



DCTC CHRONICLE SUMMER 2024

SUMMER IN DCTC – SO MUCH TO SEE AND EMBRACE

Back in the Olden Days of 1990, here is what we found when we drove into Deep Canyon for the very first time. Mainly, lush green grass and as we recall, pretty flowers, too. And, in the middle of August, no less.

Well, that was then, and this is now. Then, it must have been a time of unlimited water for summer irrigation. The grass was so green and the property so beautiful. Believe it or not, we were ready to put in an offer on our condo in under an hour.

As everyone must be aware by now, the Coachella Valley Water District places huge restrictions on how much water is available to us for irrigation. Not only restrictions, but a tough set of penalties for extra usage.

Jerry Parsons, who monitors our water usage daily, reported at the June board meeting, that brown spots around our property will likely be showing up soon. We just don't have enough water allocation to be able to make the grass as green as in 1990, or even as green as we would like today.

The amount of water that we used in the month of May, is going to be the same allocation for June, July and August, he said. This, lower than normal amount for these months, is going to allow Jerry to "bank" water, basically hold some allocation in reserve, for when more water is needed to grow seasonal Rye Grass during reseeding in the fall of the year.

Looking out over the property now, at the end of June, yes -- some brown spots are already beginning to appear. Be warned that this is going to happen, and there is nothing that can really be done about it without pouring on the water and paying huge penalties.

Summer Seasonal Suggestion: Raise your sights a bit. Let your eyes fall on our beautiful flowering plants and shrubs and bushes. There are a lot of them all around the community. Believe it or not, in a short walk from Alice Marble Lane, over to the Golf Practice Green and around to Pancho Segura Lane, tallied 38 different types and shades of flowering plants. Plus, there are lots of interesting cacti and succulents to entertain your vision, too. As has been frequently noted this past spring, our grounds were as beautiful as any long-time residents ever remembered seeing them. Should we be willing to experience a bit of summer brown in exchange for Seasonal Beauty? Seems to make sense, doesn't it!

Jim Bartell, Editor



Ahead in this issue...
Reports
Updates,
Events
and Memories



DEEP CANYON TENNIS CLUB
DCTC
DYNAMIC, COMPASSIONATE, THOUGHTFUL, CARING

A Way of Life, the Way it is Today!

*On reflection over this past year, we have had many challenges at Deep Canyon Tennis Club. I firmly believe that we are making progress in addressing all the tough issues that have arisen. I remain optimistic that, working together, we can tackle all that ails us.

*Emphasizing teamwork and a positive attitude can make a significant difference when facing challenges. Framing comments as suggestions rather than criticism fosters a collaborative and supportive environment. It encourages constructive problem solving and helps everyone feel valued and heard.

*Why do I love Deep Canyon and why did we buy here in the first place? The beautiful surroundings and convenience of our many wonderful amenities are certainly important, but it's the people who truly make it special.

*The diversity in backgrounds and the multi-generational aspect of the community bring rich stories and perspectives, creating a tapestry of shared experience and histories. This blend of past and present, coupled with the friendships formed, makes Deep Canyon a unique and cherished place to call home.

*Life at Deep Canyon truly is vibrant and full of camaraderie. The laughter on the tennis and pickleball courts, the shared moments over Sunday morning coffee and donuts, where we can catch up on the latest happenings or reminisce about the good old days. Watching neighbors walk by with a casserole or a bottle of wine, heading off to spend time with friends, highlights the warmth and generosity that define our community. It's these shared experiences and mutual support that make Deep Canyon such a special place to live.

*Keeping a positive spirit and remembering to look at the sunny side of life is important for all of us and for our community -- especially now -- as we work toward solutions that benefit everyone and keep us strong.

Sheri Shepard
Board President



Treasurer's Report

*I'm joined on the Finance Committee by Brian Yellen, Steve Varon, and Andy Sacks as we work with Barbara Vanscoder and the Board to oversee the HOA's finances.

*FY2024 is finishing up very close to our budget plan. We'll be over budget on spending by about \$10,000 and end up with \$1.1 million in our capital reserve fund.

*At our May 8 Board meeting, we adopted a \$3.1 million budget for the upcoming 2025 fiscal year starting on July 1. The budget calls for a 2.9% increase in monthly dues from \$695 to \$715.

*Looking back to FY2018, our dues over the past eight years have been: \$514, \$525, \$550, \$575, \$615, \$670, \$695, and \$715. The large increase in FY2023 was due to a decision to negotiate a bulk contract for \$50/month with Spectrum for cable TV and internet, then the HOA began paying for this meaning that owners got it "for free" at a lower cost than when they paid the bill themselves.

*Not including the \$50 from the FY2023 increase, the overall increase in the past eight years has been 29%. For comparison, the cost of living (CPI) and Social Security have each increased by the same percentage during that time.

*With interest rates around 5% now, the Board has approved investing our operating and capital reserves cash in US government treasury bonds. The interest earned in this way has allowed us to reduce the amount of dues needed to maintain our capital reserve level this coming year.

*In addition to normal expenses, the FY2025 budget includes funding for a renovation of the gym and an upgrade of our front gate security system.

*Also, in the upcoming year, we will again be taking a close look at our upcoming capital reserve expenses, especially over the next five years, to assess whether we are saving adequately for needed future work. We will be starting a new capital reserve study this year working with SCT Reserve Consultants, and we'll report on their findings.

Jim Sterken, Treasurer



A GOAL
WITHOUT A
PLAN IS JUST
A DREAM.



Safety and Security Committee



Front Gate Security Update

Safety and Security Committee:

Joe Rooney and Bonnie Ehle (co-chairs), Paul Blanton, Cal Bucholz, Karen Lord, Steve Jackson, Larry Youngman (technical advisor), Barbara Vanscorder and Manny Cruz (staff resources) and Ken Van Osdol (Board liaison).

*On Wednesday, June 12, the DCTC Board accepted a recommendation from the Safety and Security Committee to move forward with a new front gate security system. After initial installation costs and modifications to the entrance area, the new system will result in annual savings of about \$155,000, while providing efficient and enhanced security for DCTC.

*Vintage Patrol, who provides our front gate security, informed us in late-April that they would discontinue our contract after October 31. The cost of manned gate systems like ours increased significantly this year due to recent changes in California's labor laws related to required coverage for employee meal and break periods. To protect the interests of the DCTC community, the Board asked the Safety and Security Committee to review the marketplace for other vendors, including those who provide manned and unmanned security systems.

*That search led to a company called Virtual Guard, Inc. Their system uses digital photo-recognition using license plate readers (LPR) and radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to provide multiple layers of efficient and protective security, including video access to a remote live guard, 24x7. Entry for owners will be quick and easy; entry for vendors and guests will also be expedited but subject to added identity verification.

*In addition to new security equipment at the front gate, the plan includes a second in-bound lane, a paved pedestrian path adjacent to the current out-bound lane, and new steel swing gates for enhanced security during nighttime hours.

*While the committee has done much of the initial planning, it has enlisted the services of a civil engineer to prepare detailed plans for the new lane and pedestrian path.

If you have questions, suggestions or ideas as we move forward,
please email them directly to the
Committee Co-chairs, Joe Rooney and Bonnie Ehle.



St Patrick's Day Party



**The annual wearing of the green had a new fun itinerary. Square dancing, Irish jig dancers, and cabbage bowling rounded out the fun night around the clubhouse pool.*

**The boxed meal from Sherman's served many for two meals it was so generous. And ice cream bars donated by the tennis committee were appreciated.*

**Our bar gents always serve us with a smile and provide a nice selection of beverages. The prep beforehand is also appreciated.*

****John Lockwood** has taken care of our electronics for everyone, everywhere. We are so thankful he uses his skills to "amplify" our good times.*

**An umbrella of thanks to all that contributed time and effort to make the gathering possible.*

A new star has emerged as emcee! **David Jones took the microphone and did a great job. We all appreciated his wit and guidance through the evening.*

***Donna Selover** meticulously calligraphed our name tags. She added our sandwich choices for smooth delivery. That's hours of toil, so shamrock thanks to you Donna!*

****Bonnie Blanton** steered the food committee and the Irish jig performance that stole the show! We want a repeat next year!*

**What a beautiful surrounding with 100+ merry leprechauns relaxing under the moon. We greatly appreciate all the workers that gave time and energy for a continued tradition of fun. We could not have*

Until Next Year

Sarah Neff



Brat night

March 2024

Bratmaster
Jimmy B





Front Row from Left: Jim Bartell, Hector Mendoza, Mark Swearingen, Elliot Gregg, Jerome Lidster.
Back Row from the Left: Roger Ottmar (Captain), Rich Hollmeyer, Mike Larson, Bob Scatena, Chuck Owens, Brian Yellin, Jeremy Zucker, Mark Wulf, Henry Armendariz, Terry Reiger.

DCTC MEN HAVE A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN!

*The 2024 Robert Ehle Men's In-house League had another very successful season. In the finals, Roger Ottmar's mighty Grey Wolves took down Tony Bardsley and Herb Walker's Blue Bombers by a score of 5 matches to 2.

*I would like to thank all the players who participated; you are the key to the success of this league. A special thanks to all the captains - Roger Ottmar, Tony Bardsley, Herb Walker, Pete Crystal, and Rob Gooze. Your hard work and patience is greatly appreciated.

*The way the league works is like clockwork now, some 15 years after playing the first match. It starts when the, above mentioned, captains gather to "draft" players to their team. It takes a total of 14 men per team, playing 7 doubles matches each week.

*The "season play" includes 6 matches. Each team plays the other 2 times. At the end of league play, the top 2 teams square off for all the marbles, plus a full year of "bragging rights." And, for a coveted Champion's T-Shirt.

*I would like to thank the tennis committee for supporting this worthy cause. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of 2 very important men working behind the scenes. Bruce Webb once again provided his computer expertise in posting lineups, schedules and scores. And, Dennis Matson shopped for all the drinks and snacks, put them out on gameday, and was always the first one here and the last to leave.

*It's been another great season with lots of great tennis, laughs, and friendly trash talking. I was thinking about what a unique league this is. Are there any leagues anywhere that 56 players of all ability levels get to play on the same day, every week? Not that I know of. It's just another example of what makes DCTC so special.

*We'll kick off another season of play come February 2025.

Larry Hunter
Tennis Director

SUMMER SUPPER TIME HAPPENS ALL SUMMER LONG!



*The tradition of "Potluck" gatherings is steeped in the early days of Deep Canyon history. The first I've read about them in the early days of past Volley News stories had to do with an annual end of the season event.

*Around the last week of March, that's when everyone used to head for home, the event was known as a "Clean Out Your Refrigerator Party." I guess we still have the remains of that at the end of April when we have a somewhat similar gathering.

*The newest tradition of potluck time has been carried out here all summer long going back to about 2001. That is when **Leona Garvin** started to promote Wednesday dinnertime gatherings. Starting in mid-May, she gets the word out and lots of the full-time folks show up every week.

*So, when you read your Deep Canyon postings each week, you'll see your invitation to join in for weekly "Summer Suppers." Use your imagination and picture 15 to 20 of your year-round friends gathering every Wednesday for cocktails and appetizers at 5 pm along with a variety of tasty dinner treats to follow.

*If you notice that your "ears are ringing," it may just be that you've been included in the conversation. What's more fun to talk about than Deep Canyon happenings, and what's up with Deep Canyon people. **Thanks to Leona** for all her efforts in perpetuating this 2 decade long annual summer DCTC event (now a tradition).



Leona Garvin

The language of friendship
is not words but meanings.
~Henry David Thoreau



Facilities Manager Added to Maintenance Team!

Please **welcome** a fine addition to our staff,
our new Maintenance Facilities Manager
Manny Cruz.

*He jumped into his new position in mid-April. Manny has over 20 years of maintenance and management experience. Much of it included working in a Senior community in Redlands and an HOA community for the past 8 years. Understanding the ins and outs of HOA management and how to get things done is an important part of his varied background. *Plus*, he is a hands-on worker who will bring these skills to his Deep Canyon job.



*When he arrived here, he jumped right into our gym renovation project. At the same time, he had to become familiar with the magnitude of our maintenance and housekeeping needs. Now that the gym is almost done, there will be a summer of pool restroom projects, decks to resurface, roofs to investigate and lots of routine fixes and updates to manage. This will all be carried out by his staff under his leadership during the heat of summer.

"I feel that Deep Canyon is a very well organized and maintained community. We have an excellent and very experienced maintenance team that I look forward to working with through the years ahead," says Manny.

"Management, staff and homeowners have greeted me with open arms and made me feel very welcome in the short time that I've been here. I hope to bring in some new ideas to incorporate here in the future from my work experience in other communities."

*Part of his duties also includes being on-call to handle problems and emergencies in our community any time of day or night. We hope that does not happen too frequently, but it is great to have him available to respond to the call if needed.

*Manny has been married for 29 years. He is a father of 4 children. He has 3 sons and 1 daughter. He and his wife also enjoy having 4 grandchildren.

Welcome to Deep Canyon Manny Cruz.

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."

– Phil Jackson

Gym Remodeling Zooming Along on Schedule!



*By far the biggest project for our maintenance staff this summer has been the Gym Remodel. The staff work began on May 15th and some daily work has been done on this expanded room ever since. Now, it is very near completion and everything should be in place for the gym to be open in early July.

*This project has actually been a couple years in the making. Much of the planning, study and coordination of the project elements has been done by committee members Vincent Gerace and Steve Jackson. They worked closely with HOA Manager Barbara Vanscoder on the budget side and Liaison Gretia Caprice on the board approval side.

*Basically, the gym is being expanded to include what was the men's bathroom and shower area. The demolition of the wall into this area was the fastest and easiest part of the job and took place during the first week. Plumbing revisions presented the biggest challenge. It was discovered that, like in many of our condo units, plumbing connections were crossed all over the place.

*Once they found the main hot water line, they were able to remove the hot water tank and relocate it into the now unisex bathroom in the women's area. Water lines from the southwest end of the building -- mainly the men's bathroom -- made it possible to relocate the shower to the exterior for a wash off shower at the pool.

*The walls have now been drywalled, textured and painted. Solar tubes have been added to improve daytime lighting. Three ceiling fans are being installed to address ventilation issues. New flooring tile is on the way and will complete the project during the week of July 4th.

*Gladly, our maintenance staff has the expertise to coordinate and execute the many needed construction process steps and we did not have to engage a higher-priced outside contractor to do the work. Many thanks go to our expert crew members **Renaldo Padilla, Tony Lopez, Brian Padilla and Facilities Manager Manny Cruz** for all of the knowledge and hard work they brought to this important project.

*The goal is to have the equipment back into the new digs and be fully operational by July 8th.



When Memory rings her bell, let all the thoughts run in.

~Emily Dickinson

DCTC 2008 DOUBLES CHAMPIONS!



2008 DCTC Doubles Winners!

Women's

Level 1: Kerry MacPherson, Lucy Zapf

Level 2: Virginia Casal, Meg Vander Zanden

Level 4: MaryLou Mucci, Donna Kachuk

Men's

Open: Paul Wulf, Bruce Wulf

Level 1: Robert Ehle, Lonny Blake

Level 2: John Larson, Vince Falco

Level 3: Larry Gibson, Earl Schatz

Bob O'Toole's 10 Commandments of Association Management for Staff and Self

1. **ONLY ENFORCE THE WRITTEN RULES AND DON'T MAKE UP ANY NEW ONES.** The Board of Directors establishes policy and the Association Manager, thru his staff, enforce it.
2. **FOLLOW ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES:** They all have a purpose.
3. **BE FRIENDLY BUT NOT FRIENDS, WITH RESIDENTS, OWNERS, AND VENDORS ETC.** You normally have to do special favors for friends.
4. **DO NOT MAKE DECISIONS WHICH ARE NOT YOURS TO MAKE.** Do not overstep your authority.
5. **MAKE ALL DECISIONS TO PROTECT THE ASSOCIATION.** Never place the Association in jeopardy.
6. **DO NOT ACCEPT SIDE MONEY OR GIFTS FOR A SPECIFIC ACTION.** It is usually for something you shouldn't have done.
7. **BE CONSISTENT.** Try to give the same response or the same action to everyone.
8. **TREAT EACH OWNER/RESIDENT EQUALLY.** There is no hierarchy in an Association.
9. **TRY TO REACT POSITIVELY TO ALL REQUESTS.** Attempt to say yes or to give a positive reaction.
10. **IF THE ANSWER TO A QUESTION OR REQUEST MUST BE NO, IT SHOULD INCLUDE A REASON.** If you allow someone to do something, you should know why they can't do it and you should tell them.

This seems to work for me. **Bob**

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