

DIAMOND A PROPERTY OWNERS
ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 75
SONOMA, CA 95476

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Diamond A Gazette

Official Newsletter of the Diamond A Property Owners Association

MAY 2008

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Is it HOT enough for you? Our last week's pre-summer heat was almost unbearable, unless you could turn on your air conditioning or go to an air conditioned movie theater. But we are survivors! Firstly, your current and newly-elected Directors and Officers would sincerely wish to thank Mike Cooper for his computerized big screen presentation of our new website, at the POA Annual Meeting. He certainly made it look easy. There were also several items discussed at our Annual Meeting in February that will be mentioned later but, briefly, they are to do with our fire prevention and safety, dog control, being considerate of our neighbors by clearing our roads from landscape overgrowth and clearing the garbage and recycle bins from our streets in a timely manner; I realize these topics are not new, but need to be addressed, since we are the association members' representatives. Regarding the bins on the street, perhaps asking a neighbor to tend when you are unable to do so, is the easiest. **Some reminders:** Hill Warming Party is Sunday June 1. Invitations have been mailed. Pool Opening Party is Sunday June 8, and the Trail Blazer's old fashioned BBQ will be on Sept. 13 at Lyon's Barn. **BE SURE TO CUT YOUR GRASSES, IT IS FIRE SEASON.** And, have you tried Ben & Jerry's ice cream downtown? If you haven't, treat yourself.
Beverly Perrin, President

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

The annual Treasurer's Report was distributed at the Annual Meeting and was approved. Expenditures of note were for the Neighborhood Watch Signage, POA Insurance, newsletter publications and postage. It was also approved to contribute \$100. to the Firemen's Fund

for the Fourth of July Fireworks. The Property Owners' Association dues are \$35.00 per year and the majority of Property Owners are members. I invite all of you who may not be members to get involved. Your dues brings you two neat get-togethers in your neighbors' homes, a periodic newsletter with survival tips, a telephone and email directory available in January 2009, periodic garden group visits, and other informal sharing of common interests. Please consider joining.

Happy Trails.

Dee Young, Treasurer
939-9440

PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF 2008-09 DIRECTORS

The Recreation Club again offered its facilities for the February, POA Annual meeting. A brisk fire warmed the space and attendance was very good. Several new and second-time members were present.

The agenda guided attendees through topics the voters had sent in, with their mail-in ballots regarding: existing fences, new fences, dog controls, carriage type lighting at entry gates, overgrown weeds and landscaping, weed control for yellow star thistle, grass fire hazards and new rules, roadway litter, refuse disposal containers left in view for days, nuisance noise, speeding cars and adequate space for walking the roads. Most of the topics have been visited previously, and all have merit, was the consensus. Action to improve all items is in the works. The highlight of our meeting was a presentation of the content of our new website, although not interactive yet, the presenter, Mike Cooper, a board member, walked us all through the site, showing us

the information therein and also the "how-to" tools to access it.

The election results added one new Director, Shirl Gay. At our first Board Meeting after elections the Directors agree on additional tasks, if not already designated as an at-large Director. Shirl will be the liaison to the Recreation Center. Julie Angeloni, our multi-term Board Member and long time Board Secretary did not seek re-election. Thanks, Julie, for your service to the POA.

HILL WARMING PARTY (SPRING)
JUNE 1, INVITATIONS SENT

This will be a good one...for sure. The host and hostess are long-time hill dwellers and have been instrumental in forming the community spirit we all enjoy.

We are always looking for more neighbors interested in hosting these delightful parties, so that we can plan the calendar well in advance. We always have a minimum of two a year. Set up and clean up are provided by the Hill Warming Committee, of course. If interested, please contact Teri Hansen 933-9823

EQUESTRIAN UPDATES from the
"Trailblazers."

Teri Hansen

The thank you notes are being prepared for those generous individuals who have contributed to the horse trail clearing fund. We are close to clearing a long $\frac{1}{2}$ mile plus trail that has been somewhat neglected; a few more weeks is needed. A brand new home on upper Grove. St. recently relocated their trail easement; this was easy, recorded and benefited all. Some of you may notice several more horses about, whereas they and their riders are treading a bit more cautiously

on the paved roadways and hand leading them at times. Sundays, especially mornings, is a likely time to see a few more prancing. Please slow down if you're driving and you see them. Barn Party Date is Sept. 13, at the Rob & Robin Lyon's Ranch.

DIAMOND A REC. ASSN. REPORT

The 2008-09 Directors & Officers were elected at the recent Annual Meeting:

President, Rich Cooper

Vice President, Wayne Schake

Secretary, Pat Angeloni

Treasurer, Wayne Mehl

Supporting Board members: Bart Hansen, Lee Brown, and Janet Nusbaum.

The following is a copy prepared and submitted by the Diamond A Recreation Association:

Members and Neighbors:

Club members have been busy since the beginning of the year preparing for the year ahead and heading up the winter time social activities. The February crab feed was a sell-out (as usual) headed up by the lead crab himself, Fred Merrill. His noble assistants included Fred's right hand girl, Suzie, Rufus & Linda Marmaduke, Larry & Helen Giovacchini, Steve & Christine Meacham, Leo & Millie Merle, Dave & Teresa Martinelli, and Ron Matteson & Susan Tam. The poor crabs didn't have a chance. As spring moved on toward summer, we had movie nights with popcorn fights and then a spring clean up morning with a BBQ luncheon catered by Pat Angeloni. Thanks to all the members who came to the clean up day. They brought the club grounds up to a neat manicured look as you can tell by looking at our major league quality baseball field. The Wayne Schake baseball field is ready for the opening day game. We just couldn't have a shabby looking club house with such good

looking grounds, so some substantial repairs and face lifting were in order along with quite a bit of deferred maintenance. A new roof was put on the pool equipment room. The pool lights were repaired. New double pane lowE windows were installed to replace the original old single pane ones we had. This will reduce the free stream breezes for those sitting next to the windows, but we trust you will not miss that too much. The wall next to the gate was replaced because of dry rot and the same for the lower back corner wall by the equipment room. Next, the very, very old inoperative heaters were torn out and the holes covered over.

Then a new coat of paint or two or three or four in some places brought a bright, fresh look to our favorite club building inside and out. It's our favorite because of all the great times we have had there. If it's not your favorite, please join us and it will become yours too. (We had to run a little advertising to help pay for all this expensive maintenance.) But plans for other improvements have been deferred for the moment as we have exhausted our repair and maintenance budget. But it was all necessary and certainly worth it.

The board has spent a great deal of time studying the feasibility and desirability of installing a pool cover for the pool. We have talked to the major operators of swimming pools in the valley. We have looked at the cost benefit ratio to make the pool more cost effective. We have checked with the manufacturer as far as improving the temperature variance of the pool during the day. We have received a lot of recommendations from people who have or have had pool covers and these have been very helpful in giving us perspective and an insight into potential problems. We have studied the liability aspect and we have sent out mail

asking which of you would offer to help with the morning removal and evening recovering. It has been a daunting task and I would commend the board and especially Wayne Mehl for the thorough study that has been done. After considering all the pros and cons, we decided that now is not the time for a pool cover. While this is primarily an internal club matter, it is important to all of us because pool covers are also a community hazard. Many more people, mainly children, die from drowning under pool covers than from guns in this country as noted in a recent Press Democrat article.

Membership in the Diamond A Recreation Club is open to all residents of the Diamond A community. For more information, speak with Celia Schake (938-9248) or any board member. Board members are Pat Angeloni, Lee Brown, Rich Cooper, Bart Hansen, Wayne Mehl, Janet Nusbaum, and Wayne Schake.

For MEMBERS, annual dues are now due, and the next scheduled event is the pool opening party on Sunday, June 8. See you there.

Members of the Board
Diamond A Recreation Association
diamondarec@gmail.com

FIREMEN APPRECIATION EVENT

A Fireman's Appreciation Day event is being planned for after this year's fire season. The POA Board was planning one for this summer, but were advised to re-think the timing of such an event.

If you or your Families have individuals that would be interested in Our Volunteer Fire Department you can call Dick Hanna, Resident Fire Chief at 996-3402

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH update

There have been no reported incidents of crime in our area for months. It is likely that the new Neighborhood Watch signs have proven to be a viable deterrent to unwanted visitors, of course, in conjunction with our local Sheriff's Dept. more frequent presence. Periodic meetings are required with the Sheriff's Dept., and the Board has not yet had a lead volunteer step up to coordinate the required meetings. Many property owners are standing by and ready to participate for their specific areas. So, if you have an interest, please contact a POA Director or Officer. Perhaps even a student in a Criminal Justice program can make this a school project.



MISCELLANEOUS:

ROADWAY LANDSCAPE

IDENTITY THEFT (rerun)

RELAY FOR LIFE, 2008

PROPERTY OWNERS' GUIDE

PROPERTY OWNERS' DIRECTORY

PLEASE NO FIRE WORKS JULY 4

SPEEDING CARS & NOTES

ROADWAY LANDSCAPE

ENCROACHMENT and recent update!

A review by POA members has noted that approximately 30% of properties have an overgrowth of trees and vegetation into our roadways. The obvious results are poor visibility for drivers, scratches to car paint finishes, debris accumulation in drainage ditches, and also lack of a clear and safe pathway for walkers. **The County Road Crews** are responsible for these

obstructions for the distance of 14 feet from the road centerline. They can be reached at 707-565-7280.

An update to the above information copied from the last newsletter is that the POA Board of Directors at its April 8 meeting **voted to prepare a form letter** which would be sent to specific Property Owners whom have a condition of landscape overgrowth that would require attention. **Our next board meeting is June 10;** likely several of these letters will be sent soon.

IDENTITY THEFT FYI:

Repeated article from last newsletter

A popular topic which often appears in our local newspapers is identity theft. We wish to share some *general* information for action to be taken if this should happen to you.

- REPORT THE CRIME TO THE POLICE
- CONTACT ALL CREDITORS AND YOUR BANK, AND FOLLOW UP EVERY PHONE CALL IN WRITING
- PUT STOP PAYMENTS ON ANY OUTSTANDING CHECKS
- SEND EVERYTHING BY CERTIFIED MAIL, KEEPING COPIES OF EVERYTHING
- CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DMV OFFICE AND ASK THEM TO PUT A FRAUD ALERT ON YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE
- CALL THE FRAUD UNITS OF THE 3 MAJOR CREDIT BUREAUS TO REPORT THE THEFT:

EQUIFAX: 1-800-525-6285

EXPERIAN: 1-888-397-3742

TRANS UNION: 1-800-680-7289

CONTROL YOUR PERSONAL

INFORMATION TO LESSEN THE CHANCES OF IDENTITY THEFT:

- CALL 1-888-567-8688 TO STOP PRE-APPROVED CREDIT CARD OFFERS.

- REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM MAIL AND E-MAIL MARKETING LISTS BY REGISTERING ON-LINE AT www.dmaconsumers.org
- REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM TELEMARKETING LISTS BY CALLING 1-888-382-1222.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER, 2008

Save the date for the Sonoma Valley Relay for Life American Cancer Society Fundraiser for our *Diamond A Team*:

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2008
A 50'S PARTY: CRUISIN' TO THE SOCK HOP.

An update is that all the coordination of volunteers is completed, and eager participants await. The Relay Walk weekend will take place August 2-3, 2008 at Sonoma Valley High School.

PROPERTY OWNERS' GUIDE

The Property Owners' Guide, a loose-leaf binder, is available to all new property owners. There are currently NO UPDATES.

JUNE 2007 DIRECTORY OF PROPERTY OWNERS

The bi-annual address & telephone directory of property owners, POA Officers, Directors and related contact information is available. It can be requested through our Treasurer, Dee Young. If you have any changes to your personal information please email ~ diamondapoa@yahoo.com

NOTE: A NEW PROPERTY OWNERS' TELEPHONE AND EMAIL DIRECTORY IS PLANNED FOR JANUARY 2009 (6 months sooner, by popular demand)

NO FIREWORKS IN DIAMOND A: OF COURSE WE ALL KNOW THAT?

SPEEDING CARS

If you observe drivers habitually going at excessive speeds and can see their car license number (and/or description of car), please don't hesitate to report this to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) 551-4100. Although CHP may not be the first to respond, the CHP is the primary roadway and traffic authority. The Sheriff's Dept. will respond first only if there is an accident or personal injury. As we all know, at times we may have to briskly move about, but we have precious people and animals walking on our roads and we want to do anything we can to avoid incidents and/or injuries.

A BELATED THANKS TO ALL OUR VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY

ALL YOU RECLUSIVE WRITERS WITH INTERESTING STORIES OR ANECDOTES OF DIAMOND A LIVING ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEND THEM TO THE POA ~ PO BOX OR EMAIL.

NEXT "GAZETTE" ISSUESOON

