



del Lago Newsletter



Prepared by the del Lago District Advisory Committee

Vol. 20, No. 11 – December 2021



Next Scheduled del Lago DAC Meeting February 10, 2022 at 9:45 a.m. (Platform to be announced later)



Chairman’s Message

I hope your holiday season is off to a scrumptious Thanksgiving start, with many happy celebrations to come with family and friends. A few words about what we’ve been up to:

- 1) Water conservation continues to be a top priority for your DAC. Please consider how you can reduce household water use. Water testing kits are available for del Lago residents by requesting one from Anahid Gregg.
- 2) At least five del Lago households have had hot water recirculating systems installed. First impressions are very positive. If you have one, your DAC would like to hear from you. More info to come.
- 3) A turf reduction project for del Lago has entered the planning process.
- 4) Holiday decorations will be put up on December 4 starting at 10:00am. See article below.
- 5) del Lago is getting a bid on electrification of the median strips and roundabout along Lake Garda Drive. The Sonata DAC has indicated a willingness to share in some of the electrification expenses.
- 6) Patio overgrowth: This is a good time of year to trim patio plants/trees. By regulations, these should not be higher than 7 feet and cannot be up against fencing or stucco. Thank you to all residents who have recently complied with this requirement.
- 7) Your DAC values input and participation from all our residents including our neighbors who rent.

Emil Pisarri
DAC Chairman

Holiday Decorations

Please plan to join other del Lago and Sonata residents for our annual ‘decorating’ event. We’ll be gathering on Saturday, December 4th, at 10:00 AM. You have your choice of stringing lights around the trees that line Lake Garda Drive (no, no climbing involved), or helping set up lights and other decorations at the del Lago/Sonata entrance. Sonata residents will take responsibility for decorating the roundabout, and will welcome help from

del Lago. It’s a fun way to meet your neighbors. Newer residents: come on out and allow us to get to know you better. Lastly, put on your calendar that decoration removal is Saturday, January 8, 2022, at 10:00 AM. See you there! (Apologies for the wrong date in last month’s newsletter. These ole fingers aren’t as accurate on the keyboard as they once were. Kind of like the tune from my childhood – the old gray mare, she ain’t what she used to be...jb)

A Big “THANK YOU”

Thank you, Joan Lohr, for volunteering to be in charge of collecting donations to help pay for the replacement of holiday decorations, as needed, and for other joint del Lago/Sonata social events. Joan stepped up to accept this new responsibility upon the retirement of Lois DeVincenzi. Thank you, Lois, for all your hard work over the past 12 years. Joan and her husband Gary have lived in del Lago for 4 years and have been active members of this community since moving here. Gary has served as DAC chairman and continues to serve on del Lago’s DAC as an associate member. Thank you, Joan and Gary, for your spirit of volunteerism!



Highlights from del Lago Quarterly DAC Meeting, November 11, 2021

Keynote Speaker Provides Holiday Eating Tips

At the DAC meeting that was held via teleconference on Thursday, November 11th, Valerie Simler spoke on *Eating Healthy for the Holidays*. Valerie is a Villages resident who is a Registered Dietician and nutritional health expert. Now retired, she was a clinical dietician who did outpatient counseling and taught nutrition classes. Valerie is a wealth of knowledge and experience, the perfect combination for providing lots of helpful hints.

Healthy eating helps us reduce the risk of chronic diseases; get the nutrients, vitamins, and minerals we need; and to feel well on a daily basis. There are some risk factors, such as genetics, that we do not have much control over; but through good nutrition we can mitigate the development of diabetes, osteoporosis, stroke, high blood pressure, and obesity. Poor diet is related to chronic illnesses and death. For everyday eating, tips to follow are to choose real as opposed to packaged or processed food; avoid alcohol or drink in moderation; and attend to portion size. Normalize good eating habits. Eat a well-rounded meal with each of the food groups. Ways to help with healthy eating are to modify recipes to fit healthy foods into cultural traditions; grocery shop regularly so you have fresh, healthy foods on hand; and set priorities so you don't get overwhelmed and lose focus on healthy eating. For holiday eating, make a realistic plan prior to the holiday meal; avoid overeating or poor choices; keep a record of what you eat; get on track if you get off track; and stay active. Don't buy Halloween candy, keep a candy jar, or buy candy for others. For party going, do not go to a party on an empty stomach; do focus on people rather than food; do dress up to look good; do choose wisely from the offerings; and do drink responsibly. When hosting a party, offer diet-friendly foods; give away leftovers; and try a group activity to avoid focus on food. At the workplace, drink water and avoid spontaneous eating. At home, get rid of trigger foods and stock up on healthy foods. Wash and cut veggies as soon as you get home from the grocery store so they are ready to eat. Exercise is integral to a healthy lifestyle. Choose a time that is best for you. Listen to music or an audiobook while exercising. Don't forget muscle building exercises. It's never too late to start eating healthy and following a healthy lifestyle!

ABOD's Liaison Report

Noel Lanctot noted that the Association Board is trying to improve communication with residents. It is working on encouraging DAC members to transition into ABOD members. He noted that del Lago has done well in terms of reducing water usage. He gave a reminder that residents need to turn in the age certification survey which can be found on the Resident Portal. Noel also reported that there is going to be work done on the mansion here within The Villages.

Geese Management

Ray Blinde heads the geese abatement committee and gave a presentation. Efforts to control the geese population at The Villages started a year ago, at which time there was a count of 266 geese. The committee met with the president's council and all three Villages' Boards about the issue. It did some research and learned that the U.S. Humane Resources Society's advocated approach for geese abatement is: 1) cease feeding 2) harassment/site aversion and 3) identify nests and addle eggs. There is no quick fix to the problem, and the committee has drawn up a 3-4-year plan. The plan schedule includes: 1) Jan./Feb.- step up harassment with dogs from 2 to 4 times/week, 2) March - no harassment, 3) April - locate nests and addle eggs (applying corn oil to eggs to destroy them and leaving the eggs in the nest), and 4) May - encourage juvenile geese to leave. The expectation is for a significant decrease in the geese population by the third year of the plan. A current count of geese is 90, though there are a lot flying in as The Villages is a perfect environment for them, except for the coyotes that seem to have helped to encourage juvenile geese to leave. The plastic swans in lakes have become less effective. The geese abatement committee has gotten approval from the Boards to move ahead with its plan. However, the required federal permit for egg addling has not yet been obtained.

(Note: Your del Lago DAC was asked to vote 'yes' or 'no' to egg addling. Due to a number of factors discovered while researching egg addling, the majority of voting DAC members voted 'no.')





Highlights of ABOD Meeting, November 16, 2021 (Excerpts from summary by ABOD Secretary Richard Holmboe)

From the President

David Cook, Association Board president, noted: Staff and Brightview have reduced our landscape watering by 27% compared to 2019 levels (July and August), this during the hottest and driest summer in one hundred years. We did go a bit too far, losing more plants than normal; and we had to ramp up watering in some areas. Our actual water usage is now published in The Villager and on the Resident Portal. Soon we will also be receiving water report cards from a company called Waterfluence, grading how well we are managing our irrigation water - thanks to the Water Conservation Committee, staff and Brightview. The Water Conservation Committee has been educating residents on home water conservation through articles in The Villager. Staff's Rapid Response Team, headed by Maria Hernandez, has been busy tracking down major water leaks. The result is that residential water use in July and August is down about 10%, with a goal of 15%. The Association Board is hoping for DACs to recommend water conservation ideas in the FY 22/23 budget through landscape alternatives.

(Note: your del Lago DAC submitted turf reduction plans to the Association Board; and, at the ABOD meeting, David Cook gave a shout out to del Lago for the water conservation efforts that del Lago is making.)

Additional Association Information

For this regular ABOD meeting, there is no financial data to report nor a formal management report. Due to the holidays, the board meeting schedule has one mid-month meeting in November and one mid-month meeting in December. Because of this, there will be a November/ December management report distributed for the December meeting and the financials presented will be the October financials. The November financials will be distributed after the holidays – then all will be back on schedule by the January 2022 meeting.

Although there was no formal management report prepared, General Manager Tim Sutherland made an impromptu report. The gross water bill for all of The Villages for the September and October timeframe, was minus 24.44% of budget compared to last year. We will continue to try bringing in water usage under budget for the rest of the fiscal year.

Plant Clippings - What to Do With Them: Plant clippings should not be disposed of in the recycle bins. They can be placed into the garbage bins. Please cut the clippings into smaller pieces to allow sufficient space for other types of garbage. Another avenue of free disposal is that Brightview will pick up one large bag per villa when a work order is created. Additionally, with a call to Maintenance, Brightview can be paid a small fee to pick up a large number of clipping bags. (Some areas in Valle Vista have "green waste" bins. Valle Vista residents pay extra for these bins and their trash enclosures have the space for these additional bins.)

Next ABOD Meeting

Next regular Association Board Meeting is Tuesday, December 14, 2021; 9:30 a.m., at the Foothill Center and via teleconference.

Next del Lago DAC Meeting

Next del Lago Quarterly DAC Meeting is Thursday, February 10, 2022, 9:45 a.m., platform to be announced later; but we're hoping for an in-person meeting at Montgomery Center. Please plan to attend as important issues involving all of us del Lago residents are discussed and you'll want to be a part of the discussion.



The del Lago District Advisory Committee (DAC) voting members are: Emil Pisarri, Chairperson, (408-781-4216); Judy Bushey, Deputy, (408-930-2985); Valerie Dimmick, Secretary, (408-813-3985); Everett Jacobson, Newsletter (408-629-7210); Melinda Dobbs (408-267-1777); David Dimmick (650-804-9378); Anahid Gregg (732-742-4874). Associate members: Cheryl Allmen (408-307-3979); Gary Lohr, (408-912-5124); Margaret Spatafore (408-532-1966). We welcome your comments and questions.

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DAC=District Advisory Committee, ABOD=Association Board of Directors, CBOD=Club Board of Directors, AC=Architectural Committee