



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President** Jim Foley
- Vice-President** Frank Hedges
- Secretary** Laurel Smith
- Treasurer** Gloria Felcyn
- Director** Anna Scicinska
- Director** Dave Katleman
- Director** Jim Turke

VINEYARDS WEBSITE

www.vineyardsofsaratoga.com

- Vineyards News
- View monthly newsletter
- HOA Board meeting minutes

Want to receive e-mail alerts? Please e-mail your name and unit number, indicating if you are an owner or tenant to register@vineyardsofsaratoga.com

HELPFUL CONTACTS

To report problems with outdoor lights or sprinklers and request repairs please call or e-mail our manager:

Luis Heredia, Association Manager
Community Management Services

Telephone 408-559-1977

Fax number 408-559-1970

lheredia@communitymanagement.com

To apply for a car parking sticker call Security at 408-806-0729

To report a crime or suspicious behavior to the local Sheriff call 408-299-2311



DEC 2013 / JAN 2014

ANNUAL MEETING & BOARD VACANCIES

In preparation for the annual meeting and board member election, here is a helpful timeline. Our seven Vineyards HOA directors are elected to a two-year term. Four board positions fall vacant in early 2014. The members of the election Nominating Committee, announced at the December board meeting, are Jim Foley, Peggy Anastasia, and Bob Catalano. In January all homeowners will receive an information packet and ballot papers. If there are sufficient candidates, there will be an open forum to meet, hear from and ask questions to the candidates – more information on this event will be given at the January board meeting. At the balloting early next year, the four expiring terms will be filled, with the results announced at the Annual Meeting in February. **If you are a member in good standing & interested in serving your community as a board member, please submit a Statement of Candidacy and a contact phone number by email to Jim Foley at president@vineyardsofsaratoga.com.**

THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board meeting is on Thursday January 9th at 7:00pm.

The agenda for all board meetings is posted in advance at the entrance to the Clubhouse. Monthly meetings are open to all homeowners. The 15-20 minute *Open Forum* session at the start is an opportunity to have any issues heard by the board, association manager, and others present, and to ask questions about any projects or decisions addressed by the board.

Following *Open Forum*, the meeting is limited to those issues posted on the agenda. Homeowners are welcome and encouraged to stay and observe, but this part of the meeting is closed to owner participation. Minutes of all meetings are posted on the website after they have been approved at the next board meeting.

DEC/JAN NEWS

The painting project is progressing well. Please continue to look out for notices from EKIM Painting with details of the three phases of the painting project: 1) prepping & pressure washing 2) general painting 3) front door painting. The paint colors are very similar to the current ones.

As the final stage of the wood replacement project, the pool house by the big pool will be renovated.

The budget for 2014 was presented to the board at the December meeting and approved. The monthly dues are to stay the same.

CLUBHOUSE UPDATE

The new furniture for the clubhouse great room and ground floor areas has been chosen and is being ordered.

The Clubhouse is open for member reservations – please contact Luis at CMS.

SECURITY ALERT

The Vineyards periodically experiences the problem of car break-ins, and this time of year is one of the worst for petty crime. To deter would be thieves, do not leave *any* visible or valuable items on car seats. Please pass this information to your holiday visitors parking at the Vineyards.

GUTTER CLEANING

Commercial Gutter will be carrying out a biannual gutter cleaning during the time period December 30th 2013 – January 4th 2014.

MAIL MISDIRECTION

A number of residents have encountered problems with misdirected mail over the past year – both letters and packages. Please take complaints and concerns directly to the Postmaster. Any complaint can only come from the addressee, not from the board or The Vineyards via CMS. Maybe if more of us raise individual requests for a better delivery accuracy, we can raise awareness for our mail delivery service to be improved.

The telephone number for the Saratoga Post Office is 408 – 867 – 1159. The P.O. service hours are Monday-Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm and Saturday 9:15am - 1:00pm.

WINTER SPARE THE AIR IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA



The 2013/2014 Winter Spare the Air season runs from November 1 through February 28. Each day by early afternoon, the Air District will issue an air quality forecast for the next day. If air quality is forecast to be unhealthy, a Winter Spare the Air Alert will be called. The alert will be in effect the entire next day, for a full 24 hours.

When a Winter Spare the Air Alert is in effect, it is illegal to burn wood, manufactured fire logs, pellets, or any other solid fuels in your fireplace, woodstove, or outdoor fire pit. During the winter season, wood smoke is the largest source of harmful particulate pollution.

On the website <http://sparetheair.org> residents can find information about the health effects of wood smoke, as well as detailed information about the Wood Burning Rule and how to comply with it.

To find out if a *Winter Spare the Air Alert* is in effect, residents and business owners can do the following: call 1-877-4NO-BURN (1-877-466-2876) or sign up for automatic phone alerts by calling 1-800-430-1515.

A WORD TO THE WISE ON WOOD SMOKE

The main adverse health impact of burning wood, manufactured fireplace logs or similar products in common fireplaces is wood smoke. In an article on 1/30/2013 titled *Wood Burning*, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District stated: "The nine counties that surround San Francisco Bay are home to almost seven million residents and an estimated 1.7 million fireplaces and wood stoves. The particulate matter (PM) in the wood smoke from these fireplaces and wood stoves has been a health concern in the Bay Area for many years ... Since the 1980's, many scientific studies have been published that correlate rising PM levels with serious health effects, such as asthma symptoms, decreased lung function, increased hospital admissions and even premature death..."

Additionally, the California Air Resources Board in its *Wood Burning Handbook* states: "...Wood smoke also contains VOCs (volatile organic compounds) which include toxic and/or cancer-causing substances, such as benzene, formaldehyde and benzo-a-pyrene, a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH). Manufactured fireplace logs, for instance, are not recommended for burning because they produce toxic fumes, including PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls)..."

Also, in order to minimize the levels of indoor combustion pollutants emitted from older types of fireplaces, like the original fireplaces installed at the Vineyards, large volumes of indoor air must be exhausted up the chimney during such burning. As a result, furnaces usually have to run longer in order to heat and replace such exhausted air, thus increasing utility bills.

In summary, one of the best ways to protect you and your neighbors from the adverse effects of toxic air pollutants and possibly save money, is to avoid burning wood, manufactured fireplace logs or similar products in any fireplace at the Vineyards.

Anthony R. Fisher. Ph.D. .

This article was submitted and written by a Vineyard resident, and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Vineyards of Saratoga.

GRAPEVINE HISTORY CORNER

When the Clubhouse was being renovated, a couple of decades worth of Grapevine newsletters were discovered, dating back from the 1970s and 1980s. Please enjoy some reprints from the Vineyards newsletter exactly thirty years ago!



The December 1983 newsletter was 7 pages long, and included board meeting highlights, a trivia sports quiz, a "Vineyards Travellers" page detailing members vacation destinations, local advertising, and birthday & anniversary wishes for residents. A regular feature of the Grapevine from this time was "Grace's Helpful Household Hints" column ...

GRACE'S HELPFUL HOUSEHOLD HINTS

To get that "Jack Frost" look on your window for the holiday season:

Dissolve 4 tablespoons epsom salts in 1 cup of beer and apply the mixture with a paint brush on the inside of window... or dip facial tissue in the mixture and dab it on. Note: All the crystals will not dissolve. The second day is even more beautiful. Washes off quickly with plain water.

When changing brands of laundry soap or detergent, rinse out the machine with a water softener - going through the entire cycle. Otherwise a film will be left on the clothes. Soap has a scum; detergent, a film. You can't see it but it is there!

A little glycerine wiped on bathroom mirrors and buffed with a soft cloth will keep them from steaming up. Also, run cold water in the tub before putting in the hot water prevents steam forming in bathroom.

... and this item shows our current hard work and improvements to our Clubhouse to be part of an ongoing legacy!

The Club House, as most of you are well aware, has long been overdue for a major renovation. The carpeting, draperies and furniture currently in place are the original furnishings installed during phase one of the Vineyards construction back in the early 70's. The total cost for recarpeting, cleaning of the draperies, reupholstering of furniture and installation of a small parquet dance floor is \$5400 - which considering the size of the Club House and its'age old pedigree is not excessive. We feel certain the improvements will be much appreciated by all who use the facility.

President's Thoughts – a letter from Jim Foley

After some contemplation regarding The Vineyards' elections last year, I feel compelled to write an article for "The Grapevine" before the 2014 elections. Many of us considered the last election a disgrace. Never before in the history of The Vineyards had such a contentious election been held with so many false allegations and outright lies. We are still dealing with fallout from that election.

This year I hope that we, as a community, can rise above the negativity of last year, and pursue an election based on the qualifications and the intentions of the candidates.

The Board is planning on a "meet the candidates" session to provide all the candidates an opportunity to present their qualifications, and to discuss the challenges facing The Vineyards that concern all of us.

Let's move beyond petty quibbling and elect the best candidates for the Board of Directors, who will generously give their time, and represent us all in the best way possible. The Vineyards is both our home and an investment. It is important for all of us to keep The Vineyards of Saratoga a welcoming, safe, friendly, successful, and thriving community.

Jim Foley

THE NEWSLETTER AT A GLANCE

LAST MONTH

Wood repair and painting progressing
Clubhouse furniture chosen and ordered
Arborist submits list of trees to be pruned
Election Nominating Committee appointed

NEXT MONTH

Board meeting – Thursday January 9th @ 7:00pm
Exterior painting project and front door painting continue
Seasonal gutter cleaning December 30th – January 4th
Send in statements of candidacy for board election

NEWSLETTER

If you are interested in joining the newsletter committee or contributing to future newsletters please contact Anna Scicinska at newsletter@vineyardlane.org. We welcome all input into our Vineyards newsletter.

Anna Scicinska, Paula Camporaso, Linda George and Dave Katleman

Seasonal festive Holiday greetings for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !

