



The Grapevine



SEP / OCT 2016

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim Foley
Vice-President	Michael Toback
Secretary	Laurel Smith
Treasurer	Gloria Felcyn
Director	Anna Scicinska
Director	Jeffrey Klopotic
Director	Tom Schmidt

VINEYARDS WEBSITE

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

HELPFUL CONTACTS

To report problems with outdoor lights or sprinklers and request repairs please call customer services at CMS

Community Management Services

cs@communitymanagement.com

Telephone 408-559-1977

Fax number 408-559-1970

Our Association Manager is Luis Heredia
lheredia@communitymanagement.com

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

THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled on October 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 ongoing projects or decisions made by the Board.

Following Open Forum, the meeting is limited to issues posted on the agenda. Homeowners are welcome and encouraged to stay and observe, but this part of the meeting is typically closed to owner participation.

Minutes are posted on the website once approved after the next meeting.

SEPTEMBER NEWS

The Board appointed Tom Schmidt to fill the seat vacated last month.

Tom is already a member of the Security committee, and he will take over the role of Board liaison from Dave Katleman.

The new Welcome Wagon committee will be led by Kathleen Weiss, assisted by Gia Biagi, with Anna Scicinska as Board liaison. It has been a few years since the Vineyards had a Welcome Wagon person. We hope that reviving this service will help our new residents feel welcomed and to settle into our community faster. Given some recent lack of knowledge and/or understanding of Vineyards rules, this service will also help new residents learn about restrictions (and some of the benefits) of living in a managed community. **All new owners and all owner landlords with new tenants need to complete an Occupancy Form.**

Save the date for the Vineyards fall wine tasting, which is scheduled for Friday November 4th in the Clubhouse. The wine theme is "favorite wines" – any region, any style, single grape varietals or blends.

The third and final deep watering of the redwoods and Chinese elms will take place later this month. According to our arborist, the new green shoots at the tops of our redwoods and the seasonal loss of old brown leaves are signs of health and growth. This is such good news – most of our beautiful giant trees have made it through the El Nino drought !!!

The fall dumpsters are scheduled for late October. Twice a year the Vineyards provides larger dumpsters for convenient disposal of unwanted oversized items. It's time to gather your bulky giveaway items. Get rid of rickety old furniture, bed frames, mattresses and blankets, moving boxes, construction wood, old lamps, curtains and blinds, and such.

In the meantime – no oversize trash in the dumpster enclosures!

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED ANYWHERE IN THE VINEYARDS, or within 20 feet of our entrance gates, as of September 17th 2016. Landlords must inform their tenants of this new City of Saratoga ordinance ASAP and modify Lease documents to reflect this change.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

WATER BILLS

Anyone who has attended recent HOA meetings will be aware of the erratic increases we have seen in Vineyards water bills over the past few years. In a timeframe of 24 months, we have gone from monthly bills of about \$4,000 per month to \$14,000 per month. This has been the single biggest factor in our monthly dues increases. Many Saratoga residents in single-family homes have also expressed growing concern at the mounting charges, new line items, and backdated surcharges, and out-of-control increases in monthly bills. City of Saratoga councilman Rishi Kumar serves on the Santa Clara Valley Water District Commission, and is taking SCVW to task over these issues. He has posted a number of messages on community website Nextdoor and has met with local residents. We have been in conversation with SCVW on numerous occasions regarding this issue. We will keep you posted about any improvements or resolutions.

WE VOLUNTEER BECAUSE...

Over the next few months we are running stories about some of our Vineyards residents and the worthy causes they support as volunteers. Please share your story about the charitable or non-profit organization you support. Send an email to grapevine@vineyardsofsaratoga.com.

Vineyards residents Carole DiFilippi and Anna Scicinska both volunteer in support of Ten Thousand Villages. The Ten Thousand Villages story starts in 1946, when a Pennsylvania housewife called Edna Ruth Byler traveled to Puerto Rico with her husband. There she met local women struggling to feed their children. Edna had lived in poverty during the Depression. She recognized that people wanted a way to help themselves and the importance of dignity. Edna admired the beautiful embroidery the women created. With no clear plan but a firm sense of purpose, she brought some pieces home and sold them to friends and neighbors. Long story short, Edna's humble efforts blossomed into the whole Fair Trade movement and her 'little needlework project' turned into the oldest such organization in North America. Ten Thousand Villages currently supports 20,000 maker partners from the world's most impoverished countries. The non-profit organization sells its items in stores, online, and in pop-up festival sales across North America.

In 2002 Anna moved to the US from England with her husband, and volunteered at a Ten Thousand Villages store on the east coast. There are no stores in this part of California, but a small committee organizes an annual pop-up sale. The two-day International Gift Faire is held every October in San Jose. Anna joined the committee in 2004. Every year a large team of volunteers gathers to set up the sale of fair trade goods and tell the artisans' stories. Since the first festival sale in 1985, IGF has sold over \$1,500,000 of fair trade merchandise to benefit groups of artisans across the world. Whereas most of the items for sale are from Ten Thousand Villages, the IGF also sells other Fair Trade items like Equal Exchange chocolate, Putamayo DVDs, Level Ground coffee and tea, and Global Mommas children's wear. Anna says, "I have previously told just a few friends in the Vineyards about the Gift Faire, so it's great to share this with a wider group of neighbors. I am also delighted that Carole has joined our committee. At our last meeting, we unpacked some samples of some new merchandise – baskets and ceramics, scarves and bags, nativities and Xmas ornaments. From all the handmade items, my favorites are the unique and very delicate necklaces made from repurposed bullets and bomb casings in Cambodia and Ethiopia".

As an added surprise bonus for both Carole and the committee, we learned that the chair of the IGF committee Gioia is Carole's old friend. "Gioia and I worked side by side for several years introducing hundreds of elementary children to fine art with Art Vistas and creativity with Clay Program. I am delighted that Ania invited me to join this wonderful team; it is inspiring to work with such a dedicated group. Nothing is more fulfilling than supporting a worthy cause."

2016 Gift Faire Dates: Friday, October 14th, 9 AM to 8 PM and Saturday, October 15th, 9 AM to 6 PM.

Location: Lincoln Glen Fellowship Hall, 2700 Booksin Avenue, San Jose **More info:** InternationalGiftFaire.com

Please come and shop at the IGF. Want to get involved? We are looking for more volunteers for this event.



**TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES**

OUR MISSION is to create opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income by bringing their products and stories to our markets through fair long-term relationships
www.tenthousandvillages.com #LiveLifeFair



Consideration of others is the guiding principle of The Vineyards HOA and is required of all residents and guests at The Vineyards of Saratoga at all times.



FOCUS ON NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Vineyards has a strict no soliciting policy – Board members have the right to call the Sheriff to have trespassers escorted off the premises. There are no exceptions – over the past 12 months two ill-informed realtors who left flyers on our doorsteps (both from Alain Pinel) were reported for this breach. This is the time of year when we typically start to see an uptick in door-to-door callers, people leaving advertising fliers at mail boxes, and the like.

If you would like to share information about a community or non-profit event with Vineyards neighbors, you can post this info on Nextdoor, or put an article in the Grapevine. We are currently running a series called “We Volunteer Because...” celebrating the many ways that Vineyards residents contribute to the wider community.



SEE SOMETHING – SAY SOMETHING! REPORT SOLICITORS TO A BOARD MEMBER.

All Vineyards residents automatically become Neighborhood Watch members. Everyone knows to dial 911 to reports crimes, however, please also report car or house alarms, and any suspicious activity to the Sheriff on the non-emergency line 408–299–2311 (and let the CMS or a Board member know). Cases of vandalism or unusual fast-food littering in the parking lot (which can indicate that our properties are being cased by burglars) should be reported to CMS or to the Board.

On the whole Saratoga has an excellent safety record. A slight increase in reported property crimes in Saratoga in 2016 has prompted some concerned messages on Nextdoor. Saratoga is listed in a recent Safewise Report as being among “*these close-knit communities (that) balance the carefree California lifestyle with smart safety strategies that keep residents, visitors, homes, and businesses safe from harm.*” According to the report published in July 2016, Saratoga is the safest city in the southern Bay Area. Only Hillsborough (6), which came highest, and Saratoga (13) make the top twenty, whereas Los Altos (21) only narrowly misses a top spot. These rankings have barely changed in the last 5 years. Our figures are still truly enviable, with Violent Crimes at 0.61 per 1000, and Property Crimes at 9.25 per 1000. Source: <http://www.safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-california-2016>.

SENSIBLE PRECAUTIONS to make your house a less attractive target & more difficult for burglars to enter ...

Be a nosy neighbor!!! At the Vineyards we have seen occasional car break-ins, domestic burglaries and most recently a spate of mailbox theft. Nosy neighbors who notice a passing stranger and ask “you look lost – what are you looking for” or simply “may I help you?” are off-putting to a would-be thief. Thieves target neighborhoods that they think will yield the easiest results.

Take sensible precautions. Since local property crimes have increased, there are some basic precautions that all of us can take. In domestic burglary there are three classes of crook – the pro, the semi-pro and the opportunistic amateur. A professional burglar will not target most of us unless there is something definite in our house that he wishes to steal – we are talking about a collection of Dutch masters in oil on canvas or blueprints for the next best thing after the iPhone! The Vineyards are more likely to be targeted by the latter categories of crook.



On the list of top ten things a burglar will take are: cash & credit cards, prescription drugs, jewelry, tools, briefcases, small electronics, firearms, and identity cards. A high proportion of amateur burglars are teenagers who look for an unlocked patio gate, open window or garage door – this is a very easy fix – do not leave your garage door open unless you are working in there, lock your car doors and close bathroom windows when you go out.

Semi-pros often case a neighborhood first. They may spend a few hours sitting in a car observing, jog down the road, knock on the front door, or drive slowly through a neighborhood. If you see odd behavior – report it! Once a home is targeted, entry is more likely through a forced back door than by picking a front door lock. A closed patio gate, and a custom bar (or a broom handle) across a sliding patio door will be a deterrent if there are easier targets nearby. Visible valuables such as laptops left in a car or door keys left in full view of a glass door may encourage someone to risk a quick break-in. A barking dog or a wireless porch camera will act as a deterrent. If you have an alarm, set it; be a good neighbor and investigate or report an ongoing alarm! Most burglars are in and out in 10 minutes or less, but they will move on in seconds if you make their job too hard or the risk too great.



As the holidays approach, crimes of opportunity peak: people may follow USPS trucks or drive slowly through a neighborhood looking for Amazon boxes left on a doorstep. Track packages and ask neighbors to look out for deliveries if you are going to be away during a delivery. It is a good idea to never mention vacation plans or work schedules to repairmen or contactors who come to your home – they may pass your information on to a friend in a less honest business. If you are going to be away from home for a while ask a neighbor to keep an eye out and make a request for a Sheriff’s deputy to check your property while you are away. www.sccgov.org/sites/sheriff/Pages/pcr.aspx

OCTOBER 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.

DAY OF THE HORSE

Dates: 10am – 4pm, Saturday October 8th

Activity: Horses have enriched the lives those who ride and care for them, and have made the town of Woodside a unique community. The Day of the Horse is a day of fun and festivities, held every second Saturday of October. The Horse Fair is held in downtown Woodside. There is also a Progressive Trail Ride for experienced riders and their horses. The event is open to the public.

Distance: 19 miles, 24 min

Location: Woodside Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, Woodside, 94062

Cost : free

Website: <http://www.whoa94062.org/index.php/day-of-the-horse>



FAMILY SUNDAY AT CANTOR ARTS CENTER

Dates: Sunday October 9th

Activity: Explore art objects in the galleries with a docent. Experiment with art materials and new techniques at the Drop-in Studio. All visitors are encouraged to participate. Registration is not required and visitors can work at their own pace. Check out an Art Pack that includes themed activities for visitors of all ages and abilities, with materials for sketching while visiting the galleries.

Distance: 18.1 miles, 25 min

Location: Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University

Cost : free

Website: https://museum.stanford.edu/participate/family_focus.html



FAMILY/SMALL GROUP LIVE-ABOARD OVERNIGHT

Dates: 5pm Saturday October 1st – 10am Sunday October 2nd

Activity: Come aboard and experience a night in the life of a sailor on a WWII aircraft carrier! Sleep in restored berthing compartments where the real USS Hornet crew lived. Enjoy dinner and breakfast in the Crew's Mess. Learn about this famous aircraft carrier's daring exploits. Earn a special crew member patch & certificate! Next day's admission to the Museum included.

Distance: 53.5 miles, 63 min

Location: USS Hornet Museum, 707 West Hornet Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501

Cost : \$55-\$100/pp

Website: <https://www.uss-hornet.org/calendar/youth-group-live-aboard-overnight-3-2-2-copy-copy-copy/>



THE NEWSLETTER AT A GLANCE

New City of Saratoga smoking ordinance in effect. No smoking is allowed at The Vineyards, indoors or out.

Neighborhood watch – see something, say something!

Fall supersize dumpsters coming in October

Next Board meeting – Thu Oct 13th @ 7pm

Fall Wine tasting – Fri Nov 4th @ 7pm

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Anna Scicinska, Carole Lunny, Linglin Niu

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. Letters and articles submitted by residents will go into the next newsletter to go to print.

