



Bienvenidos!

MEMBERS' EVENTS & NEWS SPLASHES

Winter 2024



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President's Message

Dear Ocho Family,

I hope everyone had a beautiful Thanksgiving holiday! As we prepare for Christmas now and wind up this year, I'd like to reflect on all we have to be grateful for including our slice of paradise at Ocho Cascadas.

Ocho has had a very positive year so far. I've had the pleasure of running into Members in the lobby, elevator or by letters who have all expressed what meaningful times they've been able to spend at Ocho with friends and family through the years.

I also have those great memories and stories to share with our members.

Here's one for you all. My Dad thought it would be a great idea for me to move to Vallarta and work in the sales department at Ocho when I was only 21 years old. I'm not really sure how many sales I made in the period of time that I lived there but I can say I truly fell in love with Puerto Vallarta, Ocho Cascadas and the surrounding culture. I have a deep connection and appreciation for what my parents achieved there and the great adventures and stories our members still talk about today.

We've had another incredible summer with more members trying out the summer vacation weeks and realizing how great the weather is with the rain and lightning shows over the ocean. It is something everyone should experience!

Rosario, the Ocho team and outside contractors also did a lot of work during the September maintenance weeks to improve, upgrade and maintain Ocho at the level we have all come to expect. Great job team!

My wife and I are looking forward to being at Ocho this December before the end of the year to meet with Rosario and go over the 2024 summary of what was accomplished and review our 2025 agenda.

I'd like to personally wish our Ocho team and our Members a wonderful Christmas holiday and may 2025 bring us all many blessings!

Sincerely yours, Mark, Cristy and all the Giddings family.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Giddings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Giddings,
Developer and Board President

Manager's Message

Dear Ocho Family:

I wish you a new year 2025 full of joy, health, and wellness.

This year, make your Christmas celebrations an unforgettable experience in Ocho Cascadas, immerse yourself in the outstanding Ocho atmosphere as you explore the Puerto Vallarta, and the iconic Malecón, the vibrant heart of the city. I am pretty sure Luisa has a few villas open. Christmas in Puerto Vallarta is a celebration full of joy and authentic traditions. Don't miss the opportunity!

Celebrate New Year's Eve in Puerto Vallarta, where the perfect evening unfolds with a delectable dinner with our floating chef or at one of the city's renowned restaurants. Afterward, head to the coastline to join the countdown amidst the dazzling fireworks that light up the entire bay. From the Romantic Zone to the Marina, Puerto Vallarta's skyline becomes a canvas of colors, creating an unforgettable spectacle to welcome the New Year.

Experience the magic of Puerto Vallarta, where celebration, great food, and spectacular fireworks come together for a unique and stylish New Year's celebration!

Welcome dear Ocho Members to your home away from home and thank you for letting us be your vacation home. And Happy Guadalupe – Reyes!



Happy Holidays!
Rosario Chávez, General Manager

Member Comments

Hola Luisa.

I hope this email finds you well.

I just returned to Ajijic from my yearly Birthday Week at Ocho Cascadas. Upon arrival, I was greeted by you and the staff with smiles and hugs. All of you have known me now for five years. We catch up on each other's families and lives. Then I retreat to my unit, Unit 9. I was delighted to be greeted with makeovers within the unit that I must comment on. The replacement of the cushions and pillows were of superb quality and beautiful. The new bamboo accessories in the bathrooms blended with the décor. The pool had been upgraded with the new blue ties and a railing. The plants were thriving and beautiful. All of these carefully thought out to enhance the ambiance that I believe Mr. Giddings would have approved of.

Gracias Ocho Cascadas!

Member Comments

By the time you read this, the Thanksgiving holidays will be in the past. But at the time I'm writing this, Thanksgiving is three days away. I've been looking for my "hook" for what I wanted to share, and giving thanks seems more than appropriate.

Family members and I own weeks 44 and 45 in Villa 3. Some of us have been going to Ocho Cascadas since 2008. We've experienced a lot of changes over those years. Change isn't always comfortable, but we've been fortunate that every change at Ocho has brought improvements.

This year, my mom, sister, and I decided to try something new after our two weeks at Ocho. We rented a waterfront condo down the hill (near the Lindo Mar) through Air B&B. The condo is modern and beautiful, and the view of the crashing waves is stunning! From our deck and the rooftop pool, we could see Ocho Cascadas.

Our thrill with the new place was quickly diminished. The oven didn't work. The information for the Wi-Fi was completely incorrect. The icemaker didn't work. We couldn't find replacement toilet paper. The bedroom TV was hanging from the wall by a thin wire (they quickly reattached it). Neither TV in the condo worked (which is okay with us, we don't go to Puerto Vallarta to watch television). By day two, the refrigerator quit working. The first night when we went to bed, our feet were filthy from walking on the tile floors. The list of negatives goes on and on. The Air B&B host was quick to respond and fixed some of the things.

But the upshoot is that our first three days of our six days in the condo were spent calling, texting, waiting for repairs to be made.

We wistfully looked up the hill at beautiful Ocho Cascadas and felt increased gratefulness for the hardworking staff. We are so blessed to have such dedicated, hardworking people taking care of us and our beautiful home away from home.

Our villa is always clean and functional - a testament to the hours of work put in every day by the housekeeping and maintenance staff. When we encounter any kind of problem, a quick call to the front desk takes care of it immediately. When we need a ride or recommendation, the front desk staff ensures we are treated fairly and promptly. The list of positives goes on and on.

There are staffing changes underway at Ocho, and as I said, change isn't always comfortable. But what remains the same is the commitment to excellence and customer service that is unlike anywhere I've ever stayed.

In this season of thanks, I'm grateful to the staff and management that guarantees my investment is secure. That year after year, my expectations for my vacation will be met, if not exceeded. Most importantly, I'm grateful for the relationships we've forged with staff and with other guests over the years. I'm already looking forward to my next visit! We are truly blessed.

Barb MacGregor

Editor's note: Barb has been a long-standing member of the O.C. Communications Committee

The Art of Housekeeping

Ocho Cascadas Members and guests are blessed with a housekeeping staff that takes great pride in what they do for us and our beautiful facility. Here in another example:



And this!



Irma's art the weeks of October 17 thru 31. Thank you, Irma!

What to do in Puerto Vallarta

Puerto Vallarta is a beautiful and interesting destination any time of the year. Overall, in fall and winter, when highs range from 77°F to 82°F and lows range from 62°F to 70°F, and humidity is moderate, the city becomes a perfect location for outdoor activities.

Here are a few suggestions to explore the city and have a delightful time.

1. Explore the Malecon Boardwalk:

Stroll along Puerto Vallarta's famous Malecon boardwalk, where you'll find art installations, live performances, and beautiful ocean views. It's an ideal spot to watch the sunset, enjoy street art, or visit local shops and cafes. Pro's Tip: Pacífico Gallery, sponsors a series of free tours around the legendary Malecón sculptures. You don't need a reservation. But be sure to be at 9:30 AM sharp to the "Milenium" Sculpture, at the beginning of Malecón, next to Hotel Rosita at the north end of the Malecón.

2. Take a Whale Watching Tour:

Winter is peak whale-watching season as humpback whales arrive in Banderas Bay for calving and mating. Book a tour through the Front Desk Staff for an unforgettable chance to see these incredible creatures up close between December and March.

3. Enjoy the Beaches and Water Sports:

Take advantage of the warm weather to enjoy the beaches year-round. Playa de los Muertos and Playa Conchas Chinas are popular for swimming, snorkeling, and paddleboarding. Winter brings mild, comfortable temperatures perfect for relaxing without the summer crowds. Pro's Tip: Your Ocho Cascadas Concierge can help you book different tours in the area. Do not hesitate to contact them.

4. Discover Local Cuisine:

Puerto Vallarta is a food lover's paradise, especially in cooler weather. Fall and winter are great seasons to try local seafood like mahi-mahi and marlin, as well as regional dishes like birria and ceviche. Many restaurants offer ocean views for a memorable dining experience. Pro's Tip: a few "food tours" are organized in different areas of town to sample local delicacies. Again, your Concierge will be happy to help you make arrangements.

5. Take a Cooking Class:

Fall and winter are perfect for diving into Puerto Vallarta's culinary traditions. Many classes offer market tours to teach you about Mexican ingredients, followed by hands-on lessons in making dishes like tamales, mole, or regional seafood dishes.

6. Celebrate Las Posadas and Holiday Festivities:

In December, Puerto Vallarta comes alive with Las Posadas processions, a traditional Mexican celebration leading up to Christmas. Join in the festivities, see the colorful parades, and enjoy traditional music, dancing, and fireworks.

7. Visit Local Artisan Markets:

Throughout the fall and winter seasons, you'll find artisan markets popping up in Puerto Vallarta. Markets like the Old Town Farmers Market (Saturdays) feature locally made crafts, organic produce, and traditional Mexican foods, giving you a taste of local culture and unique souvenirs. Pro's Tip: the Art Market at Marina Vallarta meets on Thursdays, from 6 to 10 pm, and is a great chance to check out the stands, and to visit that part of town, with plenty of restaurants and coffee houses.

By Jonan Diez
Operation Assistant

Puerto Vallarta Events Calendar

Are you looking for a convenient place to find a comprehensive listing of current events in Puerto Vallarta? If so, look no further than:

<https://vallartacalendar.com/>

This website lists all varieties of entertainment types. It is updated weekly. And you can search by category of entertainment and date ranges. Very helpful in planning interesting activities during your stay at beautiful Ocho Cascadas.

Dia del los Muertos

November 2 is the official Day of the Dead in Mexico. It is a time of celebration; honoring and reminding us of loved ones who have passed away. The altars in Spanish culture that are prepared as a part of Dia de los Muertos are called las ofrendas ("offerings"), and are set up to welcome home the souls of the dead.

At Ocho Cascadas, we consider our staff, members, and guests as family. As such, our display remembers our members that have passed away during the past year. They are gone, but not forgotten, so we remember them each year in this traditional way. Our love for them endures beyond their earthly years and their memory, or 'spirit', will always be welcome at Ocho Cascadas.

Please join us in remembering those no longer here with us, and honor them by making the most of your days, and loving those in your lives.

Dave Stoenner



Miscellaneous Updates and Reminders

The **walking route into town** from Ocho Cascadas via Calle Santa Barbara remains closed to pedestrians and vehicles. The condominium project that has the road blocked is still working on foundations for their new facility. It is going to be a **LONG** while before this favorite pathway into town reopens.

Pool Etiquette: Our pools are connected when the waterfalls are running and even when they are not. “Robust” activity (e.g. jumping in, doing “laps,” etc.) in your pool can create big waves from your pool that crash into the pools of the Villa below, and beyond. This renders the lower Villa’s pool unusable. Please be considerate of your “lower” neighbors!

The new **Passport Readers at PVR** are now up and running. Reports from Members that have used the new Immigration system say it works great and is very quick. Please remember to retain the receipt you receive. Sometimes, but apparently not always, it is required upon departure. If require and you don’t have it, Luisa reports that it can be a considerable hassle and expense to pay the fine.

Staff Spotlight: Marina Barajas

You might rarely meet this lady, as her work as our on-site accountant, is largely “behind the scenes”. Marina spends her day keeping the daily financial records and preparing the monthly accounting summary for our operations. And she just celebrated her birthday on April 27th!



I am Marina Barajas Robles, a creative and innovative person with a great passion for learning new things and exploring new challenges. I currently work as an Administrative Assistant for the company. I studied Multimedia Communication Engineering. My wonderful experience at Ocho Cascadas began 9 years ago. I especially thank Mr. Miguel Torres for giving me the opportunity to join the Ocho Cascadas family. His trust in me was fundamental for my incorporation.

I love working at the company. During this time, I have collaborated on new Administrative and Accounting procedures that have helped significantly improve the efficiency of our financial processes.



I live in the paradise of Puerto Vallarta. I am married to Carlos Peña and we have an 11-year-old son who loves to play tennis.

I enjoy spending time with my family, doing activities such as playing tennis, visiting our favorite restaurants, traveling, and we share a passion for reading.

I am a flexible person, and I easily adapt to new teams and tasks. I am motivated to contribute my skills and learn in the process. I thank the Company for the opportunity to continue working, it has been an invaluable experience that I will always remember. Thank you very much.

The 2024 September Maintenance Period

Maintaining Ocho Cascadas in its FIRST-CLASS condition takes both ongoing work throughout the year by our staff, and a MASSIVE undertaking of often heavy, hard work, during September when the resort is shut down for major repairs. And such was the case this past September. Note the floors and wall cut open for plumbing work, the effort required to replace and finish the wooden handrails, and palapa replacements as examples of this hard work. Another extensive effort was made to the landscaping, the 3rd year in a row. This work included pruning and replacing of some plants that were not "happy." More on the landscaping in a separate article. In addition to the maintenance effort, this shut-down period is also used for re-curent training of our staff in critical emergency procedures.

Below is a detailed, pictorial summary, Villa by Villa. These photos were taken by Rosario, week by week, as the work progressed through the month. Scroll down to your Villa to see a sample of the work done to maintain your little piece of paradise!

It is our hope that these pictures provide you with a clear appreciation of where our Capital Reserve funds are invested.

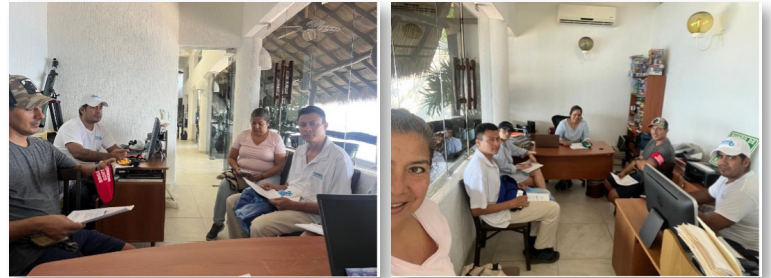
Week 36 from September 5-12, 2024. First aid training 9/7



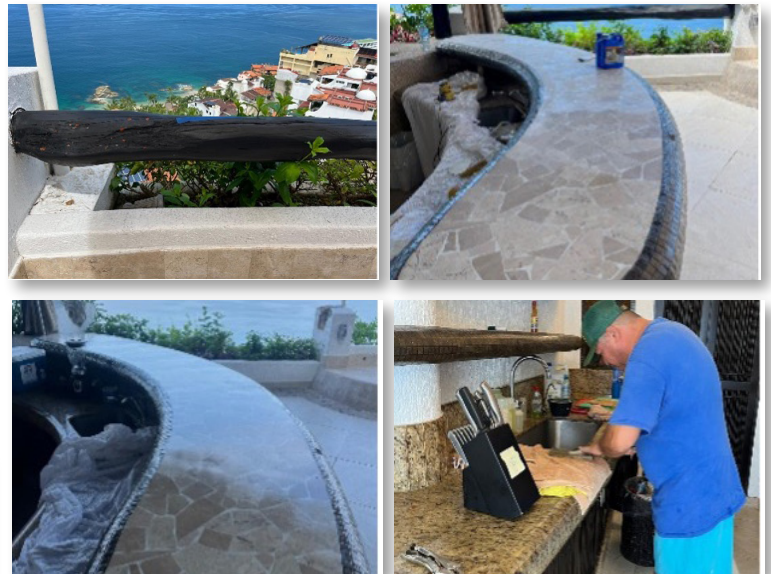
PH - September party 9/7 (Yes, our staff occasionally engage in some FUN together!)



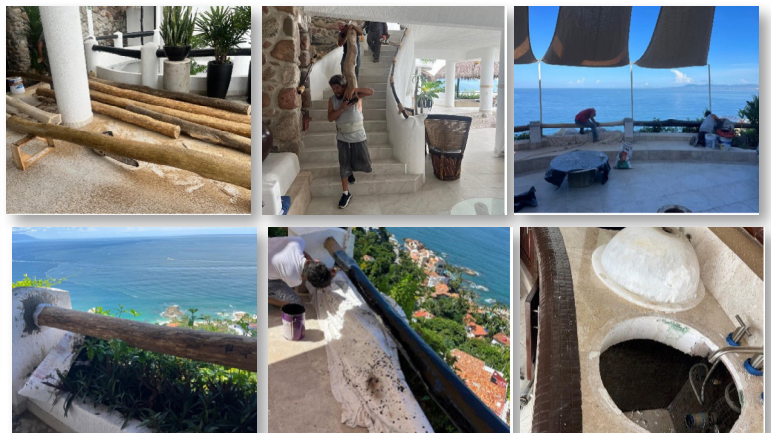
Earthquake training 9/11



PH: Week 36 from September 5-12, 2024

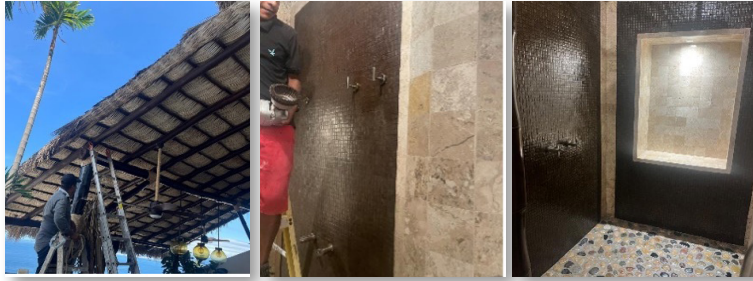


PH: Week 37 From September 12-19, 2024



The 2024 September Maintenance Period *(Continued)*

PH: Week 38 From September 19-26, 2024



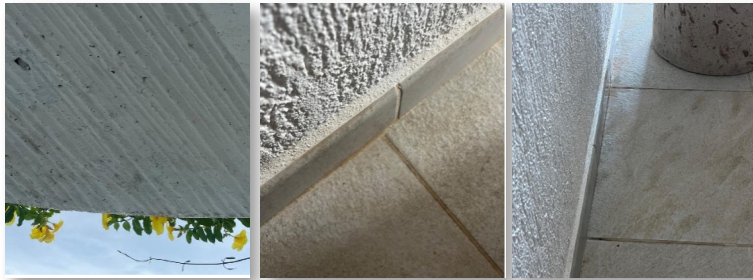
V8 Week 36 from September 5-12, 2024



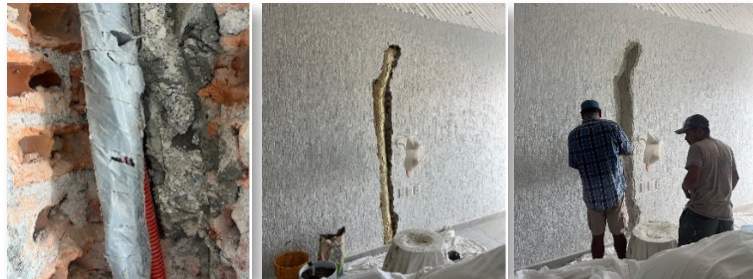
V9: Week 37 From September 12-19, 2024



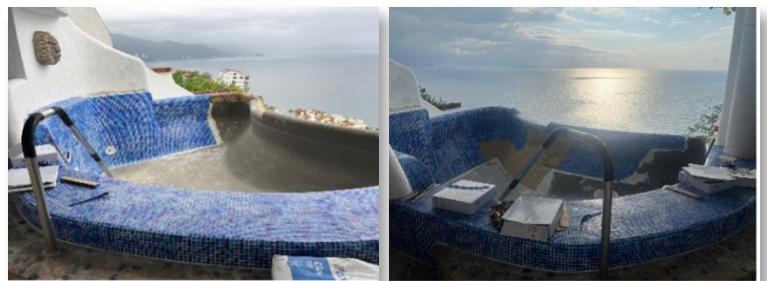
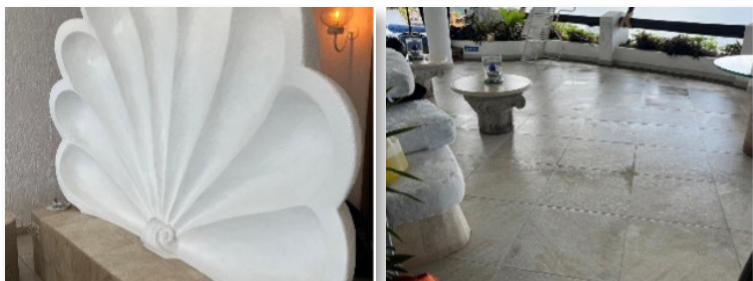
V8 Week 37 From September 12-19, 2024



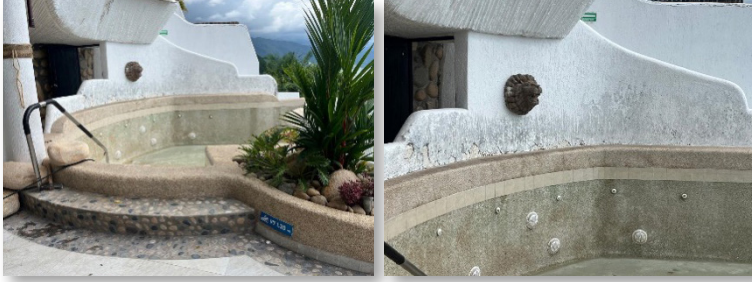
V9 Week 38 From September 19-26, 2024



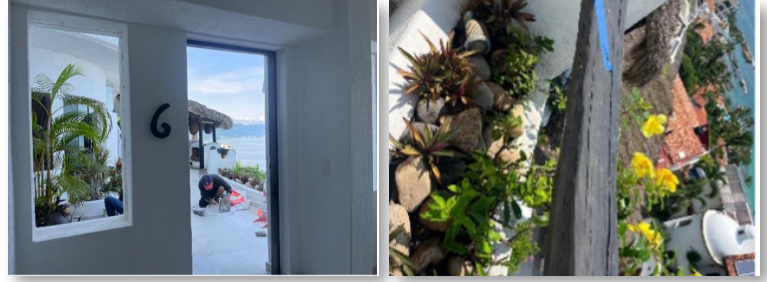
V8 Week 38 From September 19-26, 2024



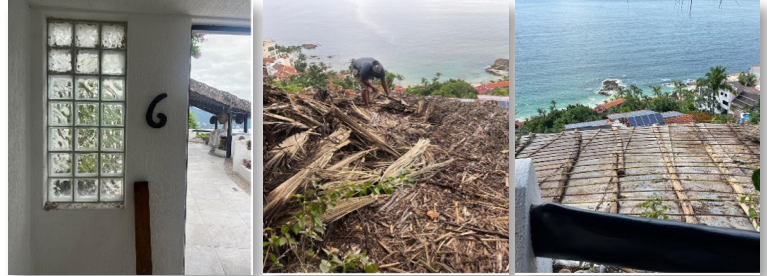
V7 Week 36 from September 5-12, 2024



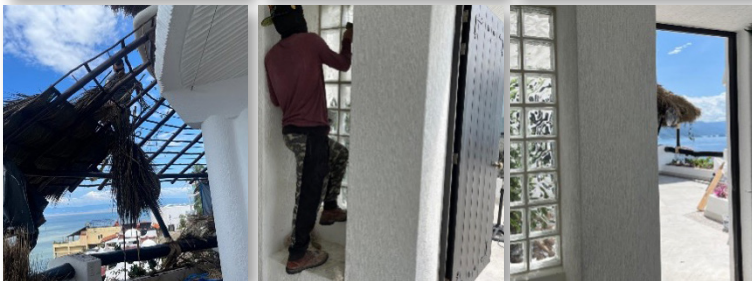
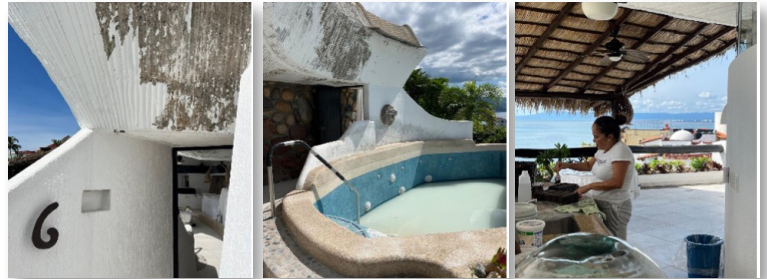
V6 Week 36 from September 5-12, 2024



V6 Week 37 From September 12-19, 2024



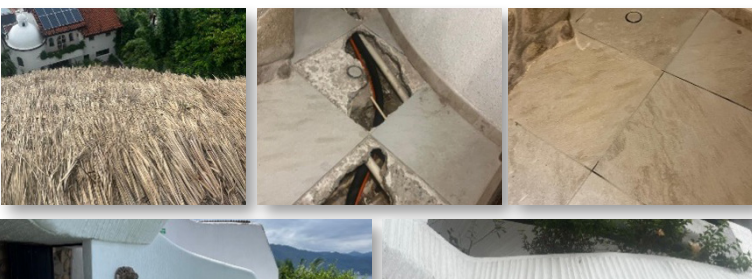
V7 Week 37 From September 12-19, 2024



V6 Week 38 From September 19-26, 2024



V7 Week 38 From September 19-26, 2024



The 2024 September Maintenance Period *(Continued)*

V5 Week 36 from September 5-12, 2024



V4 Week 37 From September 12-19, 2024



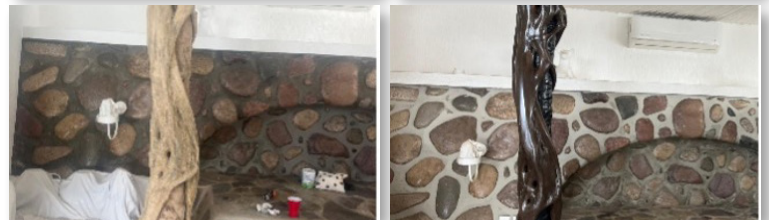
V5 Week 37 From September 12-19, 2024



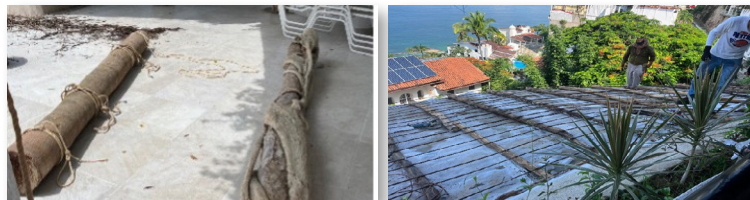
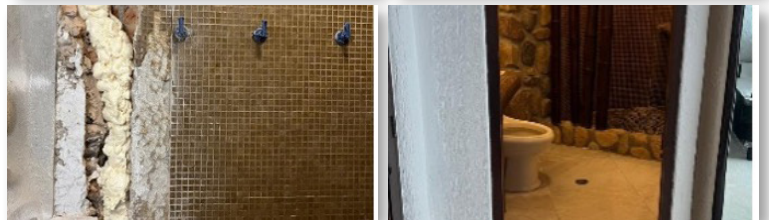
V4 Week 38 From September 19-26, 2024



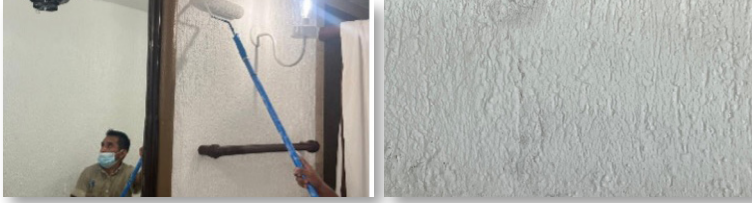
V5 Week 38 From September 19-26, 2024



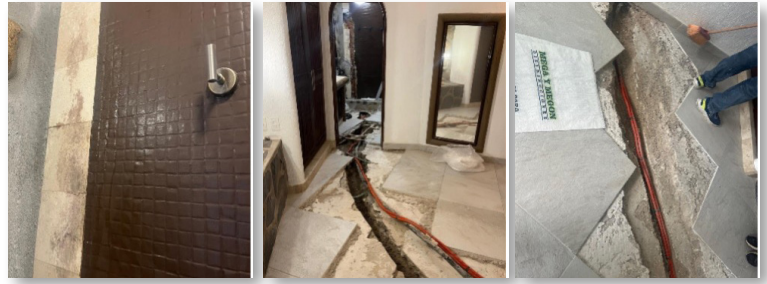
V4 Week 36 from September 5-12, 2024



V3 Week 36 from September 5-12, 2024



V2 Week 36 from September 5-12, 2024



V3 Week 37 From September 12-19, 2024



V2 Week 37 From September 12-19, 2024



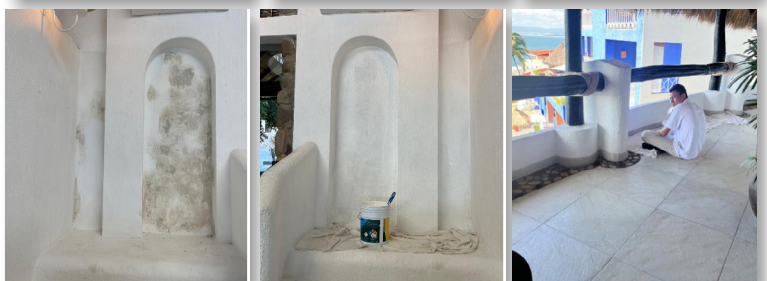
V3 Week 38 From September 19-26, 2024



V2 Week 38 From September 19-26, 2024

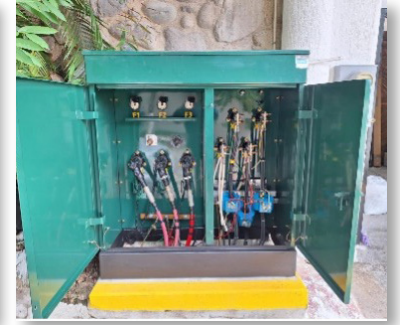


Week 37 From September 12-19, 2024 Lobby

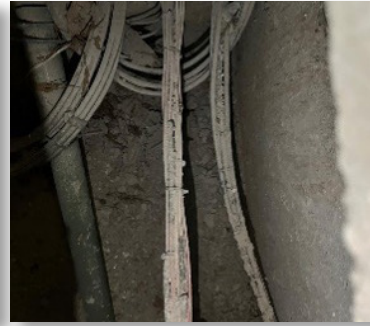
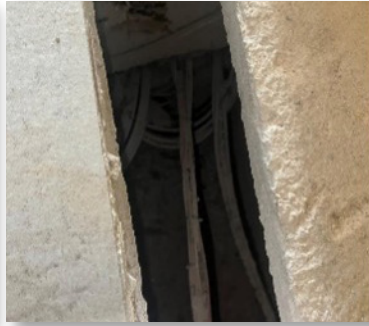


The 2024 September Maintenance Period *(Continued)*

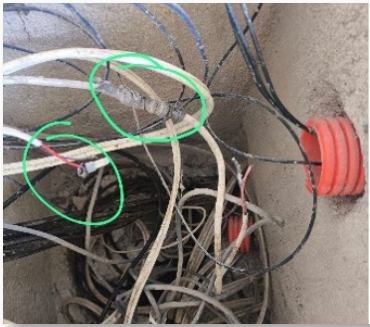
Information, Electrical and Communications Systems



It Week 38 From September 19-26, 202



Cameras Level 6, 5, & 4



New towels



Plumbing:



Laundry:



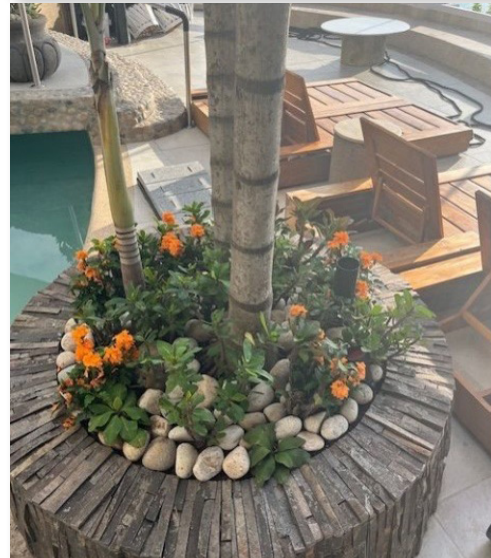
Beds project



Rosario Chavez
General Manager

Continued Investment in Landscaping

For the 3rd year in a row, Board Member Steve Farrell and his friend Rob Bryan, fellow OC Member, spent several days at Ocho Cascadas during the September Maintenance Period to further their work on landscaping improvements throughout our facility. They found lots of work to keep themselves busy. Some plants were not “making it,” and others needed some serious shaping. Here are some pictures of this extensive work:



Yes! That flower is real!

Recent Culinary Artistry by Lalo

Below is a sample of the culinary artistry performed by our Penthouse Chef, Lalo. Just a reminder, there are still a few Penthouse weeks available to purchase!



Makes you hungry! Doesn't it?

On behalf of all our Penthouse Members,

THANK YOU, LALO!

Floating Chef Update

Hello all...

I wanted to update everyone on the Floating Chef service that is available to all guests....It is offered for breakfast, lunch, and dinner....We have two excellent chefs....Yuri and Aileen....Both VERY talented....

Chefs can be arranged prior to your arrival through the "Pre-Arrival Form" on the OC website...nothing better than having them come to your villa upon your arrival on Thursday evening....

It is easy! In a nutshell you pick the meals, set the date and time... the groceries are ordered on your behalf and delivered to Ocho.... The floating chef arrives with the groceries and goes to work. The grocery bill is added to your weekly bill. The fee for the chefs' services and her tip are paid directly to the chef in cash prior to her departure. Here is the cost schedule:

Floating Chef Preparation Services/Tip

Service: (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)	Tip
1 - 2 guests (\$30, \$30, \$45/meal prep service)	\$10+
3 - 4 guests (\$35, \$35, \$50/meal prep service)	\$15+
5 - 6 guests (\$40, \$45, \$60/meal prep service)	\$20+
7 - 8 guests (\$50, \$55, \$70/meal prep service)	\$30+
9 - 10 guests (\$60, \$65, \$80/meal prep service)	\$40+
11 - 12 guests (\$70, \$75, \$90/meal prep service)	\$50+

On my recent trip we had Yuri for 3 dinner services.... Each included a beautiful salad, main entrée and two sides, and a desert.

The average cost, including the food, floating chef service and tip for the 3 meals ranged between \$35-40 per person!

It would be hard to find such fine cuisine at a local high-end restaurant. And you are dining with a front row view of Bandaras Bay.

Meals are amazing.... Cooked from scratch in your villa. Served to you... then the chef does all the clean up! Here is a link to the Floating

Chef's Menu options:

<https://www.ochocascadas.com/documents/Ocho-Floating-Chef-Menu.pdf>

Recently the board voted to upgrade the experience with new tablescapes.... Table runners, place mats and napkins.... See pictures below:



Steve Farrell, Ocho Cascadas Board of Directors

MedAssist Experience at Ocho Cascadas, Outstanding:

My girlfriend, JoAnn, and I went to dinner one evening in July at a local Italian restaurant. She chose clams in a wine sauce. You probably already know where this story is going...

Yes, the next day she was sick. The following day, worse. So, we decided to try the MedAssist, in-Villa, medical service. It was an amazingly positive experience in every respect.

To initiate the service, I simply called the Front Desk. It was a Sunday afternoon, and within 2 hours a doctor and his assistant had arrived; thoroughly examined JoAnn; an anti-nausea shot had been administered; and a prescription was in-hand for a couple follow-up medications. The doctor provided very detailed instruction in excellent English for JoAnn's follow-up treatment. The diagnosis was spot-on, the meds and treatment very effective and JoAnn was doing well in just a couple hours, and back to normal by Tuesday.

The entire process was simple, effective, and incredibly convenient. And I rather doubt one could have gone to an Urgent Care clinic in the US or Canada and received more prompt, effective service for \$90US!

Thank you, Rosario, for setting up this very beneficial program on our behalf!

Gene Stangel, Chairman, Ocho Cascadas Communications Committee



Newsletters & Important E-mails

Sent by Trading Places, Inc.:

A quick reminder to Members: our bi-annual Newsletters and important updates on Ocho Cascadas are sent to Members via “Trading Places.” Here is what the e-mail cover page from TPI looks like:

[View in web browser.](#)



OCHO CASCADAS

Please click the link below for the Ocho Cascadas 2024 Spring/Summer Newsletter.

[Ocho 2024 Summer Newsletter](#)



[Unsubscribe](#)

To get to the Newsletter or e-mail, simply click the black box.

New Capital Vacations Payment Process Service

Ocho Cascadas Members should have received an important e-mail from Capital Vacations over the week of November 18th. Capital Vacations purchased Trading Places, Inc., the management company for our Association, about a year ago. And Capital Vacations continues the process of integrating TPI into their much larger business. The e-mail you received explains a new, company-wide Maintenance Dues Payment system. There are several key pieces of information in this e-mail that we want to bring to your attention:

- This new system will be utilized for Ocho Cascadas 2026 Maintenance Fee billing in the fall of 2025.
- There will be three ways to make payment: an old-fashioned check, use of the On-Line Billing feature, and ACH. Each option is detailed in CV's e-mail.
- There will be options for monthly payments
- The "Association ID" for Ocho Cascadas is "OCH"
- The phone number to use for contacting Trading Places, if you have any billing questions remains the same: 833-714-3829

One other very important detail in this e-mail is: if you are currently paying your Maintenance Fee for 2025 via monthly payments from your bank, you will need to redirect the payments to CV's new billing address by December 15, 2024. The new address is:

Capital Resorts Group Processing Center
P.O. Box 94826
Las Vegas, NV 89193-4826

Lastly, if you did not receive this e-mail from CV, please check your SPAM folder. If not there, then call the number above to have the e-mail sent.

We strongly suggest copying and filing this e-mail for future use later in 2025. And we are hopeful that this new, company-wide payment system will make our annual payments easier in the future.

Ocho Cascadas Board of Directors

Luisa's Corner

Hola Ocho Familia

On December 1st I will be celebrating "OCHO at OCHO", eight wonderful years of working with Dave Stoenner, the Ocho team, Ocho guests, and our wonderful Ocho members. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to make many long-lasting friendships at Ocho. Every Thursday over the last 8 years has been a happy day for me when our members and guests arrive, and I look forward to many more. Thank you all.



All of us at Ocho love to have our Ocho villas full of happy people every week. We have some openings coming up for rent due to some members not being able to make it down. This is an opportunity for you to enjoy another stay. We have a villa open for Christmas week, and a few villas open early in 2025.

We also have some amazing winter weeks on our resale list. For those of you interested in prime weeks, January through May and October through December, please let me know. They will not last long.

Happy Holidays and wishing all a Joyful 2025
Luisa





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