



The Grapevine



OCT / NOV 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 November 10th 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.

OCTOBER NEWS

The Vineyards Fall Wine Tasting is scheduled for Friday November 4th. The wine theme is "favorite wines" – any region, any style, either single grape varietals or blends. Please bring one bottle of wine and plate of snacks to share. This Clubhouse event starts at 7:30pm.

Save the date for the Annual Holiday Party at the Clubhouse on the afternoon of Saturday December 10th.

Our attorney, Jeff Barnett, has added the final edits to our new Governing Documents. The revised and updated Bylaws and CC&Rs are ready to be sent to the Membership for a vote. A letter explaining all of the major changes will accompany the documents. Do remember that many of the changes were mandated by the Davis Sterling act. There will be an information meeting in December shortly after the documents and ballots are sent out – please attend this meeting to clarify any remaining questions you may have.

The Board voted to accept the Commercial Tree bid to carry out our annual tree maintenance. This contract is to perform trimming, pruning and a few removals of diseased or dead trees, as per the advice of our arborist. The work will take about two weeks.

STORAGE & MOVING CONTAINERS

If you need to reserve one or more perimeter parking spaces for moving "PODS" or "uHaul" containers, please remember to contact CMS or the Board for permission and advice on where best to place it. Some areas on the perimeter may need to be kept clear (for example for concrete maintenance, landscaping work, or for the semi-annual oversized dumpsters). Parking in an area where such work is scheduled could incur needless additional costs if you are required to move your container after it is delivered!

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

SECURITY UPDATE

We have new security cameras at the entrance gate that can be monitored in real time by Board members and CMS, alongside our other security cameras. These cameras have license plates recognition technology to log all cars entering and leaving, as well as recording foot traffic coming in and out of The Vineyards. This information is stored with a time stamp and will be used to identify people or vehicles suspected of entering The Vineyards for criminal purposes.

Please report all criminal activity immediately (whether the attempt is successful or not) to the Sheriff and also to CMS. The sooner an incident is reported to CMS, the easier it will be to locate all relevant evidence in the security camera archive, and give this evidence directly to the Sheriff. In the last few weeks before the new cameras were installed, there were two unsuccessful break-in attempts at The Vineyards, one through a front door and one through a sliding patio door. Also, a newly planted Persimmon tree was stolen from the ground on the perimeter near the 700s. Vineyards residents are automatically members of our neighborhood watch. **If you see something, say something!**

In September, San Jose Police arrested 7 suspects in a burglary ring responsible for over 200 residential burglaries in San Jose and the West Valley area, which includes Saratoga. The Sheriff's Office, along with 10 other local police forces, collaborated in the investigation and arrest of the individuals believed to have contributed to a recent local spike in property crimes. The Saratoga Sheriff's Office also caught 2 other suspects in the same ring while they were in the process of burgling a home.

The run up to the holidays typically sees an annual spike in opportunist crimes. Please be vigilant about such things as doorstep parcel deliveries, and bags or valuables left in cars. If you see people acting suspiciously please take a photo of them or their vehicle with your cell phone. Suspicious activity should not be ignored. If you would rather not leave your name when you call the Sheriff's office, you can request anonymity.

WE VOLUNTEER BECAUSE...

Please share your story about the charitable or non-profit organization you support. Send an email to grapevine@vineyardsofsaratoga.com.

Saratoga celebrated its 60th anniversary year of incorporation (1956) on September 17th. It was a wonderful celebration featuring floats, classic cars, fire engines, historical re-enactments, and musicians. Many Saratoga residents took part, and there were hundreds of spectators. As popular local band, "The Skillet-Lickers", played at the museum, the crowd sang along to old-time songs, and a wonderful time was had by all.

Vineyards resident, Gail Hugger, has volunteered at Saratoga Museum for about 4 years. She works both as a general museum docent and an education docent – helping with school class visits. "I don't have a favorite exhibit," says Gail, "but I really like the way Saratoga Museum is set up. It begins with displays of early Native America history, the Spanish rancho period, the earliest settlers that made the overland trek to California, the timber/logging era, the mineral spring and resorts in the foothills. Then comes the era when Santa Clara Valley and Saratoga were in the Valley of Hearts' Delight, with miles of orchards from south county up the Peninsula, prompting the local "Blossom Festival"."

The museum consists of three historical buildings: there is the main museum that chronicles Saratoga's history from the Native American days through the middle of the 1900's. The permanent exhibits are on the perimeter walls of the museum and the revolving exhibits are in the center of the room. There is also the "McWilliams House" with period furniture and a one-room schoolhouse. The museum is planning a future blacksmith shop when funding becomes available. To quote Gail, "If you haven't visited the Saratoga Museum, you have missed a real treat."

Did you know that the wife and daughters of the infamous John Brown (Civil War era) came to California after Brown's ill-fated attack on the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry? To escape the notoriety after he was captured and hung, Mary Brown moved as far west as possible and settled in Saratoga. Museum docents can tell visitors a few stories about the family and show their portraits. Mary and many of her relatives are buried in Madronia Cemetery in Saratoga. "Gone With the Wind" star, Olivia de Havilland, and her celebrated sister, Joan Fontaine, also lived in Saratoga during their youth. Olivia turned 100 this year and received remembrances and gifts from Saratoga.

The museum can always welcomes additional volunteers and docents. Helping out as a docent or with special events is a great way to meet more of your Saratoga neighbors.

Stop by the Saratoga History Museum at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road, Saratoga and visit the new exhibit, "A Century of Key Events in Saratoga History." This exhibit covers 11 significant events beginning in 1866 and ending in 1956 with Saratoga's incorporation. The exhibit will run until Nov 15th. www.saratogahistory.com



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



GARAGE DOS AND DON'TS

Both the garages in blocks and those which are an integral part of the home in some floor plans are classified as "exclusive use common area"; and, as such, cannot be considered an extension of your home for certain purposes.

If your garage is located in a communal block, the electric power is paid for directly by the HOA. Common Area circuits power the exterior and interior lights as well as the motor for opening the garage door. If you have a power outlet, it may be used for a small appliance for a short period of time – for example to plug in a car vacuum cleaner. However, no large appliances (such as additional refrigerators or freezers) can be plugged in to the power supply in any garage in a communal block. Residents with a garage in a block **may not** use Common Area power outlets to charge a plug-in car, even if it can be charged using a 110V power outlet.

If your garage is an integral part of your home, then the electric power is part of your domestic circuit and the resident pays the monthly bill for power. In this case the power supply in your garage can be used for more purposes.

Electric vehicles: In recent months, several residents have inquired about the possibility of fitting charging stations for EVs either in a garage or outside. Since EVs are becoming more common, the board has started investigating how and when The Vineyards can make the necessary changes to accommodate this new technology. For anyone thinking about buying or leasing an EV, this process will likely take some time, so please be patient! Practical considerations that need to be looked at include checking to see if the electric circuits currently serving The Vineyards have sufficient capacity, as well as considering additional insurance & legal requirements. In the meantime, residents must apply for permission from the Board before installing a car charging station in their garage. A power cable cannot be run from your house to a vehicle parked in any outdoor parking space, as this presents a tripping hazard in the Common Area.

A WORD TO THE WISE ON WOOD SMOKE

by Vineyards resident Anthony R. Fisher. Ph.D.

One of the best ways to help 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.

The main adverse health impact of burning wood, manufactured fireplace logs or similar products in common fireplaces is wood smoke, which contains harmful particulate matter (PM) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). On its web site, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District states: "During the winter, smoke from residential wood burning is the leading cause of air pollution in the Bay Area. Small particles and toxic chemicals from wood smoke can cause serious health problems, especially in children, older adults, and those with heart or respiratory problems."

Additionally, the California Air Resources Board in its Wood Burning Handbook states: "...Wood smoke also contains VOCs 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)..." Furthermore, this handbook states the emitted particulate matter (PM) includes very fine particles of 2.5 microns or less in diameter (PM2.5), which "pose an increased health risk because they can lodge deep in the lungs and contain substances that are particularly harmful to human health, contributing to lung diseases and cancer."

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. And finally, the PM2.5 impact from such wood burning fireplaces on surrounding condominiums not burning wood, can be similar to the concentrations experienced from cigarette smoking, whose type of smoke is banned at the Vineyards.

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

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.



PALO ALTO TRICK-OR-TREAT & HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

Dates: 10am – 2pm, Sunday October 30th

Activities: All day Trick or Treat at over 30 businesses on the street. Carnival games, crafts & raffle, Halloween photos, explore a Police Car & Fire Truck, dance performance, story time, children's musician, Stanford Band, costume contest (pre-register online) with live music by School Of Rock

Distance: 15.8 miles, 23 min

Location: 299 S. California Ave, Suite 120, Palo Alto

Cost : free

Website: www.blossombirth.org/halloween.html



SARATOGA – ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

Date: 2pm – late, Saturday November 26th

Activities: Enjoy the Wine Stroll from 2pm to 5pm, and the Tree Lighting at 5:30 pm. Go shopping in Saratoga Village on Small Business Saturday!

Distance: 2.2 miles, 6 min

Location: Blaney Plaza, Big Basin Way x HWY 9, Saratoga

Cost: free

Website: www.saratoga.ca.us/treelighting.

SANTANA ROW – ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

Date: 3pm – 9pm, Tuesday November 15th

Activity: Photos with Santa Claus, live music, costumed characters, special guests, performances by local theater groups and the lighting of the 40-foot Christmas tree.

Distance: 6.4 miles, 15 min

Location: Santana Row, San Jose, CA

Cost : free

Website: www.santanarow.com/events/annual-tree-lighting-ceremony/



LUZIA by Cirque Du Soleil

Dates: November 17th 2016 – January 29th, 2017

Activity: Discover LUZIA, the new Big Top show by Cirque du Soleil; where a waking dream transports you to an imaginary Mexico..

Distance: 46.4 miles, 45 min

Location: AT&T Park, San Francisco

Cost : \$49 - \$115

Website: www.cirquedusoleil.com/luzia#about

THE NEWSLETTER AT A GLANCE

New City of Saratoga no smoking ordinance in effect. There is no smoking allowed at the Vineyards, indoors or out.

Neighborhood watch – see something, say something!

Holiday Party – Save the date – Saturday December 10th

Next Board meeting – Thu Oct 10th @ 7pm

Fall Wine tasting – Fri Nov 4th @ 7:30pm

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.

