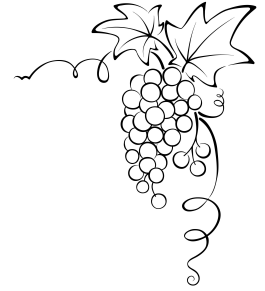




# The Grapevine



## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP – ELECTION RESULTS

FEB/MAR 2015

The Annual Meeting of the Membership was held on Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the Association's Clubhouse. Four directors were elected for a two year term. The results of the membership vote were as follows:

Laurel Smith	received 51 votes (elected)	Gloria Felcyn	received 50 votes (elected)
Michael Toback	received 51 votes (elected)	Jeffrey Klopotic	received 50 votes (elected)
Martha Suarez	received 1 vote (not elected)		

Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were approved (51 votes in favor, 0 votes against) and the IRS Resolution to allocate excess operating funds to the reserve account was approved (52 votes in favor, 1 vote against).

**President, Jim Foley, presented 2015 accomplishments and 2016 goals. Here are some of the points raised:**

### Accomplishments for 2015

- Review of the HOA Documents has been completed. We are waiting for one final title document confirming the Vineyards emergency access easement through the neighboring Abrams property. Jim thanked the board and other members of the committee for the many hours spent on this major endeavor.
- Clubhouse phase III was completed – we have a new kitchen and a large screen TV for the Clubhouse. Jim thanked Gloria Felcyn, Dave Katleman and Mike Toback for coordinating these projects.
- The Big Pool 5ft fence with new security access gates, lighting and trellis projects were completed.
- Sewer: ongoing. Jim Foley continues to liaise with WVSD to resolve maintenance of sewer lines and laterals.
- Landscaping: as the drought persisted measures were taken to save water including greater use of drought resistant planting and replacing sprinkler heads with drip irrigation. There was tree trimming and re-tagging. Jim thanked the committee (Chris Burns, Laurel Smith, Claire Walters, Gail Hugger and Maddie Smith) for their work.
- Save the Redwoods: Distressed redwoods and elms had several cycles of additional deep watering. Ivy was removed from the base of redwood trees, and we are allowing the build-up of a natural mulch layer.
- Community awareness: the board has watched and discussed developments of the properties surrounding the Vineyards (Abrams property, Quito center, and Highway 85 expansion).
- Nextdoor: Jim encouraged residents to sign up with the Nextdoor website. This message board can only be used by local residents, and has useful posts from the Sheriff's department and the City of Saratoga.
- Garbage collection: we had additional expenses for clearing up overflowing garbage dumpsters and recycle bins.

### Goals for 2016

- Security: take steps to improve awareness of issues including people sleeping in cars and mail theft. Report suspicious activity to the Sheriff and take preventive measures. Target 100% completion of Occupancy Forms for resident Parking Sticker Registration. Install security cameras at the main gate and other strategic positions.
- Complete the HOA Document process and hold informational meetings followed by a vote of the membership.
- Sanitary Sewer: Jim Foley to liaise with WVSD to resolve maintenance of our main sewer lines and laterals.
- Landscaping: Save the Redwoods, clean the Koi pond, repair/replace the reflection pools, continue drought resistant planting.
- Continue annual concrete maintenance work.
- Community awareness: Board to follow 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](http://restoresaratoga.com)) and maintain neighborhood communications through *Nextdoor.com*.
- Communication: encourage residents to read the monthly Grapevine newsletter (available by mail and online) and Nextdoor for important updates and information. Jim thanked the Grapevine team for the monthly newsletter (editor Anna Scicinska, Dave Katleman, Carole Lunny and Linglin Niu.) Increase owner and resident participation.
- Garbage collection: all residents need to use the dumpsters in such a way that we avoid incurring unnecessary additional costs.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b>	Jim Foley
<b>Vice-President</b>	Michael Toback
<b>Secretary</b>	Laurel Smith
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gloria Felcyn
<b>Director</b>	Dave Katleman
<b>Director</b>	Jeffrey Klopotic
<b>Director</b>	Anna Scicinska

## VINEYARDS WEBSITE [www.vineyardsofsaratoga.com](http://www.vineyardsofsaratoga.com)

- Monthly newsletter
- HOA forms and documents
- Bylaws, CC&Rs, Rules and Regs
- 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](mailto:register@vineyardsofsaratoga.com)

## HELPFUL CONTACTS

### Community Management Services

To report problems with outdoor lights or sprinklers and request other repairs please call or email CMS customer service: [cs@communitymanagement.com](mailto:cs@communitymanagement.com)

Telephone 4 0 8 – 5 5 9 – 1 9 7 7  
Fax number 4 0 8 – 5 5 9 – 1 9 7 0

Luis Heredia, Association Manager  
[lheredia@communitymanagement.com](mailto:lheredia@communitymanagement.com)

Vineyards Security 4 0 8 – 8 0 6 – 0 7 2 9

To report a crime or suspicious behavior call the local Sheriff on 4 0 8 – 2 9 9 – 2 3 1 1

## OCCUPANCY FORMS

Owners and renters need to complete the Occupancy Form and obtain car parking stickers. Forms are available online and from CMS. When you replace your vehicle, please do not forget to update your information, and get a new sticker.

## CLUBHOUSE RESERVATIONS

Please contact CMS. Forms are available online.



## THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. 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.

## NEW MONTHLY DUES from Gloria Felcyn, Treasurer

April 1, 2016 is the effective date of the new increase in monthly dues from \$450 to \$475. This information is included with the 2016/2017 budget information that homeowners will be receiving shortly. Included with the budget is a letter from the Vineyards Board explaining the reasons and need for the dues increase. Anyone having any questions regarding the new budget, after reviewing the board letter, should feel free to call me. I am happy to address any questions you may have. For those of you that are set up on auto pay with your bank, please make sure you notify them of the new monthly payment, in order to avoid late charges. We appreciate and thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

## FEBRUARY NEWS

**We are all saddened by the passing of Frank Hedges who gave a lot of his personal time and effort to The Vineyards over the years. We will have more information in the next "Grapevine" regarding a remembrance for Frank.**

Please read the important reminders on the next page regarding electronic billing and mailings from CMS, Occupancy Forms, and electric vehicles.

## All dog owners (or maybe just ONE new dog owner)!

You MUST pick up after your pooch! Leaving your dog's poop around Vineyard Lane is very disrespectful of your neighbors – the smell and look spoils the enjoyment of walkers, joggers and other dog walkers. Please remind your tenants, visitors, dog walking service, and family members of the requirement to clean up after pets. If you happen to observe someone not picking up, please take a photograph and send it to CMS.

Send an email to [president@vineyardsofsaratoga.com](mailto:president@vineyardsofsaratoga.com) to receive a copy of Jim Foley's 2016 Annual Meeting presentation.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Here are a few things to bear in mind before you purchase an electric vehicle. Vineyards residents who have an attached garage, on the same electric circuit and meter as their house, can fit a 220V charging station in their garage, subject to City of Saratoga permits and inspections.

Residents who have a garage space in a common garage block may not either charge their vehicle or add a charging station onto a Common Area circuit. The power on these Common Area circuits is to power lights and garage openers only, and should not be used for either chargers or domestic appliances. A separate circuit on a meter billed to the homeowner may be fitted at the owner's expense subject to HOA approval and planning permits.

Since we have no allocated or private parking spaces on the perimeter, permission will not be given for exterior charging stations at this time.

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**Let's save money and go green!**



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## E-STATEMENTS AND MAILING FROM CMS

The Board has published articles previously regarding the availability of receiving your monthly statements and newsletter via email. This service is at no cost to the Association and in fact will save the HOA money by not having to charge for monthly copy and mailing fees. Monthly mailing costs add up and when you add receiving the annual budget and annual financial report this is a great saving to the Association. Signing up is easy. Just send an email to the Association Manager, Luis Heredia at [lheredia@communitymanagement.com](mailto:lheredia@communitymanagement.com) and request to sign up for e-statements.

Luis will email you a form to fill out and email back. The following month you will receive your monthly statement and newsletter via email, knowing you have just saved your HOA a monthly cost.

The board is urging everyone to sign up today.

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**Let's save money and go green!**



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## OCCUPANCY FORM REMINDER

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 for a resident parking permit cling sticker.

This form is available online at the Vineyards of Saratoga website [www.vineyardsofsaratoga.com/forms.htm](http://www.vineyardsofsaratoga.com/forms.htm) where it can either be filled in online or printed and filled in by hand.

**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.

**The Occupancy Form should be mailed directly to CMS.**

**Please take note – the HOA will start taking disciplinary action against the remaining few homeowners who ignore requests and reminders to complete the Occupancy Form.**

## MARCH FAMILY ACTIVITIES

by Linglin Niu

Here are some local activities the whole family can enjoy. If you know of an upcoming event you think other Vineyards parents or grandparents would like to hear about, please e-mail the full details to [grapevine@vineyardsofsaratoga.com](mailto:grapevine@vineyardsofsaratoga.com).



### LITQUAKE PALO ALTO 2016: A LITERARY FESTIVAL OF BOOKS AND IDEAS

**Dates:** 2pm – 8pm, Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup>

**Activity:** San Francisco's literary festival is returning to the Oshman Family JCC.

As well as activities for kids and teens, participants and authors can mix and mingle at the "Blues, Booze & Schmooze".

**Distance:** 13.5 miles, 16 mins

**Location:** OFJCC 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto, CA 94303

**Cost :** free

**Website:** <http://www.bayareafamilycalendar.com/#event|litquake-palo-alto-2016-a-free-festival-of-books-ideas-and-community|3503009>



### FIBER & DYE FAMILY DAY

**Dates:** 11am – 3pm, Mar 19<sup>th</sup>

**Activity:** Explore the wonderful world of plant based fibers & dyes. There will be weaving demonstrations by the Golden Gate Weaving Guild, paper-making activities and natural dye sampling! View a one of a kind display of plant fibers by Tamara Wilder of the Paleotechnics Institute. A hands-on family day for children and adults of all ages.

**Distance:** 58.4 miles, 63 min

**Location:** UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley

**Cost :** Free

**Website:** <http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/education/public-programs/exhibitions/>



### PRINCE RAMA AND THE MONKEY KING

**Dates:** 11am Mar 20<sup>th</sup>

**Activity:** Prince Rama and the Monkey King tells the story of Rama of Ayodhya and his wife Sita. Sita is abducted by an evil king, and Rama must go on a journey to win her back by defeating the powers of darkness in the world. The story is filled with examples of virtue, values and morality lived out in a challenging and complex world. This entertaining show is performed by the Boxtales Theatre Company.

**Distance:** 3.5 miles, 11 min

**Location:** Carriage House Theatre

**Cost :** Adult \$20 | Child (under 12 years): \$10

**Website:** [http://www.montalvoarts.org/events/family\\_2016\\_monkey/](http://www.montalvoarts.org/events/family_2016_monkey/)

## THE NEWSLETTER AT A GLANCE

Annual Board meeting & election results

IRS resolution for excess funds approved

Sign up for e-statements and electronic mail

Next Board meeting – Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm

Owners must complete Vineyards Occupancy Form

DOG OWNERS – PLEASE PICK UP POOP !!!

## NEWSLETTER

We welcome all input into our Vineyards newsletter. If you are interested in joining the newsletter committee or contributing an article please contact Anna Scicinska by email at [grapevine@vineyardsofsaratoga.com](mailto:grapevine@vineyardsofsaratoga.com). Letters and articles submitted by residents will go into the next newsletter to go to print.

Anna Scicinska, Dave Katleman, Carole Lunny, Linglin Niu

