



Diamond Farm Newsletter

Autumn 2017

Board of Directors

Matt Wallace – President

president@diamondfarmhomes.com

Diane Grigsby - Vice President

vicepresident@diamondfarmhomes.com

Mike Turow - Treasurer

treasurer@diamondfarmhomes.com

Amanda Wallace - Secretary

secretary@diamondfarmhomes.com

Pat Butler - Board Member

pat@diamondfarmhomes.com

Lauri Gotthelf - Board Member

lauri@diamondfarmhomes.com

Larry Lucas - Board Member

larry@diamondfarmhomes.com

Bessy Montesinos - Board Member

bessy@diamondfarmhomes.com

Matt Ovington - Board Member

matt.o@diamondfarmhomes.com

www.diamondfarmhomes.com

diamondfarm.nextdoor.com

Diamond Farm Homes Corporation
Managed by:

Community Association, Inc.
Josie Wells – Community Agent
(301) 258-7711 x150
josie@communityassn.com

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From the President

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

After a year off, we're very pleased to bring you a new community newsletter! I want to thank all of you for your patience over the last year as we've seen many changes on the board and in our community. Many of you have continued to reach out to the board with concerns and questions, and I hope that you've been happy with our commitment to improved response times and replies. Remember – there are many ways to reach us, whether through email, contact forms on our website, or postings and messages on Nextdoor. Please don't ever hesitate to contact us, that's why we're here!

I'd especially like to thank all of the volunteers who have given so much of their time towards helping us improve Diamond Farm this year. We have seen committee involvement beyond anything in the recent past. Matt Ovington and the Architectural Controls Committee have updated our guidelines and ensured that all architectural change requests receive prompt responses – no more waiting for months to find out if you can fix your fence! Meena Farzanfar and the Recreation Committee planned and held a terrific end of season pool party, and they've got more events lined up for the rest of the year. And Laura Tierney and the Maintenance Committee have been walking the Diamond Farm grounds and addressing concerns surrounding damaged tree branches, blocked easements, and other safety issues. Thank you all for devoting so much of your personal time and efforts to our community!

There are still plenty of opportunities to improve Diamond Farm, but a board of nine directors and a few committees of volunteers can't do it alone. We need the help of all of our neighbors. Even if you don't have the time to volunteer for a committee, there are a number of other ways to help:

- If you see something in the neighborhood, such as a downed branch, broken playground equipment, suspicious behavior during odd hours, etc., let us know. We try very hard to keep aware of issues in the neighborhood, but we can't be everywhere all the time. It's better to get a dozen emails about the same problem than to be ignorant of it.
- Parents, please help us to keep the neighborhood safe by talking to your kids about playing in the streets, particularly in the evening when many people are returning from work. Also, make sure that they understand what is common property versus what is private.
- Adults, be aware of the kids! Drive slowly on our streets, and if a child plays in your yard or near your vehicles and it's an issue, talk to the parents. They're children, remember.
- All of us can contribute to the beauty and maintenance of Diamond Farm by sticking to the trash and recycling schedules. Bulk items put out early for collection, for example, are not only an eyesore for many, but they can pose a danger to children playing in or near them, or to property when wind blows them into the street (or into cars). If you know that you are going to be away on a bulk pickup date, consider asking a neighbor to put items out for you. I will even volunteer to carry things from your backyard to the curb, if need be.

Finally, take the time to talk to your neighbors, whether for a friendly chat or to try to resolve a dispute. Diamond Farm is a community, and we should all do our best to make it feel that way. I look forward to talking with you and seeing you around the neighborhood as we head towards the end of the year!



Matt Wallace
DFHC Board President

Information

Upcoming Board Meetings

- October 16
- **November 13** (changed due to Thanksgiving)
- December 18

For a full calendar of Diamond Farm events, including board meetings, visit <http://diamondfarmhomes.com/calendar/diamond-farm-events/>

Recent Board Meeting Highlights

July

- The board began to look at proposals for a tree inventory/survey around Diamond Farm.
- A petty cash fund was established for the pool for supplies and other expenses.
- The recreation committee chair was appointed and the end of summer party budget approved.

August

- The board approved the removal of a dying cherry tree on common property by the owner of 45 Longmeadow Dr.
- New ACC guidelines and documents were approved and entered into the record, clarifying acceptable paint colors and removing language relating to a \$50 fee for filing architectural request forms (ARFs).
- An audit committee was formed to begin work on the FY2018 DFHC budget.

Full meeting minutes can be accessed through your Pitera account at <https://app.pitera.com/index.php/login/commassoc>

Website Updates – www.diamondfarmhomes.com

Did you know that Diamond Farm has a new, completely redesigned website that launched this spring? It's true! Our website is your best resource for up to date Diamond Farm information including a community calendar, contact information for the board of directors and management company, and all of our forms and guidelines.

The website is changed frequently, so make sure to check back often for updates!

Call for Volunteers/Opportunity for Service Hours!

There are plenty of opportunities to help out in Diamond Farm, from collecting trash around the basketball court to larger projects. If you'd like to volunteer (**or you have a student at home who needs community service hours**), please let us know!

Committee News

Architectural Controls (ACC)

Matt Ovington, Committee Chair

It's great to see that many of our neighbors have been busy with renovation and maintenance projects in recent months. The Architectural Control Committee (ACC) has been hard at work, reviewing and approving numerous requests for updates. We have also updated the website with all the guidelines, request forms and even paint colors, for your reference. Please be sure to use the new forms when submitting any requests for changes, so that we can turn them around quickly.

If you would like to join our committee of volunteers, or if you have any questions about submitting requests, please email us at acc@diamondfarmhomes.com.

Maintenance

Laura Tierney, Committee Chair

The Maintenance Committee has been busy the last few months walking through the neighborhood looking for issues on the common grounds that need to be addressed. The committee either deals with the issue (such as minor trimming of trees and bushes) or passes the issue on to the Board for consideration. We would like to invite all members of the community to be on the lookout for issues on the common grounds that they believe need to be addressed so that we miss as little as possible. Feel free to forward any and all concerns but please understand that the community's funds are limited and that issues will be addressed based on priority (something which poses a danger vs. something which will improve "curb appeal"). Please reach out to us at maintenance@diamondfarmhomes.com.

Publicity

Chair – Vacant

The Publicity committee needs members and a chairperson! Currently, we have only two: Matt (board president) and Laura (Maintenance chair).

The publicity committee will be responsible for helping to collect information and edit this newsletter, ensure that events and bulletins get posted to sites like Nextdoor, aiding with any maintenance of the community Google calendar, and working with the webmaster to publish any announcements on our website. If you check your phone obsessively, this might be a great place for you!

If you're interested in joining or you have any questions, please drop us a line at publicity@diamondfarmhomes.com.

Recreation

Meena Farzanfar, Committee Chair

The Recreation Committee held its first successful event with the End of Summer Pool Party and Field Day on August 27th. Many families came out to share food and participate in exciting events such as musical chairs and stroller GPS! Our next event is a Community Tag Sale on Saturday, October 14th, held at the Diamond Farm Community Pool parking lot from 8am-1pm. If you are interested in being a vendor, please email recreation@diamondfarmhomes.com. We are requesting a suggested donation of 10% of sales that will go to the Recreation Committee for future neighborhood events.

Other upcoming events include a Thanksgiving Food Drive on November 14th and a Holiday Light contest, with a date still to be determined. Ideas for future events in the Spring include a Community Blood Drive and Neighborhood Happy Hour. To suggest future events or volunteer your time and talents, please email us at recreation@diamondfarmhomes.com.

All of our committees need more volunteer members – please contact the committee if you're interested in helping out!!

Tell your neighbors and friends about the...

Diamond Farm Fall Tag Sale

\$10

\$20

Saturday, October 14

8^{am} - 1^{pm}

**At Diamond Farm Pool
Burger & Hotdog Sale at 11am**

Sign up to sell at:

recreation@diamondfarmhomes.com

*We request a suggested donation of
10% of sales that will go toward future
neighborhood events!*



SEE YOU THERE!

