's Annual Toy Drive!



DIABLO COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

DECEMBER 1st - DECEMBER 10th DIABLO'S VIRTUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Happy Holidays, Neighbors!

Building on Diablo's very successful virtual Emergency Food Drive in April, our Holiday Food Drive will also be virtual, so you can donate online rather than in person. The need for food is urgent in our community with the food bank now providing food to over 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. The Food Bank is truly grateful for our collective contributions of almost \$25,000 in April. Let's show once again that Diablo truly cares! ❤️

Here is how you can participate:

1. Donate online here: [Diablo Holiday Food Drive](https://give.foodbankccs.org/diablo) (give.foodbankccs.org/diablo)
2. Donate cash or check by dropping it off at Jan Novak's home (1844 El Nido)
3. For pickup at your home, please call or email Jan Novak at 925-785-4463 or jvnovak@msn.com
If you have already purchased food to donate, there will be a small bin outside her front door.

Stay safe and have a beautiful holiday season!

Diablo Holiday Food Drive Volunteers,
Kathy Urbelis, Julie Nejedly, Alyssa Phillips and Jan Novak



DIABLO COUNTRY CLUB 20TH ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

Please help us brighten the holidays for families who need our help!

We will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for children ages 2 – 8 years old. They will be given to children of low-income families in our community. Please place toys in the marked containers in the foyer of the Clubhouse from November 29th – December 10th.

Due to Covid-19 if you prefer to donate by check, please make out your check to Concord Child Care Center Inc. Send checks to Diablo Country Club (777 P.O Box, Diablo, Ca, 94528) c/o of Amber Klein.

Thank you for your help & generosity!



If you have any questions, please contact:

Sue Smith 925.899.8044 or Julie Pearce 925.930.7836

DPOA UPDATES

A LOOK BACK AT OUR WORK IN 2020

by Dana Pingatore, President

The primary mission of the Diablo Property Owners' Association (DPOA) is to strengthen our community through communication, beautification and historic preservation. Covid-19 forced us to get even more creative to fulfill our mission in 2020. Volunteers coordinated thematic events during the Shelter-in-Place such as:

- Chalk the Streets, Neighborhood Bear Hunt, and Shamrocks or Paper Eggs to find in the windows around the neighborhood. Frosty even made a surprise appearance at the Lending Library!
- Raised the Patriotic flags March through 4th of July, and in honor of Sept 11th
- Installed beautiful and creative décor at our entrances and post office - spring bunnies, summer fairies, fall pampas grasses, spooky ghosts and a lot of sparkle for the winter holidays
- Raised over \$25,000 during the spring emergency food drive for Food Bank of Contra Costa
- Launched the historic home book Diablo's Treasures. The Historic Preservation Committee delivered one book to every household in Diablo!
- Delivered warm welcomes to 17 new residents with seasonal gifts and information about the community
- Saluted our Post Office & Delivery Drivers with signs, gifts and sweet treats for all
- Celebrated Halloween with a jack-o-lantern carving contest, neighborhood scavenger hunt game, care packages delivered to our seniors and endless sweet treats at the post office for everyone
- Created a Thanksgiving Gift of Gratitude Board at the Post Office
- Decorated the entrances, Post Office, Lending Library and activities for the holiday season
- Restored the "Share a Moment Bench" at the Post Office
- Repaired infrastructure at the entrances (lights, irrigation, fence repair and paint).
- Maintenance and clean-up of the over-flow of books at the lending library
- Distributed a directory of property owners to all residents to help maintain connection during the shelter-in-place
- Published three Devils' Advocate newsletters
- Refreshed www.diablopoa.org and engaged on Instagram @Diablo_Community

These are the kinds of things that make Diablo a special place to live. See some of the community's pictures in the "what's happening" section. If you appreciated any ONE of these activities over the past year, please chip in \$150 for 2021 so that DPOA can continue this level of work. Use the form tucked inside this newsletter or contribute online at www.diablopoa.org/contribute.

For more community information please visit:

Website: www.diablopoa.org

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

DCSD Site: www.diablocsd.org



Decor by Leslie Keane & Max!

WHAT'S HAPPENING



DIABLO COUNTRY CLUB MAKES CHANGES TO REDUCE EARLY MORNING MAINTENANCE NOISE

In response to complaints from Diablo residents regarding the noise from morning golf course maintenance, the Diablo Country Club has announced they are taking the following steps to address the issue:

1. Purchased new equipment such as electric blowers that produce less noise than the gas-powered blowers, and baskets to attach to the fairway mowers which reduce the need to blow off the fairways.
2. Lower the speeds on remaining gas-powered blowers in the early mornings to reduce noise.
3. Investigate the acquisition of large sweeping machines to potentially eliminate the need for blowing cart paths and other areas.
4. Schedule maintenance team to begin their work slightly later in the morning.

MOUNT DIABLO'S SUMMIT BEACON

Save Mount Diablo volunteers and staff light the Mount Diablo Summit Beacon at sunset on Sundays so that it shines brightly until they rest it the next day after sunrise. The Beacon serves as a source of inspiration and gratitude, to bring our communities together and help them look up to the light. It is a beacon of hope, something that unites us and reminds us to look to our mountain and nature, and something that thanks our heroes during these trying times.

On December 7, they will light the Beacon in honor of the Pearl Harbor Survivors and National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. On that day, Save Mount Diablo and their partners will also put on a special virtual event with presentations by Pearl Harbor survivors from our area at 4:30pm PST. Details and a link for more info about the event can be found [here](#) or on their site.

Beginning again on December 13, they will resume lighting the Beacon every Sunday evening and resting it the following Monday after sunrise until the pandemic crisis in our area has passed. Sending you love, hope, and light from atop Mount Diablo!

With the help of one of it's original supporters and long time Diablo resident, Egon Pedersen, Save Mount Diablo is a nationally accredited nonprofit land trust founded in 1971. Their mission is to preserve Mount Diablo's peaks, surrounding foothills, and watersheds through land acquisition and preservation strategies designed to protect the mountain's natural beauty, biological diversity, and historic and agricultural heritage. *For more information and ways to support, visit: savemountdiablo.org*

WHAT'S HAPPENING - CONTINUED

IT'S ALWAYS FIRE SEASON

by Alyssa Phillips

This year, California has seen the worst fires and more acres burned than in its history. Our firefighters are working and away from their families for weeks to months at a time, including our SRVFD that supports Diablo.



"Trauma is not unique to the human race; some experience it more than others depending on the individual. First responders however, are a unique group that witness trauma nearly everyday for the entirety of their career. The hope is to raise awareness that there is an epidemic of struggling mental health within the first responder community. There is an existing stigma that dehumanizes first responders leading them to believe that if they are unable to compartmentalize the traumas experienced within and outside of the job then they are unfit to be a public servant. Alcoholism, divorce and suicide are plaguing the first responder community because they are ill equipped with mental health practices in order to decompress from the job and normal life stressors. It is crucial that behavioral health is normalized and the emphasis on and implementation of mental health modalities are proactively practiced within the first responder community in order to save our heroes lives." - Ashley Iverson

First responders are just as important as the individuals they are helping on a daily basis. To learn more and support, visit: iversonfaa.org



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Brian and Maryann Cella are overjoyed to announce the birth of their first grandchild, Constance Elizabeth Wedewer, born September 17th, 2020. Connie weighed in at 8 pounds, 3 oz. Proud parents are Caitlin and Nick Wedewer of Lafayette.

Maddy Serpa, daughter of Chrissy and Mike Serpa, graduated from the University of Mississippi at Oxford on November 13 with a Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science. She plans to begin Nursing school soon. Please join us in wishing Mike Serpa well, as he leaves his residence of Calle Los Callados.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

SPRING RECIPE BOOK

Diablo is putting together a community cookbook as a way to celebrate and get to know our neighbors. Full of family recipes, traditions and memories, we plan to present this book to all households in the spring. Learning about different foods and hearing the stories behind meals creates such a special way of connecting. If you would like to share your family recipe(s) and history behind it, please email them to membership@diablopoa.org or submit through the website.



Diablo family recipe book started in 1940

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.

DISTRICT ROAD MAINTENANCE UPDATE

If you have driven down Bella Vista, Calle Del Casarillo, Calle Los Callados, Campo Pelota, Canada Via, Club House Rd by the tennis courts, El Centro, El Nido Ct, Palma Vista or Verde Del Ciervo the last several weeks you have probably noticed the flawless rich black road pavement. Those beautiful, smooth roads are the result of the District's major road maintenance project: the grinding down and repaving of all those roads. The project was a huge success and the Board would like to thank General Manager Kathy Torru, DRYCO, the contractor responsible for the grind and pave, and ENGEO, the engineer, for their excellent execution of the project, and all of the residents impacted by the road work for their patience and cooperation during the disruption. Next spring, upper Alameda Diablo is scheduled for grinding and paving, at which point this multi-year project will be completed. After that, the Board will establish a slurry sealing schedule for each District-maintained road on a 7-10-year rotation in order to extend the life of the asphalt and repair cracks to the road. Slurry seal work will begin in 2022.

CALLE ARROYO CULVERT TRASH RACKS TO BE INSTALLED

At the corner of Calle Arroyo and Club House Road and the corner of Calle Arroyo and Canada Via there exist two sections of creek that run under District-maintained roads into culverts. What makes these sections of creek unique is that after crossing under the roads, the creek continues underground in large 48-inch culverts for an extended distance. This extended underground culvert length leaves few options to identify and remove lodged debris or other obstructions. Debris lodged in these underground sections could cause water to quickly back up and potentially damage the roads maintained by the District. To minimize the risk of obstruction in these culverts, the District has hired Surface Solutions LLC to fabricate and install one trash rack at the culvert entrance located at the corner of Calle Arroyo and Club House Road and a second trash rack at the culvert entrance located at the corner of Calle Arroyo and Canada Via. The work should be completed before the end of the year. Through our winter storm patrol service, the District will watch for debris build-up and keep the trash racks clean and open.

PREPARE FOR RAIN - TREE, LEAF & ORGANIC DEBRIS REMOVAL

Our annual rains have begun so please check your property for weakened mature trees or tree limbs that might be at risk for falling. In addition, please check your drainage catch basins for leaves and debris that have collected since last winter. Left unchecked, the leaves and debris in the catch basins can be forced by the rains into your drainage pipes creating an obstruction and possible flooding. Finally, residents with creeks on their property need to clear them of debris to ensure unobstructed flow during heavy rains and prevent backup and potential flooding. Diablo residents are responsible for ensuring that their trees, shrubs, fencing, etc., do not encroach upon the roads, block the creeks, or present a safety issue. Please do your part to keep Diablo safe!

CERVANTES LAWSUIT DISMISSED

On November 6, Contra Costa County Superior Court ruled in the District's favor in the cross-complaint filed by Mr. Cervantes. The court ruled that the District was not a proper party to the case because it did not own or otherwise have an interest in the Alameda Diablo-Mt Diablo Scenic cut-through. The case against the District was dismissed.

CONTINUED: Diablo Community Services District

SECURITY UPDATE

The District is happy to report that Diablo's Deputy Sheriff reported no incidents this fall and only two minor vandalism issues over the summer. Sadly though, a break-in did occur in mid-November while the residents were on vacation. The Sheriff's Department is addressing this issue. As a reminder, if you are planning to be out of town, alert your neighbors so they can keep an eye out for unusual activity. Our Deputy does do house checks for residents when they are away, and if you choose, you can sign up for that service (see the Security section of the DCSD website—diablocsd.org—for details). The biggest safety issue within Diablo continues to be vehicle speed and vehicles running stop signs. With so many residents, young and old, working and schooling from home this year, it is critical that we all drive safely at 20 mph and actually STOP at stop signs.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHANGES

RAY BRANDT RETIRES

After almost 11 years as a Director, Ray Brant will retire in December. He leaves with an impressive legacy, including highlights such as:

- Six years as Board President
- Over nine years of security planning and oversight
- Initiation of Diablo's biggest road undertaking: the grinding and paving of all
- Diablo-maintained roads to create a solid foundation for the long-term.
- Handling major crises, like downed trees blocking roads, and the big one: a collapsed road due to culvert failure.
- Making culvert maintenance plans a priority by evaluating these aging infrastructures, identifying essential future projects, and helping sell a tax increase to pay for the work that would be required.
- Leading the Board through the maze of recent lawsuits
- Welcoming discussions with residents regarding the District and its work in and outside of meetings

Thank you, Ray. You will be missed. We know you will thoroughly enjoy your new-found free time, sharing it with family and friends at home, at the river, and on the ski slopes.

MATTHEW COX JOINS THE BOARD

Matthew, his wife Christine (née Paulson) and their three children moved to Diablo in 2018. Christine grew up in Diablo on Calle Los Callados where her parents still reside. As a result, Matthew spent many years around the community before becoming a permanent resident. He grew up in the Danville area and only left to attend undergrad and finally Law School at USF. Matthew is a Licensed California Attorney and also a heavy civil construction manager specializing in projects related to municipal wastewater, roads, bridges, large grading and paving, and dam related work. Acting as general counsel and a construction director for his current employer, he regularly advises project teams on risk control and oversees an array of civil projects taking place in the public right-of-way. Over the years, Matthew has been heavily involved in the local cycling community and has come to appreciate the roads and locations surrounding the Diablo community. As recent as 2012 he participated in the local Diablo challenge and has spent countless hours climbing Mt. Diablo. When the opportunity came about to serve on the Board and offer his construction and legal acumen along with a direct pipeline to the cycling community, he saw a chance to help make a difference and bring about solutions for the Diablo community and cyclists that will support keeping everyone safe and also serve the interests of all Diablo's residents.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the November meeting of the Board of Directors, Kathy Urbelis was elected President and Leonard Becker was elected Vice President. Jeff Eorio will continue as Secretary. Finance, Security and Road Commissioners will be appointed in January.

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS!

If you have recently moved into our community, we have a gift for you! Please reach out to membership@diablopoa.org to let us know you are here!

We do not have a typical HOA here in Diablo. 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, décor 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. You can find more information at www.diablopoa.org



New Resident Gifts!



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.

Interested in contributing to the community?

Looking for Volunteers!

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

THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE IS A PUBLICATION OF THE DIABLO PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

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CONTACT US

Diablo Property Owners' Association Board

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Dana Pingatore - President | Ruhli Alikhan |
| Terri Davis - Treasurer | Leslie Keane |
| Elizabeth Leftik - Secretary | Alyssa Phillips |
| Don & Julie Nejedly | Melissa Ovardia |
| Jeff Mini | Jan Novak |
| Maddy Johnson | |

The DPOA meets every other month on the first Tuesday at 7:30 via Zoom (as opposed to Diablo Country Club at this time).

Diablo Community Services District Board

- <http://www.diablocsd.org>
- Kathy Urbelis, President & Community Liaison
kurbelis@diablocsd.org
- Leonard Becker, Vice President
lbecker@diablocsd.org
- Jeff Eorio, Secretary
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- Greg Isom, Finance Commissioner
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- Matthew Cox
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- Kathy Torru, General Manager
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- Christie Crawl, Legal Counsel
 Jarvis, Fay & Gibson, LLP

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

Diablo Advisory Committee Board

- Peter Schmidt, Chairman
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