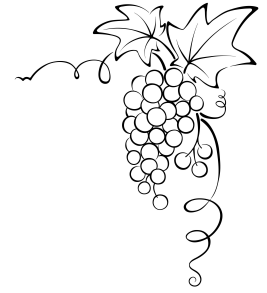




# The Grapevine



## 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>	Anna Scicinska
<b>Director</b>	Jeff Klopotic
<b>Director</b>	Tom Schmidt

## 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)

Welcome wagon for new residents  
Contact Katherine Weiss or Gia Biagi  
[welcomewagon@vineyardsofsaratoga.com](mailto:welcomewagon@vineyardsofsaratoga.com)

## HELPFUL CONTACTS

### Community Management Services

To report problems with outdoor lights or sprinklers and request repairs please call or email CMS customer service:

[cs@communitymanagement.com](mailto:cs@communitymanagement.com)

Telephone 408-559-1977

Fax number 408-559-1970

**Bill Oldfield, Association Manager**  
[boldfield@communitymanagement.com](mailto:boldfield@communitymanagement.com)

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



NOV/DEC 2017

## THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled on Thursday Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

## NOVEMBER NEWS

**Festive wishes of health and happiness for Thanksgiving and the rest of the Holiday Season. We extend a particularly warm welcome to all new residents who joined the Vineyards community in the last year.**

## Happy Thanksgiving



**Bill Oldfield of CMS** is our new community manager. Bill will continue to work closely with Luis Heredia to ensure a smooth transfer.

**Many thanks to Carole D for a great winetasting event.** We tried a number of different sparkling wines including California sparkling wines made using the 'méthode champenoise', French Cremant, German Sekt, and Italian Prosecco. For red wine we tried several local Syrahs. The appetizers were very festive too, including home-made bruschetta, stuffed dates, spinach wheels, and samosas.

**The fall gutter cleaning** will take place during the next few weeks. If your gutters clog during heavy rains please call CMS to schedule a free follow up appointment. In the meantime, make sure that you brush any fallen leaves away from all drainage points in your patio area.

**All residents and owners are invited to the Annual Holiday Party at 4pm on Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup>. See over for more details.**

## COMMUNITY NEWS



# CHEERS – IT’S THE VINEYARDS HOLIDAY PARTY

**Saturday, December 2nd, 2017 @ 4:00 pm**  
**Vineyards Clubhouse**

**Bring your favorite appetizer, holiday goodie and/or drink to share**



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### ANNUAL BOARD MEETING & BOARD VACANCIES

In preparation for the annual meeting and board member election, here is a helpful timeline. Our seven Vineyards HOA directors are elected to a two-year term. Four board positions fall vacant in 2018. **If you are a member in good standing & interested in serving your community as a board member, please submit a Statement of Candidacy and a contact phone number to Bill Oldfield at CMS before the January board meeting.**

In January all homeowners will receive an information packet and ballot papers. At the balloting early next year, the expiring terms will be filled, with the results announced at the Annual Meeting in February.

More information will follow in the December newsletter.

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### SECURITY UPDATE

So far three incidents have been recorded on our security surveillance cameras and successfully resolved by the police.

Holiday season usually sees an uptick in crimes of opportunity such as car break-ins. Deter theft from parked cars by locking any items that may tempt a thief out of view in the trunk. Thefts of delivery items left in the porch also typically increase as people start to order holiday gifts online. If you are worried about this, and shipping to your workplace is not an option, then Amazon provides an alternative delivery via secure locker boxes – our closest, codenamed ‘Deurot’, is conveniently located at the Safeway on Sunnyvale-Saratoga Avenue.

While our mailboxes remain a target you may also want to consider the free USPS Informed Delivery service, which lets you preview letter mail and track packages. <https://informedelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action>

The 300’s mailboxes have been replaced. For those who still need to pick up mail at the Post Office please call and keep calling Saratoga PO. The Board and CMS cannot do this, as only the addressee is allowed by law to inquire about their own mail and/or mail service. The more people call, the faster the PO will fix our broken mailbox!

**Contact: District Office (800)275-8777 (case number is CA135151996), Rhoda at Saratoga PO (408)867-1159.**

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### PLANNING SOME UPGRADES? YOU MAY NEED PERMISSION ... AND A PERMIT

Architectural permission application forms are available on the Vineyards website. Upgrades like new windows or front doors require HOA architectural permission. Your window, electrical, and plumbing projects will also require a permit from the City of Saratoga. If in doubt call CMS or attend a Board meeting and ask for advice before you start. Your project may be “red-tagged” (stopped pending permits and inspections) if you do not follow HOA or city guidelines.

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**PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE THE OCCUPANCY FORM** Whenever a resident buys a new car and/or you sign a contract with new tenants please supply CMS with updated details. In the event of an emergency it is critical that CMS or the Board can contact residents quickly. There was a medical emergency involving a tenant last month, and having instant access to names and phone numbers was crucial in getting help and contacting family members.

## **ELECTRIC VEHICLES cannot be charged in Common Area garages**

Our Common Area electrical circuits were designed to power lights and garage openers only. The amount of current an EV draws may easily overload these circuits, posing a fire risk for adjoining garages and residential units. Additionally, the electricity bill for the Common Area garage circuits is paid by the HOA. Owners of units with garages on the same electrical circuit board as the unit itself, paid for by the homeowner, may install an EV Charger. EV owners need to obtain permits from the City of Saratoga, and a qualified electrician must carry out the modification. If in doubt, ask !!!

## **WINTER SPARE THE AIR IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA**

The Winter Spare the Air season runs from November through February. Each day, the Air District issues an air quality forecast for the next day. If air quality is forecast to be unhealthy, a Winter Spare the Air Alert will be called. The alert will be in effect the entire next day, for a full 24 hours. During a Winter Spare the Air day, it is illegal to burn wood, manufactured fire logs, pellets, or any other solid fuels in your fireplace, woodstove, or outdoor fire pit. On average, there are 15 – 20 Winter Spare the Air Alerts each winter.

**To find out if a *Winter Spare the Air Alert* is in effect, you can call 1-877- 4NO-BURN (1-877-466-2876), sign up for a phone alert 1-800-430-1515, or download the Spare The Air app for your smartphone. Residents can find more information on the website <http://sparetheair.org>.**



## **WORD TO THE WISE ON WOOD BURNING**

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

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. Exposure to PM2.5 may even cause early death in people with existing heart and lung disease."

In order to minimize the levels of indoor combustion pollutants emitted from older types of fireplaces, like the original fireplaces installed at the Vineyards of Saratoga, 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 cigarette smoking, which is banned in the Vineyards of Saratoga. In summary, one of the best ways to help protect you and/or your neighbors from the adverse effects of toxic air pollutants and potentially save money, is to avoid burning wood, manufactured fireplace logs or similar products in any fireplace at the Vineyards of Saratoga.

*This article is by a Vineyard resident, and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Vineyards of Saratoga.*

## **SAFETY AFTER DARK**

As our evenings get darker earlier, please take common sense measures to stay safe. Cyclists, joggers, and dog walkers are advised to use lights, and to wear clothing with reflectors or in light colors that increase visibility after dark.

Drivers need to slow down – our low-level street lighting makes it hard to see pedestrians emerging from side paths and between parked cars. The perimeter road has several sharp bends which should be approached at a much slower speed than the 15 MPH site limit!

**Speeding drivers on Vineyard Lane risk injuring or startling pedestrians and pets.**



## UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

If you know of an upcoming event that you think other Vineyards residents would enjoy and like to hear about, please e-mail the details to the Grapevine Team at [grapevine@vineyardsofsaratoga.com](mailto:grapevine@vineyardsofsaratoga.com).



### CITY OF SARATOGA TREE LIGHTING

**Dates:** November 24<sup>th</sup>, 5 – 8pm      **Distance:** 1 mile      **Cost:** free / \$40 wine stroll ticket  
**Activity:** Kick off the holidays at the annual Saratoga Holiday Tree Lighting and Wine Stroll! The Tree Lighting will be at 5:30pm in Blaney Plaza. Enjoy shopping in Saratoga Village after the ceremony.  
**Website:** [www.saratoga.ca.us/treelighting](http://www.saratoga.ca.us/treelighting). For Wine Stroll tickets (408.867.0753) or [www.saratogachamber.org](http://www.saratogachamber.org).

### FANTASY OF LIGHTS AT VASONA

**Activity 1: Walk Thru.** Stroll through the light displays in the park while enjoying carolers, food trucks, hot cocoa, photo booths, music, and so much more! Pre-booked tickets only. Free parking & shuttle at NETFLIX, 121 Albright Way.  
**Dates:** Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4pm – 9pm      **Cost:** \$0 under 4, \$5 kids, \$10 adults  
**Activity 2: Drive Thru.** Drive through large animated displays while listening to Holiday music on your car radio. Enjoy over 50 themed displays and a 90-foot twinkling tree. Volunteer to help? You'll receive a complimentary pass!  
**Dates:** Dec 5<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 6pm - 10 pm      **Cost:** \$20 car, \$50 bus  
**Location:** Vasona Park, Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos      **Distance:** 6 miles  
**Website:** <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/foI/Pages/AnnualFoL.aspx>

### WINTER SOLSTICE CONCERT

**Date:** Dec 17<sup>th</sup>, 3pm & 7pm      **Cost:** \$50 / \$56  
**Activity:** Winter Solstice 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert. A joyous holiday concert to toast the warm traditions of the season. A mix of original music and classics drawn from the platinum selling Windham Hill Winter Solstice series.  
**Location:** Villa Montalvo, 15400 Montalvo Road, Saratoga      **Distance:** 3.2 miles  
**Website:** [http://montalvoarts.org/events/windham\\_hill\\_2017/](http://montalvoarts.org/events/windham_hill_2017/)

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### CITY OF SARATOGA FOOD & TOY DRIVE

'Tis the season! Help those in need by making a contribution to the annual City of Saratoga Food and Toy Drive. Drop off new, unwrapped toys and donations of non-perishable food through December 20. Toys can be dropped off at City Hall, the Joan Pisani Community Center, Senior Center, and Historical Museum. Food donations can be delivered to the Joan Pisani Community Center, Senior Center, Saratoga Prospect Center, and Saratoga Library.

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### THE NEWSLETTER AT A GLANCE

Bill Oldfield is our new CMS community manager  
Do not charge EVs in Common Area garages  
Stay safe after dark. Use flashlights. Drivers slow down!  
Winter Spare the Air – no wood burning days

Next Board meeting – Thu Dec 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm  
Holiday Party – Sat Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 4pm  
Calling for candidates for HOA Board elections  
Fall gutter cleaning in December

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### 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, Carole Lunny, Par Moroak

