

Desert Aire



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Winter 2018

FROM THE PRESIDENT – Larry Couch

The DAOA Board of Directors would like to welcome Ken Pinney and Barbara Walters to the Board. Ken is filling the vacated position formerly held by Bruce Orr and Barbara is filling the vacated position formerly held by John Galluzzo. We would like to thank Bruce and John for their service to our community and wish them well in any future pursuits.

The next Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 17, 2018 at 1:00PM. The February 2018 Board of Directors meeting will follow promptly at 2:30PM. The meetings will be held in the Columbia Room of the Pool/Exercise Facility located at 215 Desert Aire Drive SW. Flyers will be posted, and all members are encouraged to attend.

If you are unable to attend a Town Hall meeting, and have an issue that you want to address, please seek out the appropriate responsible committee and attend the committee meeting. The issue can also be addressed there. The meeting schedules for all committees are posted on the Desert Aire website and in this newsletter.

At past Town Hall meetings, members have expressed their concerns on the issue of loose dogs. We have been in contact with the Grant County Sheriff's Department to address those concerns. Catching the strays is very difficult because the dogcatcher can't be here fulltime. Therefore, they have suggested that we follow a procedure that Royal City is using. That city is setting traps to capture the strays, and then they call the County dogcatcher to come and remove them. It seems to be working very well for Royal City. Based upon that information, we will be implementing the same process here at Desert Aire sometime this month. Hopefully that will alleviate some of or all the loose dog issues. **Desert Aire owners of dogs that are not strays, be aware that if your dog is caught in these traps because they are off-leash, you will have to go the County facility to retrieve your animal.**

Although it may seem far away, the time for the annual ballot will be upon us before we know it. Please consider this a request, that if you have any suggested changes or additions to our Governing Documents (By-Laws, CC&R's, etc.) that you feel may be good for our community, they will need to be submitted to the Office no later than end of business on May 1, 2018. Any proposals should be written in clear language describing

the suggested change or addition and referencing the appropriate Article that it affects.

Happy and Healthy New Year's wishes to everyone!

From the Superintendent's Desk - James Curdy

Have you setup your online account access yet? With our new system you can view current statements as well as purchases made in all locations, book a tee time or view your credit book balance at home or on your mobile device.

We now have AUTOMATIC BILLPAY that many of you have been anxiously awaiting. With this you will receive your statement via email by the 5th of the month so you can review it, prior to auto pay ACH processing on the 20th. If you have a concern with your bill you would need to contact us prior to the 20th. When your account is setup on auto pay it will print on your statement "Do not pay". To set up auto pay you must provide the office a voided check.

This winter has certainly been better than last from a golf and travel standpoint. The unfortunate part of this winter has been the amount of criminal activity in the area. There have been quite a number of home burglaries around the Wahluke slope and five within Desert Aire, the last two of which were discovered in early January.

We can't stress enough to make use of the home watch form and our security patrol. With this form he will walk around your property checking doors and windows every night he is working. In one instance, with this process, a garage burglary was narrowed down to less than a 24 window. The form is available on the website, in the lobby, or in the box at the cop shack. Complete instructions are on the form itself. For unoccupied homes using inexpensive timers inside for lights is a good option along with having neighbors stop by periodically.

Please note, **when there is snow on the ground** the patrol will **not** be walking your house perimeter **unless** he finds foot prints. With 71 homes on the watch list and growing he is spending much of his shift checking homes.

Our security patrol has been instrumental in getting a couple of vehicles pulled over lately and in two cases the occupants were arrested for various reasons. IFP is

doing a great job and if they weren't here things would probably be worse.



Mail service seems to have declined again this past year for many of us. If you are having issues please contact the Royal City postmaster Renay Jorgensen at 509-346-2241 or email: renay.l.jorgensen@usps.gov

Annual spring cleanup is set for April 20th at 9:00am but watch for the spring flyer with any updates or changes. This is a great time to get a free pair of gloves and meet your neighbors.

REMINDER; Greenbelts are **not** for personal use and dumping anything on them or burning debris is not allowed.

This winter we have been out cleaning a number of greenbelt areas and found numerous members abusing these areas by using them for dumping. In some situations more diapers and feces were thrown into one while staff was on vacation over the holidays. Offender addresses have been given to the Architectural Committee and violation letters sent. We are helping neighborhoods get the process started but once we clean one up it needs to become self policing to some degree.

REMINDER: To those of us with Golf Carts; remember that ALL drivers must be licensed whether on the street or golf course and minors driving them on the street can be a nuisance to your neighbors, particularly if there is RECKLESS driving involved. This can cost you substantially in fines as the owner, even if no one gets hurt.

BUSINESS OFFICE

Since online access implementation became available January 2nd over 140 members have registered. A handful had some challenges getting set up but overall 99% had no issues, which was a huge success from my standpoint.

Spring is here.
Buyers are waiting.
We need your listings!



Inventory is almost gone. Thinking about selling? Call us today for a free market analysis.—Dick & Melinda Skogerson
[Rocking Desert Aire real estate since 2006]

kw
KELLERWILLIAMS.
127 Frontier Way West, Desert Aire
All Keller Williams offices are independently owned and operated.

425.822.9600
425.444.4141

Landlords, we want to strongly encourage you to be sure your Rental agreements include language that requires your tenants maintain compliance with all Desert Aire regulations. A couple of members have had great difficulty and expense dealing with bad renters that may have been alleviated by this simple addition.

For those wondering about water rates. In July 2017 the base rate increased from \$45/qtr to \$60. This includes 3,000 cubic feet and then step rates apply as follows: 3,001-15,000 is \$0.68 per 100 CF and over 15,000(112,000 gals) is \$0.78 per 100 CF All of this information is available online at www.daqa.org/hoa/forms

POOL/FITNESS FACILITY

The fitness facility has been busy again with the colder weather and New Year's resolutions.

Exercise memberships not paid by Jan. 5th automatically expired. We sent out forms with water bills last quarter that had to be completed and returned to the office as we no longer auto bill.

On a different note we are looking for feedback on what improvements to make in the exercise room. Is it another rowing machine, new style bikes or????
Let us know what YOU would like!



GOLF COURSE

The white Christmas did happen and it was nice but since we have been clear and the golf course open it has been quite busy. Freeze/thaw cycles have been the worst delays to deal with lately, but most folks understand and are just happy to get out playing.

Annual golf payments in YTD total \$89,314 as compared to \$168,111 in 2017, \$180,085 in 2016, \$151,193 in 2015 and \$166,875 in 2014. Obviously not auto billing based on previous years has had an impact on this but hopefully it is just a timing thing that will only affect cash flow temporarily. Time will tell.

Remember you can also follow us on [Facebook](#) for updates and coming events at Desert Aire Owners Association or Desert Aire Golf and Country Club. Happy New Year to all.....and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2018.

Desert Aire Bar and Grill? – Jeannie Denbo

You may have heard that a group of homeowners are investigating the possibility of placing a bar and grill in our clubhouse. Well, this is partially true, with a few twists. Our committee has been meeting for a few months now and we want to share our status and welcome your input.

What have we done so far? Our small committee started out only focused on adding a bar and grill. We've looked at every option we could think of, from building new buildings to relocating our current DA employees, but we quickly determined that our best approach is to transform our current clubhouse into one that will make the most out of the existing square footage while at the same time offer additional amenities to our community.

Why do this? We all know that DA offers wonderful amenities but our community is growing as we see more and more new homes each month. Whether you are a golfer, one who enjoys spending time on the river, one of our many campers or one of our residents - having more options increases the attraction to DA and can open the door for additional revenue for our entire community. Our approach has been to focus on what enhancements will appeal to the majority of DA homeowners and must be financially prudent.

With that in mind, what are we considering? Upgrade our clubhouse and make the most of underutilized square footage by adding a new bar and grill, provide additional square footage for the office staff as they have outgrown their current footprint, reconfigure the existing kitchen into a golf lounge for our men's and women's clubs, and upgrade our current deck area to really take advantage of the fantastic view.

Where can you find out more information? Our committee is committed to provide as much information as we can through a variety of venues such as providing updates at each of our DA Board meetings, as well as sharing info at the Town Hall Meetings. Look for information on upcoming community meetings focused just on the clubhouse transformation. We also want to hear from you. Feel free to reach out to any of our committee members and share your thoughts:

Gary Varney – gvarney1@yahoo.com
 Deb Pike – drpmadera@icloud.com
 Deb Sciascia – deborahsciascia@gmail.com
 Sue Jelinek – 57suzieq@gmail.com
 Sue Thomas – skthomas121@icloud.com
 Donna Harris – dharris7156@gmail.com
 Dan Harris – 1mileaway@gmail.com
 Jeannie Denbo – Sjdenbo@gmail.com
 Tim Carlson - jetskier169@yahoo.com
 Cathy Sahli – sahlicat@fiber.tv

John L. Scott REAL ESTATE

Sagebrush Senior Center News

Are you 50 yet? Are you a senior center member? Membership is open to anyone over 50 for just \$15.00 per person. The Sagebrush senior center would like to encourage you to join us at any of our activities.

We hold member potlucks the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. for social hour followed by our meal.

To help get you through these colder days we will be having Winter Games beginning Feb. 1st including, pool, darts, WII bowling, bunko, poker, etc. Sign-up sheets are at the senior center.

We host bingo each Tuesday night (open to the public) and also have our Queen of Hearts raffle drawing each Tuesday prior to bingo and also at potluck. Hope to see you there.

Paul Meredith, President

John L. Scott-your hometown realtor

Architecture Committee – Barbara Walters
Did You Know? County Right-Of-Way

For clarification, Grant County maintains Rights-of-Way (ROW) within Desert Aire upon which our roads are built. The ROW is **60 feet** total (or 30 feet from center of the road on each side), EXCEPT for Desert Aire Drive, which is a ROW of **80 feet**. An easy way to find the edge of the county ROW is by your water meter. Each water meter is placed on the ROW adjacent to your property line.

Why is this important? Because the county does not allow property owners to place hazardous landscaping, walls, boulders, fences, etc., upon the ROW. A property owner may be allowed to landscape on the ROW up to the edge of the roadway, depending on specific locations and conditions, at the discretion of the County Engineer if they used small enough materials to be able to be driven over by a small car, without causing damage to the car. Examples might be 1-1/4 inch minus base coarse material, small gravel, lawn grass or similar plant materials with the expectation that it will stop people from parking on that strip of land. People have the right to use ROW for parking (BUT NOT private land).

If a property owner chose to gravel or plant lawn within the ROW and then a member of the public chose to park on that area, if the vehicle was completely off the traveled portion of the roadway and not on private property, this would be legal and the property owner would have no recourse.

If you, as a property owner, have placed rocks or other objects in the ROW to make that area unusable for parking, we ask that you remove those objects.

If you have any questions on the information on ROW, you may call the Public Works Department for Grant County (509)754-6082.

Desert Aire Golf and Country Club – Doug Jepson

2018 looks to be a busy year for your Country Club. We will have our usual events along with the Winter Blast Dinner and Social (see flyer in a separate e-mail) and two Horseraces and social events (see schedule below).

We have an energized board this year that would like to get more non-golfers participating in our social events. Your board is interested in any ideas that would get more of us together more often.

You will notice that on the bottom of your membership form there is a line for social membership. This will give anyone access to any event all year.

Country Club Events and Trip:

Winter Blast Dinner and Social	Feb. 17 th
Jack Rabbit	May 19 & 20
Horserace and social	June 23 rd
Club Championship	Sept. 8 & 9

Club trip (tentative)
Horserace and social
Frostbite

Sept. 18 & 19
Oct. 5th
Oct. 6th

2018 Country Club Officers and board members:

President – Doug Jepson
Vice President – Sue Thomas
Secretary – Terri Anderson
Treasurer – Barbara Zorich
I.T. - Donna Harris
Debra Pike
Dree Leonard
Sharon Stearns
Sharon Keller

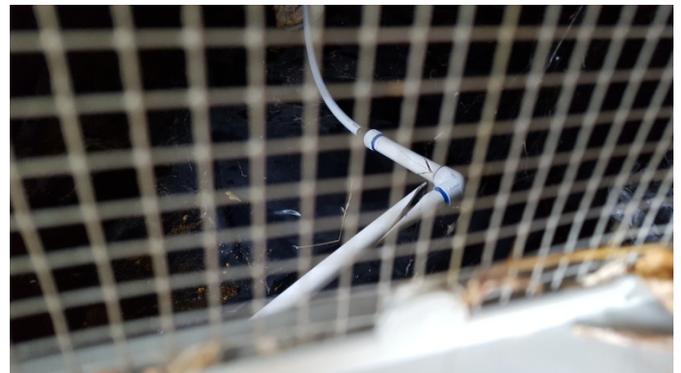
Is That Really True??? YES!

- 1. The killer whale is a natural predator of the moose.**
- 2. It takes a week to 10 days to make a jellybean.**

Watermaster Report – Chris Guillen

The Water department is working on a new mainline upgrade on Golf Court. This project will be cutting Desert Aire Drive and laying new pipe to the end of Golf Court. The project will also include putting in a new main line valve for Desert Aire Drive main line. This new valve will give us the ability to shut off fewer streets in the case of an emergency. The new pipe will have location wire with it, so in the future we can find its location with minimal effort. The new main will still have to pass all the testing before it is to be put in service. The test will include a pressure test and a bacteriological test.

With the weather as cold as it has been, the Water Department would like to remind owners to make sure their homes are winterized.



If you are gone for an extended period of time the Water Department can shut off your water at the meter for \$5.00, this will not stop pipes from breaking but it will not flood your home. Just as a reminder, the water policy, effective August 1st 2009, states members are not to

access the meter boxes in any way or they will be subject to the enforcement mechanisms of the policy.

Water bills must be paid on or before their due dates. A water bill is considered late after 30 days. After 45 days the meter will be shut off for Non-Payment.

All samples taken have been good. We are currently at 1,173 connections to the water system. The total year to date gallons produced for the overall domestic water system is 2,665,161.

Conservation Tip

An in-sink garbage disposal devices use roughly 11.5 gallons of water each day. Try composting organic waste instead of throwing them away.



PRO SHOP NEWS – Don Tracy, PGA Professional

We've enjoyed some wonderful weather so far this winter, so come on down and play some golf. While you are here, be sure to browse through the Pro Shop for all your winter golf needs, ***it's a great time to spend that money on the books*** – special orders are welcome – we can get cart batteries, heaters, seat covers, wheels and tires, and many other golf-related items that aren't normally stocked in the Pro Shop.



The winter weather has been great for golf this year. Our course has been closed only 7 days due to snow and frost conditions. Last winter we were closed for a total of 77 days.

December Green Fees were \$2,512.00 compared to only \$976.00 for 2016. Our Green Fees for all of 2017 were \$184,355.00 compared to \$179,919.00 for 2016.

The Winter Best Ball kicks off our season on Saturday and Sunday March 17th & 18th and Saturday April 14th is our Desert Aire Six-Pack Tournament. Make sure to get a partner and stop by the Pro Shop to sign-up or give us a call.

Also, your **Men's Club and Ladies Club dues and GHIN fees are due by February 15th**. GHIN posting starts March 1st.

We look forward to seeing every one this spring. The Pro Shop is well-stocked with everything you need for your game and we have a lot of exciting new inventory arriving in the spring. Remember, the start of the season is a great time to take a refresher lesson or to start a series of lessons. It always helps to get back to the fundamentals so you can build confidence in your swing. My lesson fees are \$40.00 for one lesson and \$140.00 for a series of four lessons.

IMPORTANT DATES: NOTE that all meetings are open to the public and owners are encouraged to attend. Committee meetings are held in the Multi-Purpose building unless stated otherwise.

Desert Aire Board of Directors – Held the 3rd Wednesday of March, April, July, September, October, and December at 5:30 P.M., with no meeting scheduled in January.

Town Hall meetings - Held the 3rd Saturday of February, May, August and November at 3:00 PM, followed by a Board Meeting at 5:00 PM

Architectural Committee - Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. (Except in November and December, when the committee meets only on the 2nd Thursday).

Golf Committee – Meets 2:00 PM the 1st Friday of each month (except January).

Parks and Greenbelt Committee – Meets the 1st Friday of each month (except January) at 4:00 PM.

Communications Committee – Meets at 8:00 AM the Wednesday prior to the Board of Directors Meeting during even-numbered months.

Desert Aire Airport Commissioners - Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 4:00 PM.

BUSINESS OFFICE

James Curdy, Superintendent 509-932-4839
Tracey Hockman, Office Staff 509-932-4839
Leticia Mata, Office Staff 509-932-4839

Bus Office HOURS OF OPERATION

Summer*: Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Winter: Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

*Summer Hours are March thru October

MAINTENANCE / GROUNDS

Grounds Manager 509-932-4466

WATER DISTRIBUTION OPERATOR

Chris Guillen, Watermaster 509-932-5202

Water Emergency 509-830-4332

SWIMMING POOL

509-932-4896

Summer Hours*

(*closed-opens again near Memorial Day)

GOLF-PRO SHOP

Don Tracy – PGA Professional

509-932-4439

Dick Best, Brian Mullen,
Lacia Powers, Scott Denbo,
Cynthia St. Clair