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

Diamond A Gazette

Official Newsletter of the Diamond A Property Owners Association

SEPTEMBER ~ 2008

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I remember back in March of this year David & Nancy Simpson and Ann Young shared with us their knowledge on Wine and Food Pairing at an event at the Rec. Center. I don't know about you, but that was so helpful for me, I was even taking notes. David being in the wine business for many years and Nancy (our own little Martha Stewart) did a superb job. We each had about six wine glasses and as David explained a particular wine, Nancy had the perfect cheese (or whatever) to pair with it. This took a lot of work and preparation and I would like to send SPECIAL KUDOS to them. This was a very Classy party and gave some of us a little better insight into what foods go with what wines. If we ever have a repeat of this event, don't miss it.

We are trying to get together a "Thank You" party for our volunteer firefighters in October. Hopefully some of the volunteers from the stations below the hill will be able to come also. This will be for current volunteers as well as retired volunteers. DID YOU KNOW WE ONLY HAVE THREE ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS IN DIAMOND A? We need to do something about this. Would you like to help out? Call Dick Hanna (996-3402); ladies can qualify also. This could be for emergency medical assistance too.

Our Fire Danger remains very HIGH. Do your part and cut the grasses on your property. It is my understanding that the County will no longer cut grasses at the street. (It seems they had to repaint too many cars caused by rocks thrown from the cutter blades). We need to do a better job to take up the slack left by the county. The Board will be looking at

this problem. Speaking of fire danger, the POA is working in cooperation with the Rec Center and Water Board to create a "Master" email list that will be maintained current for emergency notifications to property owners. This action is awaiting only for information from the Water Board.

The Board is reviewing the "encroachment" issue of vegetation in the streets. Some property owners may be receiving letters of concern on this issue.

Please be reminded, if you put up a sign, balloons, etc. announcing your party, be sure to take them down right after your event or at least within 24 hours. Your neighbors will "Thank You."

That's all folks!
Beverly Perrin, President

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

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 NEW telephone and email directory will be available 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 2009-10 DIRECTORS

In February 2009, the POA Annual meeting will take place. A notice will be sent to all Property Owners with an Agenda. Ballots will be sent to current POA members to elect directors and vote

on any other issues that need to be submitted for a vote at that time. Typically there will be a general members' nominating committee to recommend a panel of potential candidates for the Board of Directors. At the first meeting of the Board after the election, the roles of Officers and functions of the non-Officer Directors is assigned. This is a call for any interested people, young and older, to step forward and share in the democratic process to maintain the standards we have in our community and lead in future needs as they arise. Participation is informal and friendly, of course, and is hosted in members' homes, which often includes tasty light foods and beverages. Terms are two years.

HILL WARMING PARTY (SPRING)

The first of our two annual Hill Warming Parties was held at Fred and Susie Merrill's Ranch Property accessed through the Grove Street extension and a long winding road to their hilltop paradise. The Merrill's have been there for multiple decades, a tribute to their passion for the area. The benefits they have volunteered to Diamond A and the greater Sonoma community in those decades are too extensive to list.

A panoramic view and large lawn area greeted visitors and our gracious hosts opened their beautiful home to guests. Food was outstanding and ice cream was, naturally, by Ben & Jerry's on the Plaza: the BEST.

The next gathering is scheduled for October and notices will be sent; another great fun event awaits. Set up and clean up are provided by the Hill Warming Committee, of course. If interested in providing a venue, please contact Teri Hansen at 933-9823

EQUESTRIAN UPDATES from the "Trailblazers."

Teri Hansen

The Annual Barn Party Date is Sept. 13, at the Rob & Robin Lyon's Ranch. Likely the date has passed as you read this item. All is well with our horse trails and use has naturally increased during our pleasant summer season. The dry conditions have led to hard pack trails and better footing for our steeds...less vegetation has reduced trailside feeding diversions.... Happy Trails, again.

DIAMOND A REC. ASSN. UPDATES

The Pool Opened on June 8 and has continued to be enjoyed by all. Several groups and family parties have taken place for our members and as members know, pre-arrangements to our calendar planner are necessary for the increased numbers. **A BIG OCTOBERFEST EVENT IS PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5.** Members Please RSVP.

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. Email : 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 who would be interested in Our Volunteer Fire Department you can call

Dick Hanna, Resident Fire Chief at 996-3402 (re-run from June gazette).

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

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. The POA still needs a Program Coordinator to meet periodically with law enforcement authorities. Any Criminal Law Students out there? Contact any Board Member if interested.

ROADWAY LANDSCAPE ENCROACHMENT

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. Any other encroachment is the responsibility of the Property Owner. FYI: A letter from POA may be forthcoming requesting action.

THE RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER, 2008

Sonoma Valley Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society Fundraiser was held at Bill and Shirley Angeloni's home on Spring Drive on Wednesday evening, June 25. The theme was a 50's Party: Cruisin' to the Sock Hop.

The party was planned and orchestrated over several months, with Shirley as Chief Organizer. **WHAT A GREAT PARTY!** There was not a single detail that she

overlooked, from the wonderful decorations (including pictures of many of our residents "way back when"), to the delicious menu items (we even had beautiful carhop residents to serve our appetizers), followed by a great jukebox with a myriad of 50's songs so that we could do the jitterbug among other dances. The fabulous party raised approximately \$7,600 for our Diamond A contribution to the American Cancer Society. Thank you to all who volunteered, attended the event, and most of all to Shirley and Bill for, once again, unselfishly volunteering their time and opening their home to us.

The Relay Walk weekend took place August 2-3, 2008 at Sonoma Valley High School, and was again a very moving event and a huge success.

PROPERTY OWNERS' GUIDE

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

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

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.