



The Grapevine



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim Foley
Vice-President	Michael Toback
Secretary	Laurel Smith
Treasurer	Gloria Felcyn
Director	Anna Scicinska
Director	Jeff 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

Community Management Services

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

cs@communitymanagement.com

Telephone 408-559-1977

Fax number 408-559-1970

Luis Heredia, Association Manager

lheredia@communitymanagement.com

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



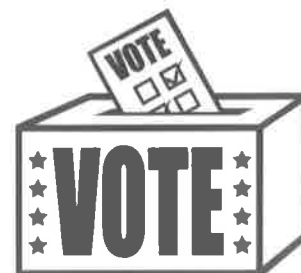
BOARD VACANCIES

JAN / FEB 2017

In preparation for the Annual Meeting and Board Member election, all homeowners have received an information packet and ballot papers for the board election. The Board requests that even if you are not planning to attend the annual meeting to please fill out your ballot and mail it in, to ensure we have a quorum and are able to hold the meeting. The results of the elections will be announced at the Annual Meeting on February 9th.

There will be a nominee forum at 10AM on Saturday January 21st – this is your chance to meet and question the nominees.

The nominating committee chaired by Michael Toback has confirmed four candidates on the ballot for the three expiring terms. The nominees are: Jim Foley, Tom Schmidt, Anna Scicinska, and Xiaojie Zhang. Please see over to read the candidate statements.



GOVERNING DOCUMENT VOTE

Another important ballot you have received recently is for the new Governing Documents. Please attend the Town Hall Meeting at 10 am on Saturday January 21st for a presentation on some of the changes and important reasons behind them. Bring your questions and concerns.

The Board recommends the approval of the Governing Documents. Please submit your ballots as soon as possible after the meeting.

The Governing Document & Board nominee ballots should be mailed back to CMS in the two separate sealed stamped envelopes provided.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

The Annual Meeting is on Thursday February 9th at 7:00pm.

The Vineyards of Saratoga is holding its Annual Meeting of the Membership in the Clubhouse. At this once a year event you will hear about the projects that were undertaken by the board during the past year. You will also get information about upcoming projects and events. Please mark your calendars and join us at the Clubhouse at 7PM on February 9th.

JANUARY NEWS

Have you noticed the new table and floor lamps in the Clubhouse? Board members Laurel and Anna chose these finishing touches to the Clubhouse lounge. The Tiffany style shades coordinate with the rustic feel of the upstairs décor, and create a warm and inviting space.

Please mark your calendars with some upcoming social events – the Vineyards Superbowl Party is on Sunday February 5th and a South American themed Wine Tasting will be held on Friday February 24th. Please note that these events are open to Vineyards residents only.

Planning any home improvements? Before you start, check to see if you need Board approval or City of Saratoga permits. "Does your project require planning permission?" in the June 2015 Grapevine may be helpful.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NEW GOVERNING DOCUMENTS MEETING

Information Meeting on Saturday January 21st at 10AM in the Clubhouse. Please bring all your questions and concerns to this Town Hall style meeting. The new Bylaws and CC&Rs are ready for a vote by the membership. Owners have received a voting package, which includes a full copy of the proposed docs. Do bear in mind that many of the changes are as a result of the new Davis-Sterling laws that apply to all condo complexes in California. Other proposed changes to the CC&Rs will help stabilize monthly dues and prevent the escalation of annual budget costs. The Board recommends the approval of the Governing Documents.

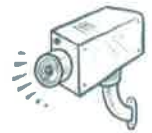
The consultation period is set by law – in line with this CMS will count votes at noon on March 15th 2017. As an incentive to complete this process quickly and efficiently the first 75 members to send in their ballot (not including Board members) will receive a \$10 gift certificate from Gene's Grocery Store. These members will further be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate from Gene's.

COYOTE SIGHTINGS.

Feed your pets indoors & keep your cats indoors overnight! Last month we had three sightings of a coyote on the HWY 85 side of the Vineyards. A sole coyote is rarely a problem, but packs have been known to attack domestic pets. Please report any further sightings to the board. Apropos – has anyone seen the feral cats recently? It looks like they moved on! **Keep the critters away – always tie up your garbage bags and close the lids on the dumpsters.**

SECURITY UPDATE

Last month we reported on one of two recent mailbox break-ins that occurred in the middle of the night. Two outgoing mailbox slots in the 700s and 200s were opened with a crow bar. The good news is that we were able to supply the Sheriff with details of 5 license plates of vehicles that drove through the gate in the relevant time period, and which were not registered to Vineyards residents.



After recent training, the Clubhouse cameras and the new gate security system can be viewed by Board Members in real time, and the archived data can be accessed by the Security Committee members and Board President. The license plate recognition software allows us to sort between cars registered at the Vineyards (via the Occupancy Form all residents need to complete), our regular visitors (like the Landscape crew and Pool guy), and filter these out to leave a list of the unknown license plates. These cameras are high resolution, and also clearly show pedestrians and cyclists.

FITNESS ROOM

The board approved a modest budget to refurbish some of our exercise equipment. In addition, the hand weights will be replaced with a new set, and we will be removing several items that are surplus to requirements. Tom Schmidt is taking the lead on this initiative. Please email Tom with any suggestions through the newsletter email.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE VINEYARDS SUPERBOWL PARTY?

Date: Sunday, February 5th

Time: 3 PM (kickoff at 3:30 PM)

Place: The Clubhouse

Pot luck: Bring your favorite finger foods



Volunteers needed for set up (2pm) and clean up (after game) - please contact Chris Burns or Anna Scicinska

WINE TASTING

Save the date Friday evening Feb 24th for the next Vineyards Wine Tasting Event – featuring South American wines.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR BOARD ELECTIONS

The candidate statements provided herewith were prepared and submitted by the candidates, who are solely responsible for the content of the statements. Pursuant to California Civil Code Section 5101(a)(1), the Association cannot redact or edit any content from the candidate statements, and the Association is not responsible for the content of the candidate statements.

JAMES W. FOLEY Saratoga resident since 1956. Vineyards owner for 40+ years. Board President since 2002.
Licensed Professional Engineer and Licensed General Contractor.

Past member of the Maintenance Committee and Finance Committee - helped initiate sorely needed infrastructure projects. While President, the Board implemented re-roofing, fence replacements, deck replacements, complete re-painting twice, pools rehabilitation, clubhouse re-model, extensive exterior wood repair, drainage improvements, paving, landscaping, and much more. I am committed to continue producing an accurate annual reserve study – our road map for the future. I am dedicated to maintaining the infrastructure of The Vineyards and assuring its financial solvency while keeping the homeowners dues to the minimum required to accomplish this goal.

THOMAS T. SCHMIDT Former IT Business Owner of 25+ years, now retired. Past Certifications as IT Professional.
Real Estate Investment Property owner and manager for over 40 years.

While new to the area, I bring a fresh outside view to the board. As an interim board member, appointed to fill a vacancy, I have gained valuable insight to the challenges facing this board, and I stand committed to maintaining the high standards enjoyed by our residents. These standards include security, serenity, and fiscal conservatism.

As a new member I have immediately involved myself with fitness room evaluation, and pending update. Saving money by refurbishment rather than replacement, and better utilization of the space will mean a better experience for users. I have also led the safety project to upgrade gas meter protection posts by arranging for competitive quotes that will save several thousand dollars, and improve safety with the installation of metal posts rather than the wooden ones being replaced.

Keeping the HOA costs down so that the monthly dues level is stable is important to all of us.

I value a team approach to problem solving and believe that we have the players to be effective in maintaining the high standards already established.

ANNA SCICINSKA My husband and I have lived in the Vineyards since 2010. We are very happy to be live in this well-kept and friendly community. I have served on the Board for 4 years. Over the past term I have contributed in the following areas:

- 1. Writing and editing the Grapevine newsletter.** The Grapevine addresses issues that affect The Vineyards community directly and Saratoga in general. New regular items like the Family Activities add useful local interest info.
- 2. Transparency and consistency.** During board meetings I have always advocated considering multiple bids on big contracts. Complaints need to be assessed for accuracy, and that the Board response should be even-handed, fair and consistent.
- 3. Review of update of Governing Documents.** For over two years board members were engaged in the long and painstaking work of revising the Governing Documents. Some of the proposed changes to the CC&Rs will help stabilize monthly dues and prevent the escalation of two of the biggest line item costs (water and garbage), which together account for 15% of our budget.
- 4. Organization of Social Events.** For the past couple of years I have undertaken organization of the Summer Pool Party. Our poolside and Clubhouse events are such a nice opportunity to feel a part of a thriving and friendly community.
- 5. Advocated for pet owners.** As the owner of a dog I am committed to making sure that our pets can enjoy Vineyards life. However, we do have a responsibility to clean up after our pets and prevent nuisance behaviors.

As a non-resident owner of a townhome property on the East Coast, I can relate well to the concerns of both absentee landlords and resident owners. The balance between a viable business opportunity and the responsibilities of an Owner within an HOA can be challenging. By profession I am a Mathematics teacher, in my 13th year at Pinewood School. I am active in the local community, promoting Fair Trade through the International Gift Faire in San Jose, and cooking for Church socials and the American Legion. I am enthusiastic, motivated and happy to continue to offer my time, experience and best efforts to my community of Vineyard neighbors and look forward to receiving your vote.

Sincerely, Anna Scicinska

XIAOJIE ZHANG Hello, my name is Xiaojie Zhang. As many of you know there were broad concerns of the increase of monthly dues for recent a couple of years and the recent proposal on the changes of HOA rules and it is in this context that I volunteered to serve on the board and hope to bring some diversity to the board.

For those of you who don't know me, my family has a child and a pet, and has been part of the Vineyards community for 2 years. I have owned two properties with HOA, and have been living in communities with HOA for past 10 years. The demographic of Vineyards has changed significantly over the recent years, many families with kids have become member of the community. I believe that the community should have a vital input into the decisions made by the board, and to see that to it that all residents are fairly and appropriately represented. I would like to see the further growth of the community, the improved participation of the community in decisions and the maintenance of a level HOA fee set with the current economic situation, with the oversight and accountability that is called for.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for giving me the opportunity to serve the board and feel privileged to represent you. Best regards, Xiaojie

FEBRUARY 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 grandparent would like to hear about, please e-mail the full details to grapevine@vineyardsofsaratoga.com.

MAKERSPACE OPEN STUDIO – TIN FOIL SCULPTURE

Dates: 12pm – 4pm, January 28th – 29th

Activity: Use cardboard shapes, sharpies and aluminum foil to create beautiful art traditionally called *Repujado*. The process creates a beautiful piece of raised art, inspired by Mexican tooling art techniques.

Distance: 5.5 miles, 16 min

Location: NUMU | New Museum Los Gatos, 106 E. Main Street, Los Gatos

Cost: \$5 for Kids and Materials

Website: <http://www.bayarearent.com/Events/index.php/name/MakerSpace-Open-Studio-Tin-Foil-Sculpture/event/15711/>



LUNAR NEW YEAR

Dates: February 4th – 5th

Activity: A celebration of many Asian cultures, Lunar New Year is a time for special foods, gifts, rituals, and family gatherings. Try your hand at traditional crafts like brush painting and paper folding, and enjoy music and dance performances.

Distance: 10 miles, 16 min

Location: Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose

Cost : Free

Website: <https://www.cdm.org/celebrate/community-celebrations/lunar-new-year/>



NATIVE PLANTS PRODUCE FOOD – FAMILY PROGRAM

Dates: 10am – 12pm February 11th

Activity: An introduction to plant foods gathered by Native Americans along the west coast. Mary Kuperman, former teacher, experienced presenter and Los Altos resident, and local Native American speaker, will lead a two-part series of children's programs featuring hands-on games, crafts, food tasting and an overview of artifacts. Learn about the uses and tastes of many local plants, grind acorns, and play a native stick game.

Distance: 10.9 miles, 15 min

Location: Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA

Cost : free

Website: <https://losaltoshistory.org/events/native-plants-produce-food-family-program/>



THE NEWSLETTER AT A GLANCE

Annual meeting – Thu February 9th @ 7 pm
Information Meeting – Sat January 21st @ 10 am
Superbowl party – Sunday February 5th @ 3 pm

Vote for Board Candidates – by February 9th
Vote for New Governing Document – by March 15th
Wine tasting – Friday February 24th (more info next month)

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 Scicska by email at grapevine@vineyardsofsaratoga.com. Letters and articles submitted by residents will go into the next newsletter to go to print.

Anna Scicska, Carole Lunny, Linglin Niu

