

del Lago Newsletter

Prepared by the del Lago District Advisory Committee

Vol. 23, No. 1 – February 2024

Next scheduled del Lago DAC Town Hall Meeting Thursday, February 8 at 10:00 a.m. at Foothill Center



"The content presented within this newsletter, unless it is an actual Association document, is the views of the authors and not to be interpreted as the official positions of the Association Board." Apo: Apr202

Chairman's Message

Hello del Lago Community.

I hope you had a great holiday season. That was a busy time for most of us, and that busyness continues with many key issues in the works. This article will touch on them.

The budgeting for next year (fiscal years run July – June) has begun. Our GM, Theresa Ostrander, is bringing big (and good) changes to the process. They are correcting some past issues and assuring that the budget is appropriate, accurate, and sustainable going forward. The Villages staff working on the budget are very cost conscious, as is your DAC leadership. Theresa has promised a transparent process and is involving DAC's much more than in the past. She says that DAC's are the Grass Roots of the Villages. We agree and are happy to be that. Our biggest budget issue in del Lago is the reroofing that is targeted for the end of this decade. Villages staff along with the ABOD and your DAC are exploring the costs and alternative approaches in order to appropriately fund this while keeping the costs manageable. I would guess that every newsletter going forward will have an update on this issue.

Another hot topic is the drought related water conservation via turf reduction project. You may recall from past Newsletters that the Water Agencies have placed watering restrictions on "non-functional turf". That is grass that is ornamental only. Part of the turf reduction project is to identify these non-functional areas to repurpose them to functional or convert them to drought tolerant

plantings. Examples of functional turf are gathering areas, park areas, etc. This project has a lot of traction with three consultants helping The Villages to plan the way forward. Of course these activities also are connected with costs and the budget process. Some of you have given your thoughts on plant preference through the surveys that have been conducted. No final decisions have been made yet on the way forward but meetings continue and the game plan will soon be established. Our del Lago district has been selected to be a beta site for some turf reduction due to our proximity to the entrance to the Villages. There is a meeting February 5 to progress this turf reduction planning.

Allied with the water conservation planning is a review of fire safety within The Villages. Again, an expert in the field has been assessing our fire safety status and has made recommendations. Plant changes are being integrated with the selection of plantings for the water conservation. There are also some remediation actions that are needed. More on this when the plans are finalized.

Insurance premiums is also a hot topic. Good guess if you think the rates have gone higher. Your ABOD has a committee studying the options on these ever-increasing rates.

The budget numbers are in through December. Except for increased insurance premiums, the results are uneventful. See the article below for a recap. These and any other issues will be discussed at the del Lago DAC all-resident Town Hall meeting scheduled for February 8 at 10 AM in the Foothill Center. These meetings are held quarterly with this one being the only morning meeting. The other three will be held later in the day so that working folks can make it.

Dave Dimmick
Chairman, del Lago DAC

ABOD January 30, 2024 Meeting

Highlights:

- ABOD President Diana Hallock read her January report. It can be found on The Village Resident Portal or a DAC member can pass it on to you, just ask.
- Our management is being trained on a new financial system that should help them knowing and controlling costs.
- A fire safety team, called FLAME, headed by John Oppenheimer, has been created to help manage the transition of The Villages to more fire-resistant place to live.
- The General Manager, Theresa Ostrander, also read a report that should be available on the portal. An insurance team, headed by David Cook, has been created to find a cost-effective way to keep us insured.
- The next ABOD meeting is February 27, at 9:30 at Foothill Center and via Zoom.

Thank you to all who helped with holiday decorating!

Each year, Lake Garda entrance and Drive are beautifully lit up to add to the festive flavor of the season. Thank you to the volunteers who pitch in!

del Lago Village Social Fund (formerly del Lago Village Enhancement Fund)

- Current del Lago Social Fund balance: \$357.55.
- Joint Sonata/del Lago Social Fund balance: \$3,774.51

del Lago Financials

FY23 Report from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 (6 months)

Operating Details: Total Revenue \$590,058.
 Total Expenditures \$590,664.
 Operating deficit \$606, primarily due to extra insurance expenses (\$3,445).
 Surplus carryover from last year \$9,183.
 Net operating surplus \$8,577.

Reserve Budget:
 Total Reserves Contributed: \$425,016.
 Total Reserves Expended: \$65,970.
 Net contribution to Reserves: \$359,046.
 Carryover from last year: \$2,483,984.
 Current Reserves Balance: \$2,843,029.

Save These 2024 Dates

- May 9, at 6 PM, del Lago Town Hall at Foothill Center
- June 8, at 11:30 AM, del Lago/Sonata Luncheon, in the Clubhouse
- August 7, at 5 PM, Ice Cream Social, at Gazebo Park
- August 8, at 6 PM, del Lago Town Hall at Foothill Center
- October 19, at 10 AM, del Lago Resident Breakfast, at Clubhouse
- November 7, at 6 PM, del Lago Town Hall at Cribari Auditorium



The del Lago District Advisory Committee (DAC)

Voting members: Dave Dimmick, Chairperson, (650-804- 9378); Gary Lohr, Vice Chair (408-912-5124); Anahid Gregg, IT (732-742-4874); Emil Pisarri (699-609-0461); Melinda Dobbs (408-666-9713); Margaret Spatafore (408-532-1966).

Non-voting Associate members: : Cheryl Allmen (408-307-3979); Monona Tang (914-262-7266); Valerie Dimmick, Secretary and Newsletter, (408-813-3985)

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

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Our annual del Lago & Sonata
Luncheon is back!

Join your neighbors at the Clubhouse
Saturday, June 8th starting 11:30

For only \$30.00, lunch includes:
a green salad,
your choice of three sandwiches,
and strawberry shortcake!
Single residents may invite a guest*.

Reservations Open on May 1st!



*Residents outside our Villages will be charged
an additional \$5.00

