

del Lago Newsletter

Prepared by the del Lago District Advisory Committee

Vol. 21, No. 01 – January 2022

Next Scheduled del Lago Quarterly DAC Meeting February 10, 2022 at 9:45 A.M. (platform to be announced later)

Chairman's Message

We hope you had a wonderful and safe holiday season. Your DAC is looking forward to another year of accomplishing good things for the residents of del Lago. To ALL our del Lago residents, please call on your DAC when you need help or have a concern about residential issues. Here are our priorities:

- 1) Water conservation continues to be a top priority for your DAC. Great job by del Lago residents; we collectively used 20% less household water from July thru October 2021 compared to 2019. Please consider how you can reduce household water use. Don't forget to cut back or turn off watering your patio plants during the rainy season. We are providing water reports to help you know your building's water use. Please check the water conservation tips in the water report. If your building water use appears excessive, there may be an unknown leak that needs to be identified. Your DAC can help you with this diagnosis. Also, water testing kits are available for del Lago residents by requesting one from Anahid Gregg.
- 2) There are at least a dozen del Lago households that have installed hot water recirculating systems. We are providing feedback on how well these systems work. See 'First Impressions.'
- 3) A turf reduction project for del Lago has entered the planning process. We are waiting to hear from our ABOD landscape representative so we can review and have input on plant selection.
- 4) Del Lago is waiting on a bid for electrification of the median strips and roundabout along Lake Garda Drive. The Sonata DAC has included a budget item to help pay for some of the electrification expenses.
- 5) Thank you to all those who have removed excessively large growth in the patio area. The ABOD has asked us to keep growth no higher than 7 feet and to clear growth away from fencing and

stucco.

- 6) Your DAC values input and participation from all our residents including our neighbors who rent.

Emil Pisarri
DAC Chairman

Holiday Decorations

Thanks so much to everyone from del Lago and Sonata Villages who turned our entry boulevard into a beautiful holiday light display. And a number of new faces were spotted joining in. Great turnout. Great job. Some say it's the best display in The Villages! Special recognition to Joan Lohr, Lucy Pusho, Anahid Gregg, Paul Magruder, Ray and Marie Buck, Kathleen Benz, Jim Grove, Don DeVincenzi, and Emil Pisarri, who played key roles in making it all happen. As has been tradition for many years, Bob and Diane Marchant invited everyone to their home to enjoy holiday refreshments and lively conversation during the decoration set-up. Thank you, Bob and Diane, for your generous hospitality.

Peggy Tritto planted an idea for next year's holiday season. She suggests a lighting ceremony and social event where everyone is invited to gather at dusk to celebrate together as the boulevard lights come on for the first time. Of course refreshments will be included! Your DAC will initiate planning for this event. Everyone's ideas and participation are welcome.

Finally, as they say, what goes up must come down. This year's decorations will be removed on Saturday, January 8th at 10:00 AM. It'll take an hour or less. See you Saturday.

Save the Date:

Sonata-del Lago Ladies Luncheon, Saturday, March 26, 2022.

First Impressions

Anahid Gregg offers her impressions of the hot water recirculation system that she and her husband Mark recently purchased. Her assessment mirrors the thinking of others of us who also purchased a system.

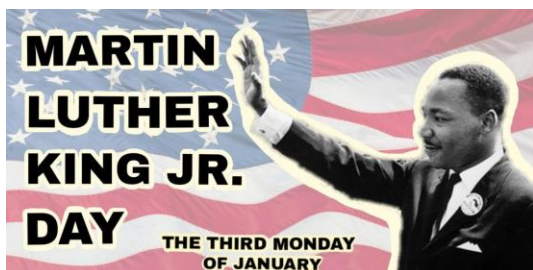
“After purchasing an instant hot water system in October, we’ve been extremely happy. Previously, we waited over a minute for our shower to get warm, and much longer in our kitchen. We tried to always use a bucket to capture water; but even so, we were appalled at how much water we ended up wasting. Given the current drought conditions, conservation is very important to us. But the convenience of having hot water so quickly is also wonderful, regardless of which room we are in. The cold water is warmer than it was, but since we drink cold water from our refrigerator anyway, it’s not an issue for us. We haven’t seen any downside, and we love the fact that we are saving water during such a critical time in California.”

Household Battery Disposal Update

From the start of our used household battery collection program, which was initiated in April 2021, del Lago residents have contributed **440** pounds in support of environmentally safe battery disposal and sustainable living practices. How about that? Congratulations, del Lago. Well done!

February Quarterly DAC Meeting

Please save the date for our next Quarterly DAC Meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 9:45 AM. With so many things going on in del Lago, this meeting will be a town hall forum which focuses on hearing from del Lago residents and reviewing and discussing projects in progress. The Montgomery Center is reserved; however, we’ll need to assess if an in-person meeting is practical as we approach the date. We may need to meet via teleconference if COVID is surging. Whatever the format - your comments, suggestions, and questions are essential. Please plan to be there.



Highlights of ABOD Meeting, December 14, 2021

(Excerpts from summary by ABOD Secretary Richard Holmboe)

From the President

David Cook, Association Board president, noted: **Finances:** Association finances are in excellent shape but we can expect that dramatic inflation will affect water conservation and cost-management savings. Starting in January, Brightview charges will go up 9.8% over the original contract terms and next year’s insurance premiums will also be going up. Fortunately, our water conservation efforts along with prior years’ surplus funds should offset increased landscaping costs in fiscal year 22/23. **Water Conservation:** Household and landscape water usage is down 30% throughout The Villages, in the most recent September-October billing cycle, and 28% cumulative reduction since July, compared to 2019. **Safety-Coyotes:** Significant progress has been made in reducing human-supplied food sources; educating villagers on coyote-human interactions with articles in Villages’ media, and conducting town hall meetings.

General Manager’s Report

Tim Sutherland reported that the FY-22/23 budget process is progressing well. However, given the highest inflation in 39 years, we expect abnormal cost increases in most areas - insurance, landscape, plumbing, vendor pricing, wood, gasoline (up 50%); minimum wage in San Jose up 5%; water, electricity, natural gas, etc. Most fees will slightly increase after two years of static amounts. In the past year, another round of disastrous fires and floods across the USA is pushing insurance rates higher. Even though The Villages has not submitted an insurance claim in almost two years, we are penciling in 20% increases in our budget considerations.

Rule 2.10 Harassment, Sound, Visual, and Odor Restrictions – Change

The Board approved changes on an emergency basis for 120 days, and also to send recommended changes to the Association Rules Committee for review, with consideration to becoming permanent. The purpose of the rule change is due to interference with contractors or staff performing their jobs. The Board wants those working on behalf of residents to be able to conduct their jobs with efficiency, without unneeded distractions, and with their normal attention to detail and support for all residents. This situation has risen to a level that requires that it be addressed with more clarity in Association rules.

(Cont’d on Pg. 3)

Highlights of ABOD Meeting, December 14, 2021

(Excerpts from summary by ABOD Secretary Richard Holmboe)

(Cont'd from Pg. 2)

Rule 2.21 Association Common Areas – Change

The Board approved changes to Association Rule 2.21 Association Common Areas, on an emergency basis for 120 days, and also to send recommended changes to the Association Rules Committee for review, with consideration to becoming permanent. The purpose of the changes is to update and add specific language from the Association CC&Rs for clarity: Common areas cannot be altered or adjusted without the prior approval of the Architectural Committee and Association Board. This change will help prevent urgent safety and liability issues from arising again in the future.

Next ABOD Meeting

Next regular Association Board Meeting is Tuesday, January 25, 2022; 9:30 AM, at the Foothill Center and via teleconference.



*The del Lago DAC
hopes everyone will have a
Great and Prosperous
New Year.*



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