

# del Lago Newsletter

Prepared by the del Lago District Advisory Committee

Vol. 20, No. 3 – March 2022

## Next Quarterly del Lago DAC Meeting May 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Via In-Person or Teleconference Zoom (To be Determined)

### Chairman's Message

Greetings to ALL del Lago residents. Thanks to all for your water saving efforts. Please check your bi-monthly water reports which will provide feedback on water use in your building and help you spot undetected water leaks. On the sad side: we are not allowed to use potable water to fill our lakes so they will go dry this summer. The only other choice is to use reclaimed water but our management says this is cost prohibitive. Your DAC leadership has not given up; and we will work with management to see if there is anything that can be done. We did replace sod with low-water landscaping on the south side of our entrance and we hope we can do a bit more in FY23. One other item of note, due to inflation and other factors, our HOA fees will rise in FY23. See more details below.

Your DAC leadership looks forward to meeting more of you and we appreciate your advice and suggestions.

*Emil Pisarri*  
DAC Chairman

### February Quarterly District Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting

On Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 9:45 AM., the Quarterly DAC Meeting was held via teleconference. Approximately 25 were in attendance. Please note the following highlights from the meeting.

#### Project Highlights

- Solar Lighting – Emil Pisarri said that there has been a project request submitted for solar lighting for the Lake Garda Drive median trees, and a response to the project is pending. The request will be presented at the March ABOD meeting on March 29.
- New-Resident Greeters – Lucy Pousho said that Melinda Dobbs has been accompanying her to meet new residents. Small plants are given to new residents as a welcoming gift. The visits have been well received and

new residents seem to be enthused about participating in the del Lago community.

- Turf Reduction - Dave Dimmick noted the new turf-reduction area adjacent to the del Lago/Sonata entrance. This planting had been planned before del Lago made its recent turf-reduction proposal. The cost was approximately \$13,000 for a 3700 sq. ft. area. There is a possibility that Valley Water District through their rebate program may pay for half of the cost. There is a proposal for additional turf reduction work on the north side of the entrance to be paid with funds earmarked in the current reserve fund.

- Water Reduction - Margaret Spatafore noted that all resident units reduced their water usage between July-October 2021 by 20%. Margaret explained that the reports that have been distributed to residents show how usage is calculated at the condo level. The reports are meant to be a gauge for residents to monitor their own water usage and to identify significant changes that could expose a water leak in one of the units. Also, as a method of water saving, hot water recirculation systems are available, and at least fifteen systems are known to have been installed in del Lago in recent months.

- del Lago Enhancement Fund – Melinda Dobbs - Please see the article included in this newsletter that pertains to this fund.

(Cont'd on Pg. 2)



*Do Not Forget  
Daylight Savings Time  
Begins March 13<sup>th</sup>*

## February Quarterly District Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting (Cont'd from Pg. 1)

### Residents' Forum

Carol Reid stated that she likes the idea of tree lighting. She noted that the water level in Lake Garda has gone down. Others at the meeting added that their lake levels are getting low, as well. (Please refer to article regarding the effects of the drought.)

Steve Tritto commented on Maria's responsiveness to emails. His experience has been consistently positive in the past; but as of late, he has noticed delays. He wonders if this could be attributed to staffing shortage.

Vera Buescher had kind and positive comments for the DAC leadership.

Peggy Tritto also gave a positive comment regarding DAC leadership. Regarding the enhancement fund, she wondered if this could be made an expectation of residents, and added that other villages currently have an annual voluntary donation fund.

### Drought and Its Effects on Water Usage

Reduction in lake levels – Due to the drought, your DAC leadership has been advised by The Villages' G.M. that potable water that has been used to maintain the del Lago lakes' water levels will no longer be used to keep the lakes filled. Currently, other than rain, there is no other water option such as reclaimed water to bring the lakes' water volumes to their usual levels. Your DAC leadership will pursue other options should they become available.

Also, due to water conservation, the ABOD approved and advised that all non-essential plant and turf replacement projects through-out the Association Districts, e.g., del Lago, will be deferred until the Fall of 2022.

## PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR NEW LAKE SIGNS!

We know dogs, doing what they do naturally, are using these bollards to mark their territory; but the signs will not survive if this continues. Please help your dog's find another equally enticing spot to do their business as they are enjoying their outdoor adventures.

**Save the Date:** Sonata-del Lago Ladies Luncheon, Saturday, March 26, 2022. Please see attached flyer.

## Del Lago Enhancement Funding

At the recent Quarterly DAC Meeting, Melinda Dobbs referenced the enhancements around the community such as the solar lights installed in our trash enclosures; the new lake signs installed on the bollards at the lake entrances; the informative water usage reports and the colorful, creative newsletters which use lots of printer paper and ink; used household battery disposal; the plants given as gifts to new residents; and the proposed year-around clear, solar lighting being considered for the trees on the medium of Lake Garda Drive. She reported that these have all been funded by donations by various del Lago DAC leadership members.

We know you appreciate these amenities and think many of you may like to donate to an on-going funding of them. DAC leadership has created a fund to which all del Lago residents can contribute. The funds will be used strictly for del Lago amenity projects. A system is being set up to collect and account for the funds, including a checking account at U.S. Bank, and the reporting of revenue and expenditures in our monthly newsletter. The donation will be billed to your address and is not tax deductible. If you would like to donate to this fund, you may use this link:

<https://rebrand.ly/delLagoDonate> . If you have questions, please contact DAC Chairman, Emil Pisarri or any of the DAC leadership members as listed at the bottom of your newsletter.



*First Day of Spring  
March 20<sup>th</sup>*

## del Lago Financials

Note: In addition to the ABOD Treasurer's Report, we are adding a lower level report that reflects what is happening in our village.

### YTD Report for FY22 from July 1, 2021 to January 31, 2022 (7 months)

**Operating Budget:** Total Revenue to date \$509,158; \$48 favorable to budget of \$509,110. Total Expenditures to date \$505,533; \$18,531 favorable to operating budget of \$524,064. Net variance \$18,579 favorable due primarily to savings in planting, maintenance, and insurance. January did have unfavorables, mainly landscape and maintenance due to cost increases.

**Reserve Budget:** Revenue: del Lago always receives full revenue from monthly assessments. YTD deposits: \$340,298, toward a year-end plan of \$591,200. YTD expenditures of \$153,481 (25% of total budget) 58% into the FY22 reserve plan of \$618,740. Favorable are four items with no expenditures year-to-date and having an annual budget of \$287,300. Biggest contributors to unfavorables are Irrigation System and Sewer/Storm Drains. However, net variance is still \$206,750 favorable to Reserve Budget.

Note: There will be about a 10% increase to our Reserve Budget every fiscal year to ensure there is enough money to cover del Lago's roof replacement in years 2030, 2031, and 2032.

### Highlights of ABOD Meeting, February 22, 2022

(Excerpts from summary by ABOD Secretary Richard Holmboe)

#### Treasurer's Report for Month Ending January 31, 2021

**Operating Budget:** Total revenue year-to-date (7 months, 58%) is \$6,021,300; \$2,900 favorable to budget of \$6,018,400. Total expenditures year-to-date (7 months, 58%) is \$5,880,500; \$346,100 favorable to budget of \$6,226,600. Net variance is \$349,000 favorable to budget, mostly due to savings in water, insurance, and planting expenses.

**Reserve Budget:** Revenue: The Association always receives full revenue from monthly assessments. Total expenditures year-to-date (7 months, 58%) is

\$3,228,000; 40% of year's reserve plan of \$8,023,000. The portfolio balance is \$12,656,421; average interest rate earned is 0.54%.

#### From the President

See below for **Reminders to DACs from the ABOD.**

#### General Manager's Report

Tim Sutherland highlighted the following:

**Budgets:** All three corporations are well ahead on budget for this fiscal year, but Villagers can expect sticker shock for next year's budget due to inflation. 75% of the Association budget is water, landscaping and insurance - all of which are up. Then, increases in minimum wages and construction- cost-increases drive both operating and reserve numbers upwards. Must-do projects, like leaking roofs and backed-up sewers, will be done; but elective jobs should be postponed.

**Landscaping:** The fire fuel maintenance program continues. We expect to use more irrigation water in February than last year as we "catch up" after recent severe cutbacks and almost two months without rain.

**Geese Egg Addling Approved:** The Board approved a contract with Dog & Whistle Goose Control in the amount of \$4,800, with costs allocated according to the appropriate time spent addling eggs within each corporation (Club or Association), in an amount not-to-exceed \$4,800 for The Villages, and funded from the appropriate corporation's pest control account. (Each District (village) where nests are found and eggs are addled will bear the costs in proportion to the numbers addled. Please note: del Lago DAC advised against egg addling.)



March 17<sup>th</sup>

## Highlights of ABOD Meeting, February 22, 2022

(Excerpts from summary by ABOD Secretary Richard Holmboe)

(Cont'd from Pg. 3)

### Reminders to DACs from the ABOD (relevant to all del Lago residents)

Association Board President, David Cook, reminded us of changes experienced when moving from a single-family home environment to living in an HOA with “shared common property, with extensive rules, and governance by a Board of Directors. Moving to an HOA means trading a lot of individual decision-making for the cost benefits of large-scale shared projects, and the peace of mind of turning over the tasks of property maintenance and protection to others. Everyone signs up to the rules when they purchase property here. Please observe the rules and get architectural control committee approval before beginning work and avoid having to re-do or even remove those expensive projects after the fact.” (To read the complete statement, please read David Cook’s *Association President’s Report* in the February 24<sup>th</sup> Villager, or on the Resident Portal.)

### Next Regular Association Board Meeting:

Tuesday, March 29, 2022; 9:30 AM, via Teleconference.

### Next Quarterly DAC Meeting:

Thursday, May 12, 2022, 6:00 PM; in-person or via teleconference to be determined.



by Tom Zades

One of the benefits of working for Pan Am was near-free air travel, on a space-available basis. We were only required to pay the sales tax on the price of the ticket. Planes were rarely full in those days, so planning air travel was not difficult. The meals served were elaborate and multi-coursed, with real silverware! There was no concern back then that you might use the silverware to harm somebody. The whole process of being served was quite pleasant, and was an activity that seemed to help the time go by.

Another potential benefit for an employee was to be upgraded to first class, free of charge, if there was an empty seat up there. The contrast between first class and coach service was so stark that comedians routinely did skits poking fun at the situation. The stewardesses (as we called them in those days), would draw a curtain between the cabins, and the aromas emanating from first class would have us drooling back in coach. One comedian said that a bell would ring, and the first-class passengers would be free to go rape and plunder the coach passengers.

The del Lago District Advisory Committee (DAC) voting members are: Emil Pissari, Chairperson, (408-781-4216); Judy Bushey, Deputy, (408-930-2985); Valerie Dimmick, Secretary, (408-813-3985); Everett Jacobson, Newsletter (408-629-7210); Melinda Dobbs (408-666-9713); 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.

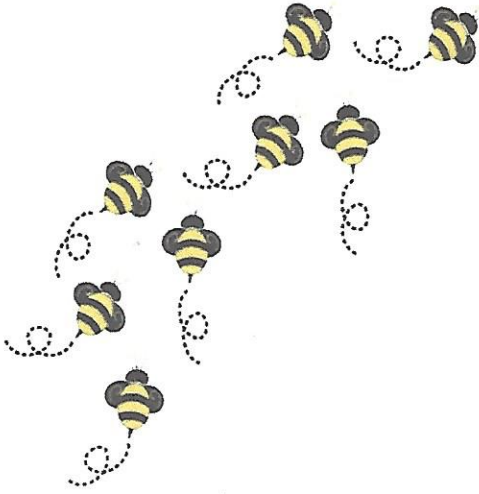
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DAC=District Advisory Committee, ABOD=Association Board of Directors, CBOD=Club Board of Directors, AC=Architectural Committee

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sonata/del Lago

# Spring Ladies Luncheon



**Saturday, March 26, 2022**

**11:30 ~ 2:00**

**The Villages Clubhouse  
Fairway Room**

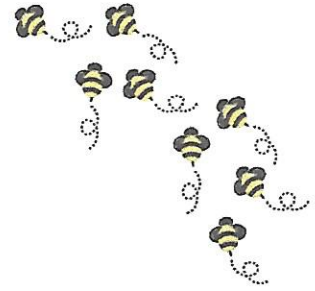
**Our speaker will be  
local beekeeper, Art Hall**

## ~Menu~

- **Chicken Caesar Salad (vegetarian quiche option)**
  - **Rolls and Butter**
  - **Crème Brule**
  - **Coffee; hot tea upon request**

**~Price \$30.00~**

- **Will be charged to your house account**
  - **Deadline for reservations is March 19, 2022, space is limited!**
  - **No cancellations or refunds after March 22, 2022**



**Masks are to be worn except when eating or drinking.**



Detach and return to Irene Estelle, 2002 Carignan Way (Sonata), or phone 408-238-5434, or email [ireneestelle@yahoo.com](mailto:ireneestelle@yahoo.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ House # \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email \_\_\_\_\_ Your Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Guests Name \_\_\_\_\_