

del Lago Newsletter

Prepared by the del Lago District Advisory Committee

Vol. 21, No. 10 – December 2022

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Chairman’s Message:

Happy Holidays to all our residents. Judy and I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day. We can all be thankful that our lakes did not go dry this summer and that we had no fires this year in any Village. We can all hope to have more rain this coming year to relieve the pressure on California drought conditions. **We look forward to seeing many of you Saturday, December 3 at 10am to “Light Up the Garda” by stringing holiday lights on the boulevard trees.** Removal Saturday, January 7 at 10am. Thank you, **Joan Lohr**, for the terrific flyer. Keep up the good work saving household water and recycling cans and batteries. Judy and I wish you all a healthy and happy 2023.

Emil Pissarri,

Chairman (408) 781-4216

Highlights from 11/10/22 Qtrly DAC Meeting



DAC Chairman, Emil Pissarri, welcomed attendees and introduced The Villages’ new General Manager, Theresa Ostrander. She expressed her pleasure at joining The Villages team and added that this is her first DAC meeting. Regarding roof

replacement that is projected for FY27/28, the condition of our roofs will be considered as well as materials and inflation in the determination of when to replace roofs and how much it will cost. Emil also said that Maria Hernandez has advised that the large garbage bins will be in The Villages again in December. Watch for those to dispose of large items.

Guest Speaker

Mitzi Macon, VMA’s president and fellow del Lago resident, began by explaining that the mission of the VMA is for Villagers to live independent, active, and healthy lives as long as possible. She added that it is

important to remember that even though we may not need VMA services now, we may need them in the future. Mitzi reported that the VMA was established in 1976 by Villages’ nurses and doctors who provided blood pressure checks. The programs grew from there. The Service Coordinator, Bonnie, is available M-Th 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., to assist residents and their family members in their planning for services. She can be reached at 408 238-4029. Since 2015, VMA has partnered with Hospice of the Valley to bring information and services here. A primary goal of Mitzi’s is to increase awareness to Villagers of the kinds of services VMA offers. She asked that we all be a voice for VMA and pass on information to our neighbors when we see they may have a need, such as transportation to a medical appointment or medical equipment like walkers and wheelchairs. She also is focused on bringing quality speakers and have events that are informative and supportive. An example of outreach to Villagers, who may not have the opportunity to get out and about much, is Lunch Buddies, a lunch program at the Clubhouse which is subsidized by VMA donations. Mitzi advised that VMA, which provides “people services,” partners with Evergreen Villages Foundation (whose mission is to use donations to EVF to provide capital improvements in The Villages), and the Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC, whose mission is to help Villagers prepare for a disaster such as a major earthquake). Her answer to ‘how can we help’ is to volunteer. Drivers are needed to drive Villagers to medical appointments, grocery shopping, running errands, etc. The office is staffed by volunteers. Aluminum cans are collected by volunteers for recycling, which brings in thousands of dollars which fund VMA equipment and services. We can take note of our neighbors’ needs and inform them of VMA services. Mitzi especially asked that we make suggestions for new services and programs that we think may be useful. Finally, Mitzi advised that we can contact the office at 408 238-4230 to arrange for the donation of clothing, medical equipment, etc. Also, prescription medications can be dropped off at the office for safe disposal.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

ABOD Liaison Report

Stephen Gilbert, ABOD liaison to del Lago, began by echoing Mitzi, noting that automatic monthly donations can be made to VMA via our Villages' monthly statement. Other highlights from Steve's remarks are:



Landscape Manager, Juan Heredia (working with a lake expert), has checked all of the lakes and reports that they are sound. If they go dry, they will be fine but the pumps and other mechanical parts may need to be removed from the lakes to protect the equipment.

He explained the MOTUS insurance program and how each Association member is equally responsible for reconstruction of buildings damaged during an earthquake, through a special assessment. He explained that the primary coverage of MOTUS is for the special assessment. Residents can supplement the special assessment coverage with coverage for upgrades made in their homes and coverage for living outside their home during the construction period. He emphasized that the ABOD and CBOD are not making a recommendation; the decision is a personal decision made by each homeowner. Steve said that the Water Committee is determining the efficiency of our irrigation system and is tracking water consumption by the water bills for each water meter. He added that the ABOD is currently identifying 'shovel ready' turf reduction proposals that each District has submitted, including the del Lago DAC. Steve said that the fire risk study is being extended to all Districts. He encouraged all residents to vote in the CC&Rs election. Voting will conclude at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, December 12; and the votes will be counted on that date.

Residents Forum

Several residents asked questions and expressed

concerns regarding the re-roofing of del Lago condos. GM Theresa Ostrander assured us that by the end of January 2023, there will be definitive actions taken and information disseminated that will address the concerns raised by residents. She noted that reserve studies are only a guide and there will be additional studies made by experts which likely will impact the projected lifespan of our roofs, the materials that will be used to reroof, and the amount contributed by each homeowner to the Reserve Budget for reroofing. Finally, a resident asked to speak on behalf of the wildlife who live alongside us in The Villages. She urged that wildlife and their wellbeing and habitat-needs be considered when decisions are being made that affect our mutual environment, noting that many of us enjoy the wildlife and may have decided to move here because of the wildlife.

Extracted from Richard Holmboe's ABOD Meeting Notes

Association Board President David Cook reported at the ABOD meeting held on November 15, that "some of our known challenges are the ever-increasing costs of power, labor, and insurance as well as recovering from the damages inflicted by the drought. While we have saved money on water usage, we will have to spend that, and much more on replanting, turf conversions, and fire safety measures. Let us be thankful that funding our plans comes from a position of strength, and that will allow us to work through these new challenges."

In response to a clarification sought by your del Lago DAC chair, it was noted that downspout rain water from some del Lago homes is directed to del Lago lakes, specifically Lake Bolsena.

Next Regular Association Board Meeting:

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 9:30 AM, via Teleconference.

The del Lago District Advisory Committee (DAC) voting members: Emil Pisarri, Chairperson (408-781-4216); Valerie Dimmick, Secretary and Newsletter, (408-813-3985); Melinda Dobbs (408-666-9713); Anahid Gregg (732-742-4874); Margaret Spatafore (408-603-7544)

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