



THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

DIABLO COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



MAY 2023 BE YOUR BEST YEAR YET!

Community volunteers did some incredible work to enhance our community in 2022. Here's a list of the highlights:

- Delivered welcome gifts and information to 20 new residents who moved into our community
- Hosted 4 community social events: St. Patrick's Day, a Spring Welcome, Halloween and a Town Hall with Supervisor Andersen
- Installed lovely holiday décor and planting at our entrances, post office and lending library and hosted treats for Valentine's Day, Back to School, Halloween, Thanksgiving and end-of-year holidays
- Raised the Flags of Diablo on Memorial Day, 4th of July and Sept 11th
- Shared stories of residents living in Diablo for 50+ years via the Diablo Honors program
- Distributed a directory of property owners to all residents
- And kept our community informed about what's happening via A-frame posters, posts on Instagram and NextDoor, and 3 issues of this newsletter

All of this makes Diablo a very special place. If you enjoyed any of efforts listed above, please make your annual contribution for 2023 to the DPOA at www.diablopoa.org.

Leslie Keane is taking a turn to serve as volunteer president of the DPOA this year. She is a creative force and the mastermind behind all the entrance planting and fun holiday décor. We are lucky to benefit from her talents. Cheers to Kathy Torru, our 2022 Diablo Citizen of the Year, and to all of you, cheers to the new year!



The Diablo Property Owners' Association volunteers

WINTER 2023

DIABLO HONORS OUR LONG-TERM RESIDENTS

HONORING PATTI MILLER

Resident since 1972

By Jan Novak

Patti McGrath was born 95 years ago, a third generation Bay Area native with family roots here that go back to the 1860s. She was and at heart still is “an Oakland girl”, one of four lively sisters. She attended Holy Names High School in Oakland and then went on to Holy Names College. Her college education was interrupted when she met Bob Miller and fell in love. Bob and Patti married in 1947.



When I asked Patti why she has stayed in Diablo for so many years, she talked about all the wonderful memories and great friends she has in our community. “I loved the tennis and golf groups. And it’s such a friendly neighborhood, especially up here on El Nido.”

Read the full article at www.diablopoa.org and see Patti’s “honor board” at the post office this month.

HONORING BOB AND BARBARA BERATTA

Residents since 1972

By Maryann Cella



For Barbara and Bob Beratta, the road to Green Shutters, their historic Diablo home, began in Victoria, British Columbia.

A few years after they moved with their two young daughters into a brand-new home in Danville, the couple visited Victoria and fell in love with its wood lap-siding homes and beautiful tree-shaded gardens. A short time later it seemed like serendipity when Barbara drove up Alameda Diablo for the first time and saw a “For Sale” sign nestled among the overgrown shrubbery that nearly obscured Green Shutters from street view. It reminded them of the Victoria homes they loved. Undeterred by the work that needed to be done on the home and grounds, they bought the house. Fifty years later, their love for Green Shutters and Diablo continue to grow.

Barbara was born in Sioux City, Iowa, but moved to California as a small child. Bob was born and raised in Antioch. Fate and sports education brought them together at Chico State University, where both were pursuing education degrees. Bob asked Barbara to be on his co-ed soccer team in a PE class. Little did he know that he had chosen a ringer with a sports legacy.

Read the full article at www.diablopoa.org and see Bob & Barbara’s “honor board” at the post office in February.

DIABLO HONORS OUR LONG-TERM RESIDENTS

HONORING LESLIE FORMAN

Resident since 1973

By Jan Novak

A horse named Porky brought Leslie Forman and her late husband Peter to Diablo.

Leslie was born in Berea, Ohio and raised in nearby Rocky River. After graduating from Miami University, and much to her parents' dismay, she joined United Airlines as a "stewardess". After starting in Chicago, she moved to San Francisco. One of her roommates set Leslie up on a blind date with Peter Forman, who was in just finishing dental school at UCSF. Peter was "charming" and "loads of fun", and after a short engagement, they married in 1966. They lived in Danville and Leslie bought a horse, Porky. Porky was boarded at Dick & Ann Haward's South Gate Farm on Mt. Diablo Scenic Boulevard. Peter & Leslie became great friends with the Haywards and they agreed to sell them the four acres of pasture. They designed and had built a rustic mountain house, saving room for Porky. Yes, they moved in with their horse!

Read the full article at www.diablopoa.org and see Leslie's "honor board" at the post office in March.



CONGRATULATIONS KATHY TORRU, 2022 DIABLO CITIZEN OF THE YEAR!



The DPOA board is pleased to announce that Kathy Torru has been selected as Diablo's Citizen of the Year for 2022. Kathy has been living in and serving our community for 30 years! Her knowledge of the inner workings of Diablo has been invaluable to BOTH the property owners' association (DPOA) and our community services district (DCSD) over the years. If you are looking for any Diablo specific information, Kathy can likely answer it or direct you to the right source.

Kathy served on the DPOA board in the late 90s and came back a few years ago to help us manage our finances. She processes hundreds of resident donations and volunteer reimbursement requests each year, and provides a clear picture of our financials each month. In addition she keeps a meticulous resident database, tracking home sales and sleuthing out information to help DPOA welcome new residents. If you appreciate the Diablo Directory of residents, you can thank Kathy for putting that together as well. She provides all the "behind the scenes support" so volunteers can execute on all the awesome programs for our community.

Kathy also serves as the General Manager for our community services district (DCSD). She heavily draws upon her knowledge and experience as a former Director herself. Her dedication to our community was on full display most recently coordinating response to the storm damage in Diablo. You will learn more about her efforts later in this newsletter.

Thank you Kathy Torru for your service. Your dedication and efforts for so many years have helped make Diablo a special place to live.

DO YOU HAVE THE CUTEST PET IN DIABLO??

By Rachel Heimann and Pippen, the cat

I am proposing a cutest pet contest because a light-hearted, friendly competition could be a great way for neighbors to get to know each other better--and, more importantly, get to know our non-human neighbors better.

The editors of this illustrious newsletter have suggested that we have different categories of pets every quarter: rescue dogs, barn animals, labs and retrievers, small dogs, etc. But, since this is my idea, we are starting with the cutest cat in Diablo. I am nominating one of my two cats, Pippen. He (kind of) wrote this himself.

“My name is Pippen; not only am I the best cat in Diablo, I am the King of this Jungle. I’ve got it all: a kind soul, an adventurous spirit, and majestic beauty. I go out every morning and come back to my humans every night—that’s loyalty, baby. What do I do with all that free time? I’ve been asked this question many times, and much to the chagrin of the inquiring human, I never reveal any details. But I’m a reasonable King, and exceptions can be made, especially at the request of my peasa—I mean neighbors.

For one thing, I have no limits. I’ve roamed every part of Diablo: low and high, far and near, and sometimes obscure. Take a look outside your front door—have you seen me? Probably. I’m just checking up on you or looking for a fellow feline to play with—or maybe looking for rats to bring home! My humans love when I do that.

It would be an honor to be named Cutest Cat in Diablo. I thank you for your consideration and Rachel Heimann for this nomination.

P.S. my humans already know some of these details because they managed to attach a tracker on me for a few weeks. I eventually got that monstrosity off of me — I prefer the allure that comes with being a mysterious King.”

From the editor: Do you have a cutest cat to nominate? Send a photo and your cat’s name to jvnovak@msn.com. All photos will be published in our next newsletter and the community will vote!



DID YOU KNOW.....

February 10th is National Umbrella Day. With the workout we have all given our umbrellas to start this year, it seems only fitting that we should celebrate!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

The Diablo Property Owners' Association is an all volunteer effort. In this edition of our newsletter, we thank a very special long-term volunteer for her contributions to our community.

MARILEE HEADEN



Do you love the Diablo Halloween party? Many years ago, Marilee, worried about her young children trick-or-treating on the dark streets of Diablo and serving as the DCSD Security Commissioner at the time, asked our sheriff to block off the entry to Alameda Diablo to ensure Diablo children would be safe. She also asked the DPOA to host a small table where our squirrel now stands for cookies and cider. Thus, was born the amazing Halloween Spooktacular that we all love.

Marilee served on the DCSD Board for **22 years**. Her proudest accomplishment was securing an easement for the front entrance from Mrs. Cronin, who owned that land. She and a team of volunteers then created the entry sign, added planting and electricity and lighting for our beautiful entrance. Her work makes every one of us feel we are home when we enter on Alameda Diablo.

She also served for four years on the DPOA Board. She was deservedly named DPOA Citizen of the Year in 1987.

Marilee's contributions to our community never stop. She is a great resource for the Welcome Committee to help us identify new residents to welcome. She has been an author of many of our Diablo Honors articles.

She has given so much to our community. And Diablo has now given her so much back. On New Year's Eve, when Marilee and Steve were out of town, Jimi Dunlap noticed water flooding into their house. Soon, Jimi, Colin Gaffey, Jeff Langon, Babette Dunlop, Blake Field and Travis Headen came into her flooded home, brought in pumps, moved furniture and rugs and clothing and saved her home from disaster. It shows a lot about our community and giving back. Full circle! Pay it forward, as Marilee says!

Thank you, Marilee! And thank you to everyone who helped others in need during this unprecedented rainfall. Chris Harney directing drivers to avert floods. Sheriff Dan collecting mail for stranded residents. And the many other stories we don't yet know. We came together as a community, as we have for more than 100 years.

THANK YOU, DIABLO!

A big thank you to everyone that donated to our holiday Food Drive! This was our most successful Food Drive **ever**, with contributions of more than \$20,000 to our local Food Bank.



SOCIAL NEWS



BIRTHS:

Rushika and Suri Suriyakumar welcomed with love son Seiyonne, wife Anika, and big brother Kayden's new baby girl Kaya Shah Suriyakumar weighing 5 pounds on December 10. It was a very special Christmas gift for all.

M'Lu and John Wilhelmy are delighted to share the news of their two new grandchildren! On October 26, son Patrick and wife Briana were blessed with their firstborn son Amari Sol Wilhelmy, weighing in at eight pounds, nine ounces. On December 4, son Christopher, wife Lisa, and big brother Cameron welcomed seven pound, ten ounce Kane Christopher Wilhelmy.

Nancy and Bob Frahm welcomed grandchild number five into the world with the July 6, 2022 birth of five pound, four ounce Jack Robert Izzo, son of daughter Lee Ann and Steve Izzo.

Nancy and Fred McNeil are delighted to share the news of the birth of grandson Archie McNeil, born on November 14 and weighing seven pounds and three ounces to son Derek, Julia and big sister Kensly McNeil.

Anne and Tom Sauer have two more grandchildren! Son Tommy, Jules and big brother Thomas Sauer III, welcomed seven pound five ounce Audrey Mae on March 25. Three days later, Daughter Katie, Max, and big brothers Henry and Turner welcomed eight pound, thirteen ounce Marshall Thomas Warne on March 28.

Julie and Don Nejedly are thrilled to announce the births of two new granddaughters! Son Sam and Emily Nejedly welcomed their first, eight pound, one ounce Isabelle Marie, on June 15 in Houston. On November 25, Charlie and Leslie Nejedly, along with big brother Otis, embraced their first daughter, Theo Allen, 6 pounds, in Minneapolis. Julie and Don are looking forward to visiting both their sons and daughters-in-law and their new families after Christmas.

Marcy and Tom Parker welcome with joy the arrival of seven pound, eight ounce Oliver McDonald Strong born on November 4 to daughter Eryn and her husband Riley Strong and big brother **Aiden**.

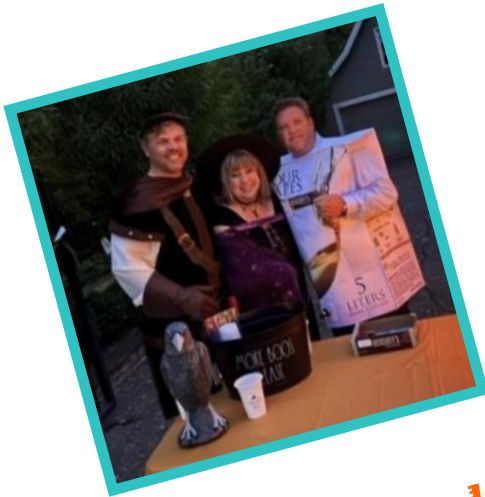
WEDDING BANNES:

Marcy and Tom Parker have more happy news with the marriage of daughter Kathleen and Brian Chaskes on May 28, 2022 in Kenwood. The newlyweds are living in beautiful Sausalito.

Maryann and Brian Cella are happy to announce the May 6, 2022 wedding of their younger daughter, Caroline Constance Helen, to Ryan Jay Blackstone. The couple were married at the Carmel Mission Basilica and celebrated with a reception and dinner at the Bernardus Lodge and Spa in Carmel Valley. Caroline and Ryan reside in Granite Bay.



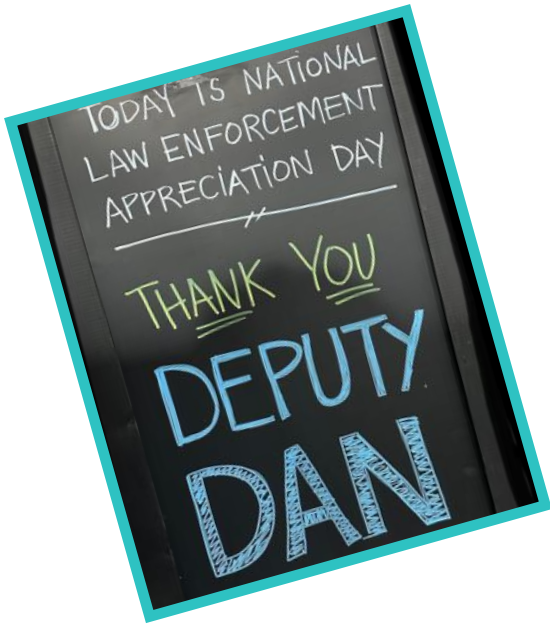
COMMUNITY PHOTOS



Halloween Spooktacular!



COMMUNITY PHOTOS

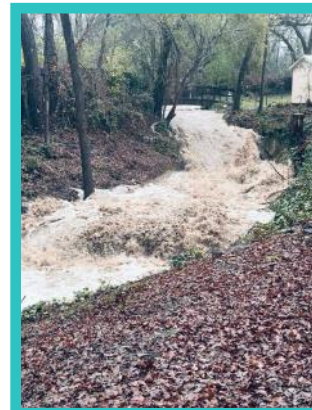


DIABLO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT UPDATE



Your DCSD Board and its General Manager, Kathy Torru, have been hard at work on your behalf to ensure our community's safety during the tremendous recent weather events. The beginning of the storm system, which coincided with New Year's Eve Day, was the strongest portion (nearly settings records with 5-6 inches of rain in a 24-hour period) and brought on the heaviest damage around our community. As you know by now, the extreme volume of rain overwhelmed our infrastructure causing creeks to breach culverts and flood homes and the golf course, creek banks to collapse (in one specific area, the slide was roughly 27 feet long, 30 feet tall and 10 feet deep) and undermine portions of mid Alameda Diablo, down trees in Diablo and on Blackhawk Road closing roads and access to Diablo, create mudslides on Diablo Road also closing roads, and if all that wasn't bad enough, many residents experienced a multi-day power outage at the same time.

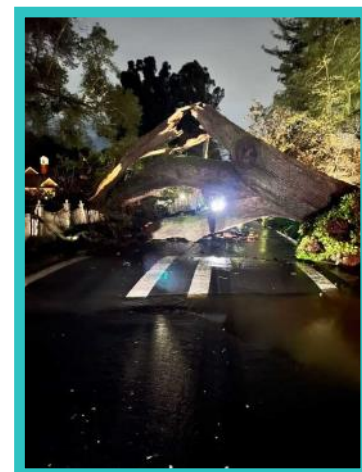
It is worth noting that the culverts of Club House Rd and Calle Arroyo along with the culverts at the intersection of Calle Arroyo and Canada Via functioned as designed but were simply overwhelmed with mud and water from this severe storm. The Club House culvert ultimately clogged with mud, causing the Dan Cook creek to breach its banks and send sheets of water down Calle Arroyo flooding homes and the golf course. The flood water from the Club House Rd culvert displaced large amounts of soil across the street from the culvert bringing down the stop sign and eroding 2-3 feet of soil underneath a 20-foot section of road causing a section of the intersection to fail.



The DCSD immediately responded to the many emergent situations. Kathy Torru was on site early morning of December 31st to assess the storm impact but due to storm conditions was unable to provide a public works response until the next day. Instead, emergency calls were made to San Ramon Valley Fire and Police Departments to help assess the series of hazardous events. After a quick evaluation was made, some of the response actions taken included immediately seeking out and contracting with vendors to remove mud and debris from culverts, providing traffic control to manage the Diablo Rd traffic detoured through Diablo due to the closure of Alameda Diablo and Diablo Rd., holding two emergency board meetings to approve immediate action plans and funding, daily

storm patrols across Diablo to ensure that the District's roads were clear of debris, engaging with engineering teams to evaluate and ultimately repair compromised roads and slide area, and providing onsite management of those vendors throughout the week until repairs were made. The Board ultimately declared a local emergency making Diablo eligible to apply for state and federal disaster relief.

The DCSD has been in constant contact with the County to ensure that the District and Diablo residents are aware of any government support. An email was sent to all residents January 13th with a County storm damage survey that will be submitted to FEMA by the County for disaster recovery fund consideration if the government makes money available. The DCSD will continue to monitor the situation and respond as appropriate.



DIABLO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT UPDATE (CONTINUED)

The Board is indebted to General Manager Kathy Torru for her endless day and night dedication to the storm problems, evaluating the situations, engaging contractors, responding to resident questions and concerns, and remaining onsite to provide input to the work teams as needed, even during the heavy rains. While Kathy was boots-on-the-ground, she was in constant contact with Roads Commissioner Matt Cox, an expert in construction and roads, who continually provided detailed guidance to Kathy and the work teams. Without Kathy and Matt, Diablo would not have had the coordinated response necessary to solve our storm damage problems quickly and efficiently.



WELCOMING NEW DCSD BOARD MEMBERS:

New board members Christine Chartier, Greg Lorenz and Jerry Slavonia joined the DCSD Board just in time for our series of atmospheric rivers and the myriad of challenges those have posed to our services district. They, and continuing board members Kathy Urbelis and Matt Cox, have had FIVE Board meetings in less than two months.

Our community thanks outgoing Board members Jeff Eorio, Leonard Becker and Greg Isom for their four years of service . Special thanks to Kathy Urbelis for her continuing leadership during a very challenging time.



DIABLO COUNTRY CLUB RENOVATION

If you are a member of Diablo Country Club, you have heard a LOT about the renovations of the club that are just now beginning. But for anyone not a member of the club, here is what will be happening in the next year, as relayed to us by club management.

The club will be undergoing a comprehensive renovation, update and enhancement effort that will address all areas of the Club's campus and ensure a continued best-in-class experience for this historic organization. The \$22 million project, fully funded through capital dues rather than member assessments, includes updates to the historic Clubhouse—featuring an original structure built 140 years ago—construction of a new Fitness Center, renovations to the Tennis Pavilion and Childcare Center, the addition of new Bocce Ball courts, installation of a new indoor Golf Simulator, and several other enhancements to food and beverage services with an expansion and update to the historic Red Horse Tavern, addition of the new Diablo Pub, and renovations to the main kitchen that focus on improved productivity, efficiency, and more culinary amenities. Although the main restaurant will be closed, dining will still be available through innovations including “Red Horse Too,” a portable kitchen on wheels, “DiabloDash”—a food delivery service available through the DCC app—and expanded service at the existing Snack Shack. Temporary Bocce Ball courts will also be set up during the renovation effort. The full Master Facilities Project is anticipated to be completed in early 2024. These updates and renovations will also parallel a multi-million-dollar Recycled Water project undertaken by Club leadership. An initial engineering and design research study will determine the parameters, budget and timeline for construction of a system that will provide DCC with a sustainable water system for their golf course irrigation.

You will see evidence of all of this work in temporary office and food service facilities in the upper parking lot. The club has done a lot of advance planning to make this as painless and fast as possible for residents. They are also very committed to honoring the history of the club as these renovations proceed.



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 \$200 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 Ovidia
Amber Huete	Darcy Pierce
Maddy Johnson	Dana Pingatore
Leslie Keane	Lori Scallan
Greg & Anne Lorenz	Kathy Torru
Julie Nejedly	Julie Wallunas

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

Diablo Community Services District Board

www.diablocsd.org

Kathy Urbelis, President & Security Commissioner
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
Christie Crawl, Legal Counsel
Jarvis, Fay & Gibson, LLP

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

www.diablopoa.org