



THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

DIABLO COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



HAPPY FALL, DIABLO!

The leaves are turning, acorns dropping and DPOA volunteers are busy planning some tricks & treats this season.

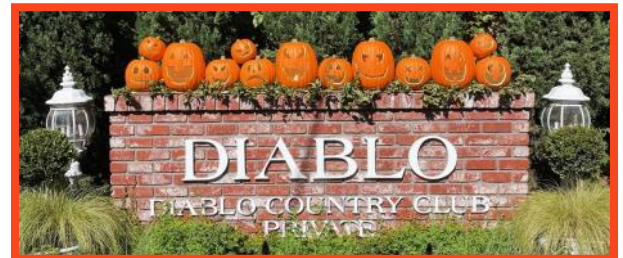
We have two big events brewing that you will not want to miss:

October 28th - Diablo History Tour 10am-1:30pm. David Mackesey, our resident historian, will lead a tour around Diablo, taking us back to the "Roaring Twenties". The two hour tour will culminate with a picnic box lunch in the garden at the lovely Villa Paraiso. RSVP at diablopoa.org

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.

Look for the gratitude board to go up again this Thanksgiving. We love this tradition that started during the pandemic. Please be sure to share what you are thankful for this season. We are thankful 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 the year. If you enjoy it, let us know! membership@diablopoa.org

Leslie Keane
Volunteer President, Diablo Property Owners' Association



A FUN OCTOBER IN OUR COMMUNITY!

DIABLO'S ROARING TWENTIES
Then & Now

DIABLO HISTORY WALKING TOUR
Narrated by David Mackesey

SATURDAY OCT 28TH
10:00AM - 1:30PM

RSVP
DIABLOPOA.ORG

ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME
SPONSORED BY DPOA

DIABLO HALLOWEEN SOCIAL
6:00-8:00^{PM}
OCTOBER 31ST

Haunted Home Stretch
1749 Alameda Diablo

HOSTED BY DIABLO PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOC.

JOIN IN THE HALLOWEEN FUN!

The Diablo Property Owners' Assoc (DPOA) is hosting the legendary Halloween social again this year on **October 31st**. Come enjoy street tacos and drinks with your neighbors from 6-8pm at the "Haunted Home Stretch" [1749 Alameda Diablo]. All residents and guests are welcome. Costumes encouraged but not required. Thank you to the Jones family for allowing us to gather in your driveway again this year.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH STREET SET UP AND CLEAN UP

We need some adults to help close the road at 6pm (set out cones/signs), open the road at 8pm. Can you help with trash pickup along Alameda Diablo the morning of November 1st? There are always a ton of candy wrappers and assorted trash. This is an excellent community service project for your kids. Please email membership@diablopoa.org

TRICK-OR-TREAT WILL BE OPEN AROUND ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD

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. Porch light ON indicates treats available! Please DRIVE SLOW and take extra caution. Flashlights and golf cart headlights are required. It gets SUPER DARK!

ALAMEDA DIABLO ENTRANCE WILL BE CLOSED TO CARS 6-8pm on Halloween (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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP DISTRIBUTE CANDY ON ALAMEDA DIABLO?

We would like to match up residents who would enjoy distributing candy with homeowners on Alameda Diablo who have asked for some help. If you would like to participate, email membership@diablopoa.org

LOOK FOR SOME SWEET TREATS AT THE POST OFFICE AND BLING FOR YOUR KIDS AT THE LIBRARY

The DPOA will be offering up some early Halloween goodies beginning a few days before Halloween. And the library will have Halloween bookmarks and bling. Bring your children and grab a book while you're there.



The fun décor at the entrances, library, post office, and the social are designed 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. If you enjoy it, let us know.

DPOA HOSTS FIRST DOG WALK & NEIGHBOR SOCIAL

By Dee Geisler

Under the leadership of DPOA volunteer Maddy Johnson, the DPOA-sponsored Dog Walk & Neighbor Social on August 27th was a huge success. Residents and dogs gathered at the 16th hole parking lot on Calle Arroyo and paraded up Calle Arroyo to the festivities at the Post Office. Everyone had a wonderful time.



Lila McIntire, Diablo's premier lover of dogs, dispensed the canine treats while wearing a fun hat emblazoned with "Bone Appetit." At the post office, there were many frozen delights served by Lindsay Waldern. Thank you to the Keane Family for providing the freezer and goodies inside.

The adults enjoyed the wine and beer served by Maddy Johnson and Katie Nittler. Maddy's handsome son and DJ, Tim Johnson, provided the perfect summer background ambiance with his music selections for all ages.

Tony and I enjoyed giving away the balloon bouquets at the end of the evening. A family who moved here just two weeks ago was stunned and very pleased to get the iridescent star bouquet of balloons. After some thought as to where the doggie bouquet should go, Tony said, "Give it to Ivy (Leslie's daughter)." When he said this, the beaming smile that appeared on Ivy's face was unforgettable. What fun it was for us to watch her walk home with that big bouquet!

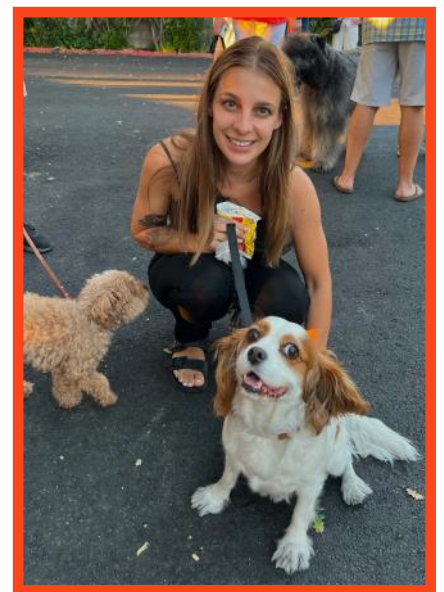


This Diablo Dog Walk has been a long simmering idea for dog friendly Diablo. We have had so much fun at dog walks in Danville with big dogs, small dogs, white and fluffy, brown and sleek—all kinds to ooh and ahh over. We also enjoy seeing Diablo dogs on our daily walks. The dogs at this event behaved beautifully, waiting patiently while their owners chatted at the social. It was such a treat seeing this marvelous event come to life. Many residents came without dogs too and enjoyed connecting with neighbors. It was a wonderful event for everyone.

Thank you to the community and the marvelous volunteers for making this event so successful. And special thanks to Maddy, Katie, Leslie, Tony & Dee, Lila and Tim for your hard work to make this a special event. If you are interested in helping with community events like this, please reach out to membership@diablopoa.org.



HAPPY DIABLO DOGS AND THEIR HUMANS



COMMUNITIES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY: EL NIDO

By Julie Nejedly and Dick Breitweiser, with contributions from many El Nidoans

El Nido has always been a special place to live, but according to Diablo's former long-time historian Jim Stone, it has no historical significance whatsoever! That didn't stop the El Nido residents from making a name for the street over the years as a place for long standing traditions of Block Parties, Bunco Nights, Holiday Celebrations and more. Of special note are the views and lush green surroundings of the park-like yards bordered by Diablo Country Club golf course on many of the properties.

In the early days after El Nido was developed in the early 1970's, neighbors pulled together to get to know one another in this often-overlooked outlying road away from the center of the community. Progressive dinners, neighborhood cocktail parties, and children playing in the street were common. As demographics and homeowners changed over the years, the spirit of the neighborhood remained the same, with social connection being a top priority. During the recent Covid shutdown, younger families often did the shopping for the older neighbors who were more vulnerable. As things began to ease, socially distanced gatherings were held in back yards again as a way of reconnecting.

El Nido's claim to fame in Diablo is the annual Block Party held on the Sunday before Halloween every year. This beloved tradition was started by the Gunnersons and McIntires and has continued with organization and hosting by the Breitweisers, Nejedlys and others every year. El Nido neighbors have enjoyed many baby showers, moving-away gatherings and Holiday celebrations highlighted with wonderful food, beverages and competitive games. This neighborhood has made keeping in touch a strong tradition enjoyed by young and old. A great by-product of this close connection and communication has been the resulting volunteerism by El Nido neighbors as leaders of the community in the DPOA, Annual Food Drive, DCSD, and CERT disaster preparedness for many years.



MORE FUN ON EL NIDO!



DIABLO IS GETTING READY FOR HALLOWEEN!





WANT TO BRAG ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY?

We want to feature additional communities in upcoming issues of the Devil's Advocate. Please [contact us](#) if you are interested in sharing what makes your particular community great!

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR OWN PATRIOTIC FLAG FOR VETERANS DAY?

The DPOA started installing patriotic flags along our entrances in 2011 to honor Memorial Day, 4th of July, Sept 11 and Veterans Day. Jeff Mini conceived of and installed the unique display for many years. Residents loved them so much they started asking for a flag of their own. So the DPOA created a fundraiser "Double your contribution and receive a flag to keep as a thank you gift."

If you would like a flag of your own, we invite you to double your contribution to our owners' association. You can submit online at <https://diablopoa.org/contribute> or mail a check to DPOA PO BOX 215. Greg Lorenz, volunteer flag coordinator, will reach out regarding installation. These flags are a custom labor of love and are produced in limited quantities each year, so please be patient.



SOCIAL NEWS

Madeleine and Tim Johnson are thrilled to announce the marriage of their daughter Emily Rose Johnson and Damien Woodfull on September 14 in the Douro Valley, Portugal on September 14, 2023.

The newlyweds met in San Francisco but now will live in Vancouver, Canada.



LIBRARY HAPPENINGS



The library is getting spooky for Halloween! Our little library continues to be well-loved by both the kids and the adults in the community. We would appreciate donations of newer books if you have any you can part with. The DPOA will be stocking the library with Halloween bookmarks and bling later this month.

DIABLO HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

DECEMBER 1st-10th
give.foodbankccs.org/diablo

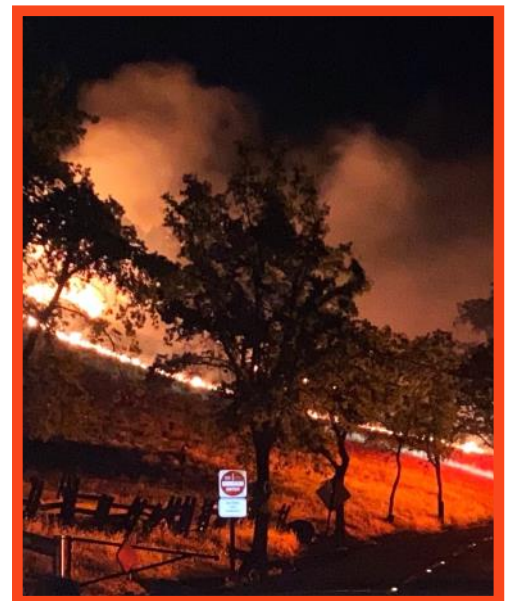


Coming soon! The Diablo Annual Holiday Food Drive will run from December 1st-10th. Last year was our most successful food drive ever, with generous Diablo residents and club members donating more than \$20,000. Look for more information late next month.

TOP THINGS YOU CAN DO NOW TO PREPARE FOR WILDFIRE

The Maui fires are a very sad but important reminder to review how prepared your family is for potential wildfire in Diablo. Here are 4 things you can do now:

1. **Sign up for emergency alerts from local agencies** via Nixle www.nixle.com AND the Community Warning System notification www.cwsalerts.com 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.** Move as much as you can away from the house. Patio furniture is highly flammable (unlike interior furniture). Even small piles of leaves and vegetation adjacent to your house can help spread fire into overhanging eaves.
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 www.firedepartment.org/community/be-ready-srv



DIABLO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT UPDATE



Prepare for Another Wet Winter: Tree, Leaf, and Organic Debris Removal

With our annual rains approaching, and predictions suggesting a winter as wet as the last one, it's time to get ready. Take a moment to inspect your property for weakened mature trees or tree limbs that might pose a falling risk. Additionally, check your drainage catch basins for leaves and debris that may have accumulated since last winter. If left unattended, these can be swept into your drainage pipes by the rains, causing obstructions and potential flooding. For those with creeks on their property, ensure they are clear of debris to maintain unobstructed flow during heavy rains and prevent backups and flooding. If you experienced flooding last winter, consider stocking up on sandbags before the storms arrive.

Diablo residents, it's your responsibility to ensure that your trees, shrubs, fencing, and more don't encroach upon roads, block creeks, or create safety hazards. Let's all do our part to keep Diablo safe!

FEMA Update

Governor Newsom and FEMA declared Contra Costa County a disaster area after the December 2022 and January 2023 storms. This declaration allows public agencies within the County to seek emergency funding through the State and FEMA.

The DCSD faced over \$311,000 in winter storm damage costs for road and bridge repairs, creek trash rack monitoring, and debris removal. After applying for FEMA disaster relief funds in the spring, the DCSD was awarded \$311,000 this fall. Currently, the DCSD is working with the State to receive disbursement of the award.

Security Update

Our Deputy Sheriff, Chris Stoffels, reported an incident of vandalism to a portion of the wall on Mt Diablo Scenic located at the cut-through. A report has been filed with the Sheriff's Department, and the investigation is ongoing.

As a friendly reminder, if you're planning to be out of town, give your neighbors a heads up so they can be vigilant for any unusual activity. Our Deputy conducts house checks for residents during their absence, and if you're interested, you can sign up for this service (check out the Security section of the [DCSD website](#) for more details).

The most pressing safety concern in Diablo continues to be vehicle speed and the tendency of vehicles to disregard stop signs. With a significant number of residents, both young and old, working and schooling from home, it's absolutely crucial that we all adhere to a safe driving speed of 20 mph and actually come to a complete STOP at stop signs.

License Plate Reader Camera Proposal

In recent years, neighboring communities like Danville, Blackhawk, and Alamo have seen an increase in crime. While Diablo hasn't experienced the same, due to its proximity, it's reasonable to consider potential impacts. In response, these communities invested in the license plate reading camera system from Flock Safety Inc. These cameras, located at intersections, capture images of license plates, make, model, and color of passing cars. There are no pictures of the car occupants. The Diablo Deputy, along with law enforcement, views these images only when linked to a crime. The DCSD is considering adding license plate reading cameras at Diablo's entrances, and Flock Safety will present its system at the October 10, 2023 meeting.





Introducing the District's New General Counsel

At the September 12, 2023 meeting, Martin de los Angeles of Best, Best & Krieger LLP was named General Counsel for the District. Martin, with extensive experience in Municipal Law, will provide legal counsel on various matters, ensuring compliance and addressing legal issues associated with Municipal Law practice.

DCSD/DMAC New Meeting Time

The DCSD and DMAC have moved their regular meeting start time to 6:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Meetings take place at the Diablo Country Club Red Horse Tavern Too (portable in the upper parking lot), and agenda packets and minutes are available on the [DCSD's website](#).

Independent Financial Audit for FY 2023

Following the end of each fiscal year, the District conducts an independent audit of its finances. The firm of Richardson & Company LLP, from Sacramento, conducted the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. The auditors provided a clean report, confirming that the DCSD's financial affairs are in good order, with operations following state mandates. The full audit report is available on [the website](#) under the Documents tab.

DIABLO COUNTRY CLUB RENEWS LEASE FOR OUR COMMUNITY POST OFFICE

By Dana Pingatore

The Diablo Post Office is so much more than just a place to pick up mail. It serves as the heart of our community, the place where we catch up on neighborhood news, enjoy holiday treats and decor, and chat with the friendliest postal team.

Our community founder, Robert Noble Burgess, petitioned the U.S. Postmaster General for a Post Office back in 1916 to ensure Diablo would remain a distinct entity. The first Diablo Post Office opened in 1917 inside the Cook mansion at 1925 Alameda Diablo. Over the years, it moved locations around our community. In 1974, Diablo Country Club graciously agreed to lease space in its current building.

The Club recently renewed the lease for the Post Office for another 5 years (August 2024 to August 31, 2029). Diablo Country Club's continued sponsorship of the location serves much more than just convenient mail delivery needs. This building lease ensures the independent designation of the Diablo community. Without this generous support, our community's name and dedicated 94528 zip code would cease to exist! Many thanks to the Diablo Country Club for providing the building for our Post Office for almost 50 years.



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.

We do not have a typical HOA. Instead, all residents pitch in a nominal \$150 each year to cover shared community costs: plants, water and maintenance at the entrances; raising the Diablo flags; 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. 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.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

Email: 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 Ovadia
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
Martin de los Angeles, Legal Counsel
Best, Best & Krieger, LLP

Meeting Schedule: 2nd Tuesday 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.diablopoa.org