

# del Lago Newsletter

Prepared by the del Lago District Advisory Committee

Vol. 23, No. 4 – September 2024



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

Apo:Apr202

## Chairperson’s Message

Hello del Lago Community,  
del Lago will be undergoing changes over the next ten years as a result of two major projects: turf reduction and roof replacement. The Villages, as a whole, will be under going turf reduction in order to meet County mandates to reduce 80 acres of turf by 2029. We have asked for relief on this because it would cost us \$30 million for 80 acres. We have proposed 4 acres per year. To start, we will be part of a pilot turf reduction project that will be paid for by the Club Board. It starts at San Felipe, goes up the right side of Villages Parkway, wraps onto the right side of Fairway Drive and ends at Montgomery Lane. This project will give all residents an idea of what turf reduction will look like around the Villages. Our roofs will be replaced in approximately eight years. Ryan Bell, AGM of Public Works, will be inspecting 20 randomly selected del Lago roofs in late October, to determine the health of our roofs. His inspection may alter the schedule of the roof replacement.

Your DAC Chair.

*Emil Pisari*

## Save These Dates

- October 2, 10A & 3P Meet BellaVista Fairway Rm
- October 13, Flu shots at Foothill sponsored by VMA
- October 14, 6:30P By-Laws Mtg /**Canceled**
- October 19, 10:30A del Lago Brunch Foothill Cen
- October 31, 4PM, Next DAC Meeting

## 8/27 and 9/24/24 ABOD Meeting Highlights

- Bella Vista Landscape has replaced BrightView
- An investment firm has been hired to optimize income from our savings in CD’s and T-Bills.
- The Club has 9 volunteers to help with the Firewise data collection and entry effort. Looking for one more volunteer, hopefully from del Lago.
- David Cook leads an insurance meeting every two weeks at 9:30 AM. The next meeting is October 1. News articles coming on how to align homeowners HO-6 policies with Master policy.
- ABOD hiring a rule enforcement person.
- The next ABOD meeting is on 10/29/24 at 9:30am at Foothill Center and via ZOOM.

## 8/8/24 del Lago Townhall Highlights

CBOD member Diana Hallock was our keynote speaker.

CBOD looking to mod the following by-laws

- Charging an initiation fee (if legal) whenever a property changes ownership.
- Avoid a vote on many improvement projects by increasing the spending limit that requires a vote.
- Electronic voting.
- Potential Future Projects:
  - Add EV charging stations

## Del Lago Brunch

Did you attend the del Lago / Sonata Luncheon earlier this year? If so, you know what fun we had prior to the pandemic. Now it’s time to resume our Annual Brunch – a celebration with our del Lago friends and neighbors!

We’ll be meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> in the Foothill Center. A wonderful meal will be presented for your enjoyment (see details on our website or the recent flyer delivered to your tube). But the best part is getting to know your neighbors better and making new friends. Sign up on our website, <https://dellago.vgcc.club/> or call 732-742-4874 if you do not have a computer.

### Firewise Program

Firewise is a plan to reduce vulnerability to damage from a wild fire. Our management is taking steps to make the Villages listed as a Firewise Community. Examples of Firewise recommendations are defensible space (keeping plants away from the house), use of fire-resistant plants, use very small grids on attic ventilation screens to reduce sparks entering the attic, use fire resistant roofing and more.

Mary Tatum, Director of Special Projects & Sustainability, and Yasmeen Itani, Executive Assistant to GM, have been asked to take the lead in making the Villages a Firewise Community. Deb Gordon is the ABOD liaison to the Firewise Committee. The Committee plans to use Fire Aside software to help evaluate properties. The Villages will be training volunteers to evaluate all of our property. The data collected will help to decide the actions needed to become Firewise compliant. Anyone interested in becoming a Firewise evaluator, please contact anyone on your DAC.

### del Lago Financials

FY23 Report from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 (12 months)

**Operating Details:**

Total Revenue: \$1,182,018  
Total Expenditures: \$1,159,722  
Operating Surplus: \$22,295  
Surplus carryover from last year: \$27,245  
**Net operating surplus: \$49,540**

**Reserve Budget:**

Total Reserves Contributed \$862,017  
Total Reserves Expended: \$133,615  
Net contribution to Reserves: \$728,402  
Carryover from last year: \$2,480,245  
**Current Reserves Balance \$3,208,648**

### Del Lago Village Social Fund

(formerly del Lago Village Enhancement Fund)  
8/31/24 balance: \$466.34 No Recent Expenditures

### del Lago/Sonata Social Fund

Current balance: \$3346.55  
Recent Expenditures: \$0

### Bring Your Chair Social

Del Lago residents have had several meet-ups over the summer under the oak tree by the parking lot near Lake Albano Circle and Maggiore Court. These social gatherings occur every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 6pm. Get to know your neighbors. All del Lago residents are invited.



**Since the weather is changing, look for notices for our next meeting.**



The del Lago District Advisory Committee (DAC)

Voting members: Emil Pisarri, Chairperson, (669-609-0461); Melinda Dobbs, Vice Chair (408-666-9713); Anahid Gregg, IT (732-742-4874); Margaret Spatafore (408-532-1966); Valerie Dimmick, Secretary, (408-813-3985); Cheryl Allmen (408-307-3979); Gary Lohr (408-912-5124)  
Non-voting Associate members: Monona Tang (914-262-7266); Tim Robinson (512-964-3989)  
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DAC=District Advisory Committee, ABOD=Association Board of Directors, CBOD=Club Board of Directors, AC=Architectural Committee

## DEL LAGO RICHES

by Vera Buescher

In recent weeks our del Lago community has experienced the loss of precious del Lago friends and neighbors. That is to be expected here in The Villages, of course. But this is an important reminder to all of us to appreciate the giants who live among us.

Our del Lago DAC held its first meeting in September, 2000, thanks to the leadership of John Akin. Don DeVincenzi took over leadership of the DAC when John's health failed and Don ended up serving two terms as DAC Chair, ending in 2019. We have been well served by DAC leaders including John O'Neil (elected DAC Chair in 2012) and Gary Lohr (elected in 2019) plus currently Emil Pissarri and David Dimmick. Thanks to their devotion to all of us, David Dimmick was elected this year to the ABOD and Emil has agreed to step back in as our current del Lago DAC Chair.

Throughout all those years, del Lago has been blessed with the kindness and thoughtfulness of so many special people. It became traditional each year to ask for volunteers to help put up Holiday decorations in our village – and each year Bob & Diane Marchant opened their garage and invited all the volunteers in to enjoy delicious holiday goodies as a reward for their putting up the decorations. Each evening while the decorations were up, Don DeVincenzi (and often Lois, too) were on-duty in the lawn area at the entrance to our village, restoring the electrical connections that were required nearly daily for the deer and/or angels to glow. When Don retired, he handed these duties off to Emil Pissarri. Currently, Emil leads the angel/soldier/deer decorating volunteers, while Anahid Gregg leads the tree decorating volunteers.

For many years The Villages had great July 4th parades, and no Village could out-do what our amazing Jim Grove and volunteers were able to produce for del Lago. Anahid Gregg has happy memories of working with Jim Grove, Ben Vitcov, Bob Marchant and others as they were producing the various floats. Jim Grove is known throughout The Villages for offering to help other districts with their floats, in addition to providing back-drops and scenes for stage plays and concerts in the Cribari Auditorium, for years and years.

Del Lago residents have made significant contributions to The Villages. Sherm Rosenthal was elected to the ABOD in 2003, and he was a major contributor to the updating of our By Laws and CC&Rs (his eyesight was going, but he insisted on completing the revisions). Don DeVincenzi was elected to the ABOD in 2012, and he served a term as ABOD Chair. More recently our del Lago neighbor Bob Krattli just completed his term as a CBOD Director, and Liz Kung is in her final year as a CBOD Director. And as mentioned earlier, our neighbor David Dimmick is a newly elected member of the ABOD.

Other important Villages assets include our Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC). Serving for several years as our del Lago EPC Sector Chiefs were Tony Branco and Joe Spatafore. Our neighbor Paul Magruder now heads our del Lago EPC Team of Area Rep volunteers. Ann Berg served as EPC Emergency Food Services Director and later as a member of the EPC Emotional Support Team. Judy Bushey served as an EPC Chair in The Villages 2016-2019; and the current Chair of EPC in The Villages is our del Lago neighbor Mike Ramer. Mike Ramer volunteers not only as EPC Chair, but he also devotes many hours to the Villages Medical Auxiliary (VMA). And once again we find our del Lago neighbor, Mitzi Macon (recently retired President of the VMA), who was responsible for heading up and overseeing the many VMA activities aimed at assisting Villages' residents to live healthy and independent lives. We ARE richly blessed.

In 2004 Margaret Gurley agreed to serve as Secretary and Newsletter Editor for the DAC. When she moved away in 2009, Vera Buescher served in that capacity until 2019 when Everett Jacobson took the duties of producing the newsletter, and Judy Bushey took over the DAC Secretarial role. del Lago's monthly

newsletters were born thanks to the leadership of Don DeVincenzi and the creativity of Margaret Gurley. Without a doubt those Newsletters have proven to be very useful tools in keeping del Lago residents informed.

Over the years Everett Jacobson produced creative newsletters, and it's great to see the tradition continuing thanks to the on-going Newsletter creators DAC Chair Emil Pisarri and DAC Secretary Valerie Dimmick.

A significant arm of del Lago's joy and happiness has to do with the "Social Committee" which has reached out to new residents and neighbors over the years and has helped create outstanding social events. It's impossible to remember all the members, but the list includes Marlene Akin, Diane Marchant, Lois DeVincenzi, Maureen O'Neill, Joan Lohr, Anna Hewitt, Peggy Tritto, Alice Reiley; and, of course, more recently Melinda Dobbs, Monona Tang, Lucy Pousho and Anahid Gregg. Anahid's name is well-known by all Villagers due to her indefatigable drive to have Pickleball Courts here in The Villages.

There are other volunteer activities our del Lago neighbors contribute toward. After many years of serving as the aluminum can collectors in del Lago, Jim Grove and Ben Vitcov passed the baton to husband-and-wife team Emil Pisarri and Judy Bushey, who then added used battery disposal to the effort. Plus, Vera Buescher, Judy Bushey and Anahid Gregg have all served as Villages Inspectors of Elections.

One reason for this remembrance, of course, is the recent loss of dear del Lago friends like Bob Marchant, Tony Branco and Ann Berg. Over the years we've had to bid farewell to precious people. Because many del Lago residents have moved here recently, it seems appropriate to share highlights of these del Lago Villagers' riches.

I was 62 years old when I elected to move to The Villages 25 years ago. I could never have envisioned all the interesting and wonderful people I would meet plus all the activities and experiences that were ahead for me. It has been truly heart-warming to recall the many highlights, and I hope I'll be forgiven if I failed to mention someone or something as I recalled the past.

Some parade photos are included for your enjoyment. You'll recognize some del Lago names included in the photo descriptions.

2014 – July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade Theme: LET FREEDOM RING Villagers LOVE our annual parade  
Marilyn Rodman (Sonata) and Laura Leshchiner (del Lago) carrying our Villages' banner



Jim Grove, Marilyn & team got entry built/carts decorated.



Ben Vitcov's super Liberty Bell w/Bernice - in their cart.



AWARD WINNERS -- Sonata/del Lago award-winning entry (1<sup>st</sup> in Villages category; and BEST IN SHOW!!)



Total of five carts, focusing on the Freedoms of Religion, of the Press, of Speech, and of Assembly, and the Right to Vote

