



The Grapevine



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP - ELECTION RESULTS

FEB/MAR 2015

The Annual Meeting of the Membership was held on Thursday February 12th at 7PM in the Association's Clubhouse. There were three directors to be elected for a two year term. The following are the results as presented to the membership by the election inspector:

Jim Foley	received 82 votes (elected)	Cristina Becker	received 1 vote (not elected)
Dave Katleman	received 75 votes (elected)	Chris Burns	received 1 vote (not elected)
Anna Scicinska	received 73 votes (elected)	Walter Kool	received 1 vote (not elected)
Frank Hedges	received 2 votes (not elected)	Jim Turke	received 1 vote (not elected)

Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting were approved (84 votes in favor, 2 votes against) and the IRS Resolution to allocate excess operating funds to the reserve account was approved (84 votes in favor, 1 vote against).

President, Jim Foley, presented 2014 accomplishments and 2015 goals. Here are some of the points raised:

Accomplishments for 2014

- Clubhouse phase III kitchen: work is ongoing. Jim thanked the kitchen committee comprising Gloria Felcyn, Paula Camporaso and Dave Katleman for their work so far.
- The Vineyards paint and wood project was completed.
- Reserve study: this financial document was reviewed and updated.
- HOA Documents review: ongoing. Attorney Jeff Barnett prepared a draft update of the Vineyards CC&Rs, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations. The board started reviewing these documents in the summer.
- Ongoing maintenance: Jim reported on concrete repairs.
- Sewer: ongoing. Jim Foley liaising with WVSD to resolve maintenance of our main sewer lines and laterals.
- Community awareness: the board has watched and discussed developments of the properties surrounding the Vineyards (Abrams property, Quito center, and Highway 85 expansion).
- Landscaping: Jim thanked landscaping committee (Chris Burns, Laurel Smith, Claire Walters, Gail Hugger and Maddie Smith) for their work, including tree maintenance, the aeration of the Koi Pond, and efforts to save water.
- Save water: during the drought measures have been taken to save water including a new landscape watering schedule and greater use of drought resistant planting. Ivy has been removed from the base of redwood trees.
- Garbage collection: we had additional expenses for clearing up overflowing garbage dumpsters or recycle bins.

Goals for 2015

- HOA Documents update: the board review of the documents is due for completion in 2015.
- Clubhouse kitchen: the project is due for completion in 2015.
- Big pool railing: the big pool enclosure is to be replaced by a taller railing to meet new safety standards.
- Community awareness: the board will continue to watch local developments. 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*.
- Landscaping committee: the landscaping committee is gradually transitioning to drip irrigation. We will continue to provide additional periodic deep watering and do everything we can to save our redwood trees, some of which have been badly affected by the drought.
- Sewer: Jim Foley will continue to liaise with WVSD to resolve maintenance issues with our main sewer lines and laterals.
- Garbage collection: all residents need to use the dumpsters in such a way that we avoid incurring unnecessary additional costs.

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 12th 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

Please see below for information about the Vineyards Occupancy Form which needs to be completed and returned to CMS as soon as possible.

If your gutter or downspout is clogged after the recent heavy rains, please call Luis at CMS. Luis will coordinate with Commercial Gutter for their technicians to fix any problems.

The clubhouse kitchen committee has asked two contractors for a bid and is considering several design options. More news to follow next month!

OCCUPANCY FORM

Every homeowner must complete an Occupancy Form giving names and contact details of household members. Non-resident owners will need to confirm their own details as well as those of their renters and provide a copy of their lease. The form will also register all vehicles so that we can re-introduce resident parking permits.

This form is available online at the Vineyards of Saratoga website www.vineyardsofsaratoga.com/forms.htm where it can either be filled in online or printed and filled in by hand. CMS will issue parking stickers as soon as the relevant information is processed.

Daytime guests do not require a parking sticker. Guests staying longer should place a card in the windshield with the number of the unit owner's parking permit – to ensure security and privacy do not write names or unit numbers.

Should a car need to be moved for maintenance or access by landscapers, or the owner traced for any other reason, the management company or board needs to know whom to contact. For planned maintenance, signs are posted in the affected parking areas a few days ahead of time, but in an emergency such as a water leak or a fallen tree, cars may need to be moved with greater urgency. As a last resort, cars whose owners are unknown or unreachable will be towed.

Please mail the Occupancy Form directly to CMS.

COMMUNITY CORNER – EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

This winter, while parts of the US are facing wave after wave of historic snowstorms, Californians can feel blessed to live in a temperate climate. We do however need to be ready for emergencies like wildfires, flooding, and earthquakes.

From the latest issue of *The Saratogan*, an article on Santa Clara's emergency alert system

Be prepared and informed when an emergency happens.

AlertSCC is a free and confidential way for Saratoga residents to receive emergency warnings directly to their mobile devices, emails, and landlines. The Santa Clara County emergency alert system provides information and instructions for multiple emergency situations, including:

- *Flooding, wildfires and possible evacuations*
- *Public safety incidents, such as crimes that affect your neighborhood*
- *Post-disaster information about shelters, transportation, and supplies*



Sign up at <https://alertscc.bbcportal.com> or download the AlertSCC app to a mobile device.

Residents can also prepare to help their families and neighborhoods during an emergency by signing up for the Saratoga Community Emergency Response Team, known as CERT. Learn basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and team organization. For more information on the program, visit www.saratoga.ca.us/cert.

Managed by the Santa Clara County Fire Department, since 2006, Saratoga CERT has trained about 200 Saratoga volunteers in basic disaster response skills.

The City of Saratoga uses a variety of online tools to communicate with the public. All the sites are interwoven as the City shares information across each platform, and all are connected at their center by the City of Saratoga.

CITY OF SARATOGA'S WEBSITE www.saratoga.ca.us

NEXTDOOR www.nextdoor.com

FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/CityofSaratoga

TWITTER @CityofSaratoga

YOUTUBE www.youtube.com/CityHallSaratoga

VIMEO www.vimeo.com/cityofsaratoga

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

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS for more details see sccgov.org

BEFORE Striking with no notice, an earthquake can suddenly disable a community and leave individuals struggling for their lives. Prepare now to survive in earthquake country. Establish a family emergency plan and become familiar with the plans of where your family spends time - in schools, at work, and in your community. Know where the safe spots and dangerous spots are within your home in the event of an earthquake. Conduct a home hazard hunt, learn some basic first aid and assemble an emergency supplies kit. Participate with volunteering and training opportunities to help your community become better prepared.

DURING When the ground shakes, every moment matters. What will you do?

IF INDOORS Stay indoors as there may be falling debris outside. Stay away from objects that may fall inside.

Get under a desk/table or stand against an interior wall, preferably a corner - duck, cover, and hold. Do not use candles, matches or open flames during or after the earthquake as there may be gas leaks.

IF OUTDOORS Get into an open area away from trees, buildings, walls, and power lines.

IF DRIVING Pull over to the side of the road and stop. Stay inside your car until the shaking is over. Be wary of hazards such as fallen objects, downed power lines or damaged roadways. Avoid overpasses and power lines.

AFTER You may be sound asleep, stranded in rush hour traffic, on the job, or at play when the ground shakes.

STAY CALM, BE PATIENT AND PUT YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN INTO ACTION

CHECK FOR INJURIES Give first aid within your capabilities and get help for seriously injured people.

ASSESS DAMAGE Check for damage using a flashlight. Do not use matches or electrical switches as the air may contain gas. Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows, and get outside as soon as possible. Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline, and other flammable liquids as quickly and safely as possible. Shut off any other damaged utilities.

CALL YOUR FAMILY CONTACT then do not use the phone again unless it is a life-threatening emergency.

CONFINE OR SECURE PETS CHECK ON YOUR NEIGHBORS especially elderly, disabled, medically fragile ...

EXPECT AFTERSHOCKS LISTEN TO RADIO FOR NEWS / INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT SPREAD RUMORS

(Attribution: California OES, American Red Cross, & FEMA)

NEXTDOOR WEBSITE

by Paula Camporaso

Many folks at The Vineyards are using a 'Saratoga Local' social media site www.nextdoor.com and we hope you will too.

What is Nextdoor?

Nextdoor is a social networking service for neighborhoods in the United States. It allows users to connect with people who live in their neighborhood for a variety of reasons. Best of all, it's a great way to reach out to Saratoga and Vineyards residents for 'local conversations' and information.



Why should I use Nextdoor?

Some great reasons to use Nextdoor are:

1. To hear about local events from the City of Saratoga, and get advice on potential security issues from the Sheriff.
2. To find out about garage sales and ask for contractor or babysitter recommendations from local residents.
3. To help with a search for a lost dog in your area.

In addition to Saratoga wide information, those who sign up with a Vineyards Lane address will also receive Vineyards Alerts as they arise, (versus monthly information via our Grapevine Newsletter). For example, last summer Vineyards neighbors shared up to the minute information about the sudden main water shutoff on Nextdoor.

How do I sign-up?

Using any Internet browser enter www.nextdoor.com
Enter your Home Address (which assigns you to your Saratoga neighborhood)
Enter your preferred Email and Password as instructed (for your private use only)

How do I get Nextdoor notifications?

Once you sign up, you will start receiving emails from Nextdoor that contain current information in your neighborhood and Saratoga. You can also login to www.nextdoor.com at anytime to check what's happening in your community.

SPEED LIMIT

Please SLOW DOWN and drive with caution for your own safety and that of others. The Vineyards is a residential neighborhood – car drivers share use of the perimeter road with cyclists, pedestrians, joggers, children, and pets. Drivers should be especially careful around blind corners.



THE NEWSLETTER AT A GLANCE

LAST MONTH

Annual board meeting & election results
IRS resolution for excess funds approved
Owners complete Vineyards Occupancy Form

NEXT MONTH

Board meeting – Thursday March 12th @ 7:00pm
Big pool railing replacement project
Drivers please observe the speed limit

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. Letters and articles from residents will be published in the next newsletter to go to print.

Anna Scicinska, Dave Katleman, Linda George and Paula Camporaso

