



The Grapevine



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP – ELECTION RESULTS

FEB/MAR 2017

The Annual Meeting of the Membership was held on February 9th at 7PM in the Association's Clubhouse. Three directors were elected for a two year term. The following are the results as presented to the membership by the election inspector:

CMS received 81 ballots. These were opened and counted by our election officials Bob Catalano & Tony Fisher.

Jim Foley received 63 votes (elected)

Tom Schmidt received 62 votes (elected)

Anna Scicinska received 59 votes (elected)

Xiaojie Zhang received 25 votes (not elected)

Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting were approved
(75 votes in favor, 1 vote against)

IRS Resolution to move excess operating funds to reserve
account was approved (76 votes in favor, 2 votes against)

President, Jim Foley, presented 2016 accomplishments and 2017 goals. Here are some of the points raised:

Review of Goals for 2016

- Security: New cameras with license plate identification were fitted at the front gate
- Prepare new HOA docs: Proposed governing docs have been sent out & votes will be counted on 3/15/17
- Sanitary Sewer: Ongoing process with WVSD re ownership of laterals and cleanouts
- Redwood trees: 150 trees saved through deep watering, 2 lost due to hazardous proximity to buildings
- Koi pond: The pond was cleaned using a wet vacuum process
- Reflecting Pools: Rehab of Reflecting Pools (fountains) is still a work in progress
- Concrete repairs: These have continued as needed & paths raised by tree roots replaced with brick blocks
- Drought resistant planting: Indigenous replacement plants are chosen for their low water requirements
- Local concerns: Monitoring of SR 85 toll lane project, Abrams property, and the Quito center continues
- Communication: Improvements at the Vineyards Website, new sections at the Grapevine, and new signboards
- Increase in owner and resident participation: New faces at social events, new Security and Welcome committees
- Budget control: The Vineyards General Reserve Fund is 100% funded !!!
- Garbage collection: we still had additional expenses for clearing up overflowing dumpsters. What is going on???

Other accomplishments for 2016

- The Welcome wagon was re-started by Kathleen Weiss, Gia Biaggi, and Anna Scicinska
- Active volunteer Tom Schmidt was appointed to the Board to replace Dave Katleman
- We had social events including the summer pool party, holiday party, and restarted the wine tasting evenings
- The Clubhouse project was completed with new lamps for the second floor
- The Vineyards workshop was cleaned out
- Dumpster enclosure #3 was enlarged

Goals for 2017

- Flat roof maintenance: Repair and / or replacement
- Pavement Sealing: Reseal Vineyard Lane and the courtyards
- Water conservation: Our water bills keep rising despite the easing of drought conditions, so we will continue to replace areas under maintenance with drip irrigation and drought resistant plants better suited to our climate
- Reflection Pools: We need to replace the crumbling stone and re-finish the fountain pools
- Fitness Center: Repair or replace weights and equipment, and ensure that we maintain the treadmills etc...
- Reconcile water billing from SJWC
- Garbage / trash is a problem that requires the cooperation of all Vineyards residents!!! Can we do better ????

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

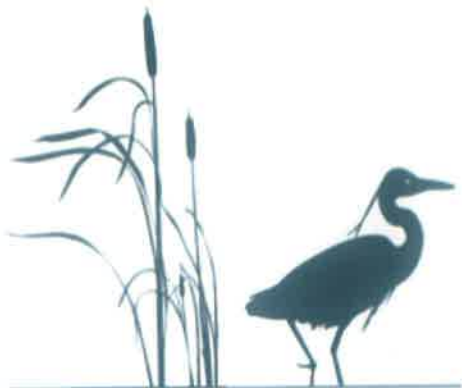
Community Management Services

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



THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board meeting is on Thursday March 12th 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 during the next board meeting.

FEB/MAR NEWS

If you have not returned your ballot for the new Governing Documents please do so **ASAP**. Although the deadline is March 15th, please do not leave this important task to the last minute.



There are still a few Gene's gift certificates up for grabs, so mail in that ballot paper and treat yourself to an additional specialty food item from our local market.

Five homeowners sent their Governing Document ballot in the Board Election envelopes – please check and contact Luis at CMS if you think you may have sent one of these in!

Here are two social events to put into your calendars:

Local pizzeria MOD Pizza (next door to Trader Joe's) is offering a Vineyards Special Promotion. Have dinner there on Tuesday 21st March (5 – 9 pm), and bring the flier enclosed in this newsletter to receive a voucher for a free MOD pizza or salad.

The next wine tasting evening will be on Friday March 3rd at 7:30pm (please note that this is a change from the previously posted date). The theme will be South American wines. Bring one bottle per unit, wine glasses, and an appetizer to share. Many thanks to Carole D. for organizing these!

Welcome Wagon is making the rounds! Katherine Weiss and Gia Biagi have been out greeting our new neighbors with a Welcome Binder full of important information and local resources. Have you recently moved to the Vineyards? There has been a good amount of turnover these past several months and we want to be sure the Welcome Wagon meet and greet all recent owners and renters. If they haven't gotten to you, please email welcomewagon@vineyardsofsaratoga.com with your name, house number and the best time for them to come by.

Please check out the surplus gym equipment in the Clubhouse and contact Jeff K. or Tom S. to claim one of these working items. The shaker belt is a vintage beauty!

Congratulations to our Vineyards CERT Team.

Our neighbors who volunteered to complete CERT training and the Vineyards have been designated an official CERT division. This means that we will be storing emergency supplies to help Vineyards residents in the event of a natural or manmade disaster on site, making coordinating an emergency response much easier and faster.



COMMUNITY CORNER

The neighborhood website Nextdoor has more Vineyards residents than ever, which is great news. Please bear in mind however, that this is a public access website for posting quick info or questions, such as announcing an unexpected utility shutoff, or help finding a piano teacher, or a lost pet. It is not an alternative means of communication with CMS or the Board, and as it is a public forum, it should never be used to air personal grievances between neighbors!!! The appropriate channel for any HOA business is to bring the matter directly to a Board member, raise it in Open Forum before the monthly meeting, or contact CMS directly.

What is Nextdoor? Nextdoor is a social networking service for local neighborhoods in the United States. It allows users to connect with people who live in their neighborhood for a variety of reasons. Best of all, it's a great way to reach out to Saratoga and Vineyards residents for 'local conversations' and information.



Why should I use Nextdoor? Some great reasons to use Nextdoor are:

1. To hear about local events from the City of Saratoga, and get advice on potential security issues from the Sheriff.
2. To find out about garage sales and ask for contractor or babysitter recommendations from local residents.
3. To help reunite lost pets and their owners.

In addition to Saratoga wide information, those who sign up with a Vineyards Lane address will also receive Vineyards Alerts as they arise, (versus monthly information via our Grapevine Newsletter). For example, last summer Vineyards neighbors shared up to the minute information about the sudden main water shutoff on Nextdoor.

How do I sign-up? Using any Internet browser enter www.nextdoor.com
Enter your Home Address (which assigns you to your Saratoga neighborhood)
Enter your preferred Email and Password as instructed (for your private use only)

How do I get Nextdoor notifications? Once you sign up, you will start receiving emails from Nextdoor that contain current information in your neighborhood and Saratoga. You can also login to www.nextdoor.com at anytime to check what's happening in your community.

Insurance updates We recently renegotiated our HOA insurance and switched back to Farmers. Other than lowering the annual rate for the HOA, Farmers will also offer reduced rates to homeowners who switch to Farmers. Another benefit of having the same insurance company for indoor and outdoor issues is that the same agent will take care of your claim, and you will avoid two insurers fighting to reach a split decision. The Vineyards agent is James O'Connor, located at the offices of Michael O'Connor Farmers Insurance, 18809 Cox Ave.

On another note concerning insurance, all residents must have a suitable condo owner (HO6) policy, and landlords need to add a business rider or buy a commercial insurance policy. "Landlord homeowner" policies cover business specific line items such as loss of rent, which "resident homeowners" policies would not include. All renters should have a Renter's Insurance policy to insure their belongings, as these will not be covered by their Landlord's Insurance.

TRASH, DOG POOP AND BEING A NEIGHBORLY DRIVER ...

1. Let's start with the easy one ... carry poo bags and pick up after your dog! Finding dog poop on the roads, lawns, or creek side is not at all pleasant for others. Tell your guests and dog-walkers too. This situation had improved, but recently despite all the jaunty green dog warning signs, it's getting worse again,. If you see something, say something!

2. The next one should be a no-brainer too ... cars on Vineyard Lane should keep below the posted limit of 15 MPH. The Vineyards is a residential neighborhood with very few sidewalks, so drivers, cyclists, children, pedestrians, joggers, and people out with their pets all have to share the perimeter road. **For the sake of our safety drive below the 15 MPH speed limit! Be neighborly and aware of all other road users.**



3. Trash, dumpsters, recycling, and unintended consequences. Every time an item is left on the ground in the dumpster enclosure, every time a box is not broken flat, every time a piece of furniture is dumped (we had a tree in a pot and a lamp last week for goodness sake), someone has to put it right. The HOA has to pay that someone, and the costs are currently running at about \$500 per month – while \$3 per month per unit may not seem that much, it adds up to a staggering \$6000 of NEEDLESS expense in one year.

Essentially, 1.5% of 2017-18 Operating Fund is being wasted on needless trash management! This expense hits both owner residents and landlords in the pocket, especially when our monthly dues have to go up to keep pace with rising expenses. So please, don't balance bags of garbage onto an overfilled dumpster – go to the next enclosure. Make sure recycled cardboard boxes are flattened. Do not leave anything on the floor of the dumpster enclosure. Save unwanted furniture & large items for the Spring and Fall cleanup containers, or take your stuff elsewhere.

Always, if you see something, please, please, say something!

MARCH FAMILY ACTIVITIES

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.

SATURDAY NIGHT ASTRONOMY SHOWS AT THE FUJITSU PLANETARIUM

Dates: Every Saturday between Feb 25th and April 29th

Activity: Learn about space and science at De Anza College. Family shows include Secret of the Cardboard Rocket, The Little Star that Could, Magic Treehouse, Space Mission, We Are Stars, This is Our Sky, and Extreme Planets.

Distance: 4.3 miles, 6min

Location: De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino, CA 95014

Cost: \$7 tickets + \$3 car parking

Website: <http://planetarium.deanza.edu>

**Fujitsu
Planetarium
Star & Laser
Shows
Saturday
Nights**

CATS THE MUSICAL

Dates: March 11 – 19th

Activity: The Peninsula Youth Theater performs this international award-winning Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. Jellicle Cats come out at midnight for their annual ball, where they vie to be chosen for rebirth into a new life. Innovative, evocative and packed with exuberant choreography, this performance is truly the cat's meow!

Distance: 10.3 miles, 21 minutes

Location: Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, 500 Castro Street Mountain View, CA 94043

Cost: Adults \$22, Seniors & under 12s \$16

Website: <http://pyt.net.org/boxoffice/cats/#showinfo>



BABY STORY TIME

Dates: every Thursday 11:30 – 11:50 AM

Activity: Baby Storytime with Librarian Holly Okamura is followed by "Play and Learn" until 12:30 PM. Join us in the beautiful Orchard Room at Saratoga Library. No registration necessary. This program is for pre-walking babies. Babies and their accompanying grown-ups only please. Don't forget to bring a blanket for the floor.

Distance: 1 mile, 4 mins

Location: Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070

Cost: free

Website: <https://www.sycl.org/Locations/Saratoga/staff-posts/January-2017/Baby-Storytime-at-Saratoga-Library>



THE NEWSLETTER AT A GLANCE

Board election results
Summary of the annual meeting
Dog poop, trash & 15 MPH !!!

Next Board meeting – Thursday March 9th @ 7:00pm
Wine tasting – South American Theme Friday March 3rd @ 7:30pm
MOD Pizza evening – Tuesday March 21st 5 – 9 pm



Please mail your ballots for the governing document vote to CMS asap.
All votes will be counted at noon on March 15th at the CMS offices.



NEWSLETTER

We welcome all input into our Vineyards newsletter. If you are interested in joining the newsletter committee or contributing to future newsletters please contact Grapevine editor Anna Scicinska at newsletter@vineyardlane.org. Letters and articles from residents will be published in the next newsletter to go to print.

Anna Scicinska, Carole Lunny and Linglin Niu





Hey Neighbors at Vineyards of Saratoga!

MOD PIZZA

JUST FOR YOU

Tuesday, March 21st 5-9pm

Enjoy a neighborly dinner at MOD Westgate West!

Show us this flyer and receive your next MOD Pizza or Salad on us!
MOD Pizza serves individual artisan-style pizzas and salads—SUPERFAST.

Any toppings. Same price. **\$8.47**

Valid at MOD Pizza Westgate West only. Redeemable for one free MOD size pizza or salad,
excludes gluten free. Flyer must be presented for coupon. Not valid with other offers.
Phone or Online orders not accepted.



MOD PIZZA
5263 Prospect Road
San Jose, CA 95129
408.610.5411



COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Dear Homeowners,

We are pleased to announce that Community Management Services will now be offering the ability to pay your dues online by credit card (2.99% service fee) or by debit card (0.99% service fee) through the company DuesPayment. The following credit cards will be accepted: Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover. Please note that the option to pay via Electronic Check for no charge has not changed and is still available through our website.

HOW TO PAY BY DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD WITH DUESPAYMENT



Sign in to your Community Management Services account at www.communitymanagement.com



Under the Financials tab select "Pay Online!" next to your current balance



Select "Credit Card or Debit Card" and open the DuesPayment website



Once at DuesPayment, enter your credit or debit card information to make a quick one-time payment



You can also set up recurring AutoPay payments **OR** Text and Email Dues Reminders! You may also pay by phone at 866-807-0938.

For a more detailed step-by-step guide to paying your dues online, please visit the Frequently Asked Questions page on our website www.communitymanagement.com. If you have any general questions regarding paying your dues online please contact Community Management Services at cs@communitymanagement.com or 408-559-1977. For questions directly related to the DuesPayment portal please contact DuesPayment at CustomerService@DuesPayment.com or 866-807-0938.

Sincerely,

Community Management Services, Inc.