



The Grapevine



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP - ELECTION RESULTS

FEB/MAR 2014

The Annual Meeting of the Membership was held on Thursday February 13th at 7PM in the Association's Clubhouse. There were four directors to be elected for a two year term. The following are the results as presented to the membership by the election inspector:

Gloria Felcyn	received 45 votes (elected)	Nora White	received 24 votes (not elected)
Michael Toback	received 43 votes (elected)	Ali Mahdavi	received 14 votes (not elected)
Paula Camporaso	received 42 votes (elected)	Ruut van den Hoed	received 1 vote (not elected)
Laurel Smith	received 33 votes (elected)		

The board would like to extend its gratitude to Jim Turke and Frank Hedges for their many years of service and valuable contributions to the board and the community. We hope they will continue to support the board for many years to come.

Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting were approved (50 votes in favor, 0 votes against) and the IRS Resolution to allocate excess operating funds to the reserve account was approved (47 votes in favor, 3 votes against).

President, Jim Foley, presented 2013 accomplishments and 2014 goals. Here are some of the points raised:

Accomplishments for 2013

- Clubhouse phase II is complete: this comprised interior renovation, including painting, new bathrooms, security system, and carpeting. The new furniture is on order. Jim thanked the entire board for their individual contributions, and called phase II a great team effort.
- Wood project: preparations started in the Summer. The last time the Vineyards had comprehensive wood repair was over 10 years ago. Hidden problems have been identified and remedied, as work is continuing into 2014.
- Painting of the Vineyards: pressure washing and re-painting started in the Fall and is continuing into 2014.
- FHA Certification: in 2013 Jim Foley put in countless hours to successfully obtain FHA Certification, and the Vineyards became the only condominium complex in Saratoga to have FHA Certification.
- HOA Documents: in anticipation of the Davis-Sterling Act updates, the board authorized attorney Jeff Barnett to update the Vineyards CC&Rs, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations.
- Newsletter: Jim thanked Anna Scicinska and the newsletter committee members for work on *The Grapevine*
- Ongoing maintenance: Jim reported on concrete repairs.
- Landscaping: Jim thanked landscaping committee chair Chris Burns for the work of her committee, including tree maintenance, the aeration of the Koi Pond, and efforts to save water.
- Garbage collection: garbage dumpsters or recycle bins filled to overflowing have added additional expenses.

Goals for 2014

- Clubhouse phase III: the final phase of the renovations will include a new kitchen in the clubhouse, as well as a new trellis, heater and repairs to the pool-house at the big pool.
- Reserve study: Treasurer Gloria Felcyn spoke about commissioning a reserve study. This financial document needs to be reviewed and updated.
- Community awareness: the board will continue to watch developments of properties surrounding the Vineyards (Abrams property, Quito center, and Highway 85 expansion). Members interested in helping in this endeavor are encouraged to attend public meetings of the City of Saratoga, support community organization *Restore Saratoga*, (restoresaratoga.com) and maintain neighborhood communications through *Nextdoor.com*.
- HOA documents: the board expects to complete an update of HOA documents in 2014.
- Landscaping committee: in 2014 the landscaping committee intend to use more drought resistant planting.
- Sewer: Jim Foley will liaise with WVSD to resolve maintenance issues with our main sewer lines and laterals.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim Foley
Vice-President	Michael Toback
Secretary	Laurel Smith
Treasurer	Gloria Felcyn
Director	Anna Scicinska
Director	Dave Katleman
Director	Paula Camporaso

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

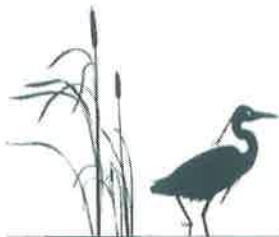
lheredia@communitymanagement.com

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

CLUBHOUSE

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



THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board meeting is on Thursday March 13th 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.

OTHER FEB/MAR NEWS

The painting project is progressing well. As the final stage of the wood replacement project, the pool house is currently being renovated – the trellis is being completely replaced and a new pool heater will be installed.

COMMUNITY CORNER – focus on local farmers' markets

Whether you like to spend a leisurely weekend morning, browsing the stalls and stopping for a tasty snack, or are looking for a quick mid-week stop, Saratoga and the surrounding area offers three great outdoor markets.

Saratoga Farmers' Market at West Valley College This large year round market sells seasonal fruits, vegetables and salad greens direct from local California farmers. There are also vendors for flowers, organic eggs, fresh fish, and ready to eat foods. The location is in the parking lot at the West Valley College near the junction of Fruitvale and Allendale Avenue. With over 50 farmers and food producers, you are sure to find something you'll love! **Saturdays from 9am to 1pm.** <http://cafarmersmkt.com>

Saratoga Village Farmers' Market The mid-week Saratoga Downtown Farmers' Marketplace is small, but offers a good selection of organic fruits and vegetables, flowers, and honey. It is located at Blaney Plaza on the intersection of Big Basin, Hwy 9 and Saratoga Avenue. Several non-agricultural purveyors, including hummus, gourmet food, fresh seafood, premium balsamic vinegars and olive oils, complement the certified farmers' market. Parking is available in the lots behind the businesses along Big Basin Way. **Wednesdays from 2:30pm to 6:30pm.** For more information, call the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce office at 408.867.0753 or <http://www.saratogachamber.org/marketplace.php>

Campbell Farmers' Market in downtown Campbell This large farmers' market is located in downtown Campbell between Campbell Ave & 2nd St. As well as the expected farm produce you can buy bread from two local bakeries, as well as hummus, specialty sauerkraut, honey, nuts and some crafts. **Sundays from 9am to 1pm.**

NEWSLETTER

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

Anna Scicinska, Dave Katleman, Linda George and Paula Camporaso

GRAPVINE HISTORY CORNER



April 1975

Volume 1 No. 1

ANNOUNCEMENT
FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT



BEGINNINGS

For a long time we've felt a need for a Vineyards newsletter to encourage a feeling of community and caring. We have grown to about 125 households with some 25 occupied in Phase III.

I want to thank all the members of all the committees that have worked so hard and have given so much of their time to make the Vineyards a better place to live.

In April 1975, the very first Grapevine Newsletter was published. The original artwork shown above, was used from 1975 to 1979, before it was replaced by several different hand drawn titles including the one below from 1982. These were our inspiration for the new look front page. We hope that you like mix of tradition and innovation for the new banner design.

The Grapevine



VOLUME IX ISSUE # 4
MAY 1982

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - APRIL

During the month of April the following significant actions were undertaken in your behalf.

1. Renewal of three (3) contracts for landscaping, pool service and security has been agreed on. Each of these renewals are with the previous incumbents and within the budgeted framework planned for this current fiscal year.
2. Saratoga Cable TV has asked for easement rights to install cable TV at the Vineyards. This has been approved by the Board and will be an independent system from the currently installed Master Antennas now in use.

LANDSCAPING UPDATE from Chris Burns

Our Redwood Trees are Struggling - the Coastal Redwood trees (*Sequoia Sempervirens*) in the Vineyards are not native to our area. As their name suggests, they are from coastal areas of Northern California and therefore require a lot of rain and fog to remain healthy. After multiple years of drought, redwoods all over the valley, ours included, are beginning to show stress. We have already lost a few and the rest have been limping along. This current severe drought has pushed a few more to the edge. You can see it in the sparse tree tops and brown foliage.

Jim Foley, Tim Dooling (our landscaper), and I have met with our arborist, Gil Mitchell. In order to keep our trees healthy through the drought, our arborist is advising us to deep water our redwoods and to remove the ivy under the trees where we can. Ivy steals moisture from the redwood's root system.

In the coming weeks we will be deep watering and removing ivy under some of the trees. We will let the dropped foliage remain under the trees to create a natural mulch and to help retain moisture. Where feasible, we will plant minimal ferns and other woody vegetation. Our goal is to save the Redwoods and create a more natural environment under the trees.

CITY OF SARATOGA NEWS - State Route 85 Express Lane Project

This is a summary – for the full article please see <http://www.saratoga.ca.us/news>

The City of Saratoga has recently received communications on proposed VTA and Caltrans *State Route 85 Express Lanes Project*. This project plans to convert about 27 miles of existing HOV lanes to Express Lanes, and add a second HOV lane between State Route 87 and Interstate 280. An agreement between the City of Saratoga and VTA, signed in 1989, allows the median of State Route 85 to be used for mass transportation. Existing users of the car pool lane will

continue to use these lanes for free. Solo-drivers will have the option to pay to use Express Lanes during commute hours.

An environmental assessment is one of the first steps of the process. Other opportunities for public engagement will include the planning, design, and funding phases. Valley Transportation Authority is currently accepting comments on the Draft Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment. **The deadline to comment is February 28, 2014.**

Draft IS/EA is available at: dot.ca.gov/dist4/envdocs.htm
Comments can be e-mailed to: 85expresslanes@urs.com
Frequently asked questions: [expresslanes/faq](#)
Written comments on the project should be sent to:
Department of Transportation, District 4, Attn: Ngoc Bui,
P.O. Box 23660, MS-8B Oakland, CA 94623.

VTA information page: <http://www.vta.org/projects-and-programs/highway/vta-express-lanes-sr-85-express-lanes-project>

PUBLIC MEETING: Highway 85 changing from 6 to 8 lane freeway at 7PM on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 2014 in the COMMUNITY ROOM at SARATOGA LIBRARY. On February 5th at the Saratoga City Council meeting over 20 speakers expressed concerns about the proposal as it stands. On February 25th at the Saratoga Library, residents can continue the discussion about alternatives with city council members and Mr. John Ristow, VTA's Chief Congestion Management Agency Officer. Check Nextdoor.com under General posts for more details.

Each quarter the City of Saratoga publishes *The Saratogan* to keep residents apprised of current events and important information. The latest issue of *The Saratogan* for Spring 2014, is available in print and also online at: <http://www.saratoga.ca.us/cityhall/cmo/saratogan.asp>

THE NEWSLETTER AT A GLANCE

LAST MONTH

Annual board meeting & election results
IRS resolution for excess funds approved
Ongoing wood repairs and painting

NEXT MONTH

Board meeting – Thursday March 13th @ 7:00pm
Pool house trellis repairs & heater replacement at the big pool
Public meeting (Hwy 85) Saratoga Library@7PM Tuesday February 25th

