



## DIAMOND A REC CENTER NEWSLETTER

January – March, 2020

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**\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY\*\*\*\*\***

### MESSAGE FROM YOUR REC BOARD

Greetings, Rec Members. What strange times we are living in! Originally in this space we had planned to tout numerous Rec improvement projects coming to fruition this Spring. The unexpected emergence and spread of the coronavirus has changed a lot for all of us – on personal and community levels and beyond. As a result, some projects are necessarily being delayed, others are still on track – more on this later.

While the new (and hopefully temporary) norm is difficult to get used to, we'd like to emphasize **positivity**. Our neighborhood has always been resilient in times of stress and can survive this too. We each just need to do our part to prevent or mitigate the spread of the virus. Let's use this time as a chance to relax from our normal hectic lives, enjoy our beautiful outdoors, catch up on home projects, and stay connected with our friends and neighbors. Please check in with one another frequently, especially those who are elderly or may be living alone. Even a nice conversation over the phone can brighten someone's day.

If someone is having difficulty or needs help, please reach out to one of us and we'll see what we can do.

Read ahead for our usual reporting of Rec activities. Above all, **STAY SAFE** and **STAY POSITIVE!!**

### REC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS STATUS

You may have noticed some activity at The Rec the past few days – the clubhouse is being painted inside and out! Leading the charge on this project is Mark Pierce, who has designed a natural color palette in keeping with the regulations of Sonoma County. The main color for the outside is a leafy green, with trim in taupe and roof areas in a warm brown. The restroom doors and front door of The Rec will be painted a dark brown. The inside walls of the clubhouse will be painted a shade of light beige with a little darker trim. Since a more complete re-do of the inside of the clubhouse is not in the cards in the immediate future, we thought a new coat of paint would help spruce it up for now. A big thank you to Mark Pierce for all his efforts on behalf of The Rec!

The biggest pending project is the resurfacing of the inside of the pool. Mark Hannon has worked hard these last few months identifying a vendor, organizing all the specifics involved, and submitting the proper documentation to the County for a permit. The work had been scheduled to start the week of March 16, but unfortunately the PRMD closed its doors as part of the shutdown, and our permit was not able to be issued in time. As soon as we get our permit, we will get the crew back in to start the project. It will take about two weeks from start to finish. We are optimistically hoping to have this completed before the Pool Opening Party scheduled for May 30.

Other things that are in progress: New tables and chairs to replace the old picnic tables, a new portable BBQ, and window shades for the new sliding glass doors and the other windows in the clubhouse.

We are also planning to install a ramp from the parking lot to the clubhouse, to make it easier for those who have difficulty with stairs or are disabled to make their entrance. Mark Pierce has drawn up plans, and Mark Hannon is arranging for the work to be done.

What a lovely facility we will have once all the above are completed!

## **BOARD PERSONNEL CHANGE**

Regrettably, Cameron Morris has resigned his position as Board Treasurer, due to his business and personal obligations. Cameron was highly instrumental in helping us to implement our new accounting/communications software, as well as the transition to an improved dues billing process. We owe him a lot of thanks for his efforts.

Dave Duncan has agreed to take over the Treasurer's role for the rest of Cameron's term. Evie Duncan will handle the day-to-day banking and bill-paying tasks.

## **DUES**

Yes, it's that time again. Our membership year runs from June 1 – May 31, so in late April we will be starting the process of sending out renewal communications and dues invoices. For regular members, there will be no increase in dues. The full regular rate will remain at \$750. For those who took advantage of last year's opt-out option, this year you will see a modest increase to the next level of the five-year tiered rate increases set out last year (see chart below).

	Non-Senior	Senior
2019	88 %	52 %
2020	91 %	64%
2021	94 %	76 %
2023	97 %	88 %
2024	100 %	100 %

This means that for 2020, those who opted-out as non-seniors will pay 91% of the full rate, or \$682.50 and those who opted-out as seniors will pay 64% of the full rate or \$480.

Although we've had to curtail a few activities in the short term, we have numerous fun events planned going forward. And of course, there are still our tennis/pickleball, walking path/track, kids playground, horse arena and pool for your recreational pleasure. Your dues help to maintain all these facilities and are funding the many improvements already noted as well as others which are scheduled for coming years. We thank you for your continuing support!

## **OUR MIGHTY OAK**

A HUGE thank you to Robert and Kate Bartlett who offered to subsidize the recent tree work on our large oak tree at the entrance to The Rec. It was felt that the tree was looking a little "worn" and could use some trimming and shoring up; however, the cost was prohibitive and not in our budget at this time. The Bartletts stepped up to offer the services of their company, Bartlett Tree Experts. Last month the work was done – significant pruning as well as some cabling of heavier limbs. THANK YOU, BARTLETTS!



Crew Members Tani Cervantes and Irmin Munoz working on our Mighty Oak

## **TENNIS COURT IMPROVEMENTS**

Spearheaded by John Perez (with assistance from Norm Cram, Bill Mapel, and Noel Barbuesco), there are some improvements to the tennis (and pickleball) courts: a new roller for mopping up the courts, plus a squeegee, 120 feet of new windscreening along the side, and a new improved tennis net. Thanks for the initiative in procuring these items, and happy playing!

## TOO MUCH STUFF

We are lucky to have so many generous members – over the years, you have supplied us with dishes, serving dishes, flatware and many other items that are used in the clubhouse. At this point, however, we have more items than can be stored in our cupboards and more than enough for our usual operations. So, we'd like to respectfully ask that the donations stop! To the right is a photo of some of the items we plan



to donate to an outside charity, unless you can tell us they belong to you. Starting around April 1st, we'll place these items on a table outside the clubhouse and leave them there for a couple of weeks so you'll have a chance to go and claim your items. We'll send out an e-mail when the items are available for viewing.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

### Holly-Day Party

Our final party for 2019 was another success! Complete with holly theme, amazing food and specialty cocktails, a harpist/guitarist who added lots of atmosphere and led us in some songs, and of course, Santa. In spite of the rain and cold, it appears that everyone had a wonderful time.



What a Spread!



Our Intrepid Bartenders BJ Beck and Chris Degan serving their specialty drinks: Berry Merry Martini and Holly Menthe Cocktail – YUM!



Cheryl Hannon and Lynette Lyon demonstrating how merry they were feeling!



Roland Gangloff Won the Ugly Sweater Contest!



Ellie Morris is Excited at Santa's Arrival!



Santa Distributing Gifts to our Youngsters

#### 49ers Watch Parties

Carleen and Val Faybusovich organized several 49ers watch parties, leading up to the Big One – the Super Bowl. Sadly, our team didn't win, but lots of great food, drink and fun were had anyway.

#### Crab Feed

Our “new format” crab feed on February 23 was very successful, with lots of positive comments about the “low country boil” format. We'll do it again next year!



Robin Layton, Millie Merle and Hope Nisson



Our Expert Crab Handlers – Jack Nisson,  
Leo Merle, Bill Mapel, and Val Faybusovich

## **2020 SOCIAL CALENDAR**

The remaining scheduled events for 2020 are as follows:

Saturday, May 30	Pool Opening and Community Picnic
Sunday, August 9	Luau
Saturday, October 17	Fall Workday
Saturday, December 19	Holiday Party

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

The Strategic Air Command film night and the Spring Workday will be rescheduled as feasible. The regular Wednesday night BBQs will also re-commence when we are released from the “shelter in place” restrictions.

## **CANINE ETIQUETTE**

We have been asked to remind our dog owners that there is a supply of dog waste bags in the green dispenser outside of The Rec fence. Please use them – if it’s empty, please call someone on the Board and we’ll make sure to refill it.





## SWEATSHIRTS

We still have some Diamond A Rec logo hoodie sweatshirts for sale. Black with logo in white, sizes M, L and XL, \$45 each. Please contact Janet Nusbaum if you'd like to own one of these collectibles!



## PIANO AVAILABLE

We've decided to remove the piano from the clubhouse in order to make more room for our social events and for storage. We're offering it first to any member of The Rec who would like to own it – the only stipulation is that you are responsible for having it removed. If you are interested, please contact Evie Duncan.

If no one wants it, we'll open it up to the entire neighborhood, and following that, we'll try to find a non-profit which would like to have it. Let Evie know if you have any ideas for this.

And, as always, please feel free to contact any Board member if you have questions or comments.

Evie Duncan	President	<a href="mailto:evie@dcdco.com">evie@dcdco.com</a>
Mark Hannon	Vice-Pres.	<a href="mailto:14hannon@gmail.com">14hannon@gmail.com</a>
David Duncan	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:dduncan@dcdco.com">dduncan@dcdco.com</a>
Brigitte Mullin	Secretary	<a href="mailto:brigittekullin@gmail.com">brigittekullin@gmail.com</a>
Marcie Waldron	Social Activities	<a href="mailto:marcieStars@sbcglobal.net">marcieStars@sbcglobal.net</a>
Cheryl Hannon	Membership	<a href="mailto:c_hannon@icloud.com">c_hannon@icloud.com</a>
Janet Nusbaum	At Large & Rec Rentals	<a href="mailto:janetnusbaum@gmail.com">janetnusbaum@gmail.com</a>