



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

Welcome wagon for new residents
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

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



APR/MAY 2017

THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled on Thursday May 11th 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.

APRIL NEWS

CMS is mailing a copy of the proposed 2017 Operating Rules update (formerly known as Rules and Regulations), for a 30-day comment and consultation period. This is the final stage of the Vineyards Governing Document update. Much of the content of the new document clarifies and updates the 1991 Vineyards Rules and Regs, but there have been a few changes, so please read through the document carefully. Once approved, Landlord Owners will need to provide their Renters with a copy.

The new monthly HOA assessment is \$500, an increase of 5% on the 2016 assessment. If you do not have an automatic payment plan, please make sure that you update your payment. This increase was required to cover our rising operating costs, the main cause of which is the continuing escalation of monthly water bills and garbage collection costs. We are hopeful that the water costs may decrease in 2017 if SCVW remove drought restriction measures such as additional line items and punitive increasing block rates from the water bills.

Additional garbage costs can be avoided if everyone flattens cardboard boxes before putting them into recycle containers and does not abandon any items on the ground. The garbage collection vehicles will not pick any items from the ground, and if their access is blocked may refuse to take the dumpster out of the enclosure. This is an ongoing problem, especially around dumpster number 3. No items of unwanted furniture or household goods should EVER be abandoned in or next to the dumpster enclosures.

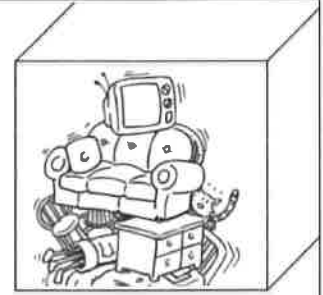
The Spring Clean Up Dumpsters are scheduled May 12th – 22nd so please hold onto your large giveaway item for a few weeks longer. Each Spring and Fall the Vineyards places two high capacity dumpsters, on the perimeter near the 200's and 600's. These should be used for disposing of items too large to go in our standard dumpsters. Please see over for more info.

The winner of the \$100 Gene's certificate is Debra G. She was attending last month's meeting and received her certificate from Jim Foley immediately after the drawing took place.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP DUMPSTERS May 12th – 22nd

Use these dumpsters to dispose of any unwanted items of furniture, household items, lumber, plant pots, and packing materials – get rid of rickety old bed frames, mattresses and blankets, moving boxes, construction wood, curtains and blinds, carpets, and such. Unlike our regular recycle and garbage collection, these dumpsters do not belong to the city, and dumpster diving is allowed – so if you see a nice shabby chic chair or picture frame you'd like – please take it!



These dumpsters are for the use of Vineyards residents only. If you see any outsiders or contractors dumping stuff, please report their license plates to CMS or better still take a photo. See something, say something!

Do not use the clean up dumpsters to dispose of paints, oils, computers, tires, or any toxic or flammable materials. See below for information from the City of Saratoga website on how to dispose of these items safely.

How do I dispose of my old computer, motor oil, paint or toxic materials?

The Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste program accepts hazardous materials, including paints, petroleum based products, and batteries. To make an appointment to drop off these items call **408.299.7300**.

West Valley Collection and Recycling, accepts household electronic and universal waste. Example include televisions, monitors, keyboards, computers, printers, and DVD players. To make an appointment to drop off these items call **408.283.9250**.

CLUBHOUSE SECURITY ISSUE

The Clubhouse doors have been found “left open” and resting on the latch on several occasions. Please ensure that you push the doors closed behind you until the latch catches and you hear it “click” shut as you leave. If there is any damage as a result people or animals gaining access to the Clubhouse, the key fob numbers and security cameras will be used to identify the person(s) responsible for the open door, and they will have to pay all associated costs.

WELCOME WAGON

Have you recently moved to the Vineyards? The Welcome Wagon is a free service for all new Owners and Tenants – we'd like to greet all new residents and provide a useful binder with information about The Vineyards and Saratoga. Ask Katherine Weiss or Gia Biagi any additional questions about The Vineyards. There are many ways to get involved at The Vineyards, not least by attending Vineyards social events, which are open to all residents, both owners and renters.

Not all HOAs have the same operating rules – so please MAKE SURE you read ours carefully!

BICYCLES

Bicycles are allowed on the perimeter road and inner driveway areas only. No bicycles, scooters and tricycles (either adult or children's) should be used on the inner pathways or fire lanes. We have elderly and blind residents, pets, toddlers, and pushchairs using these pedestrian paths – please follow this restriction for the sake of everyone's safety.

CATS AND DOGS

At the last Board meeting, two complaints were made about different cats causing a nuisance on patios and balconies. Cat fur on a lounge cushion can be a real problem for anyone with a cat allergy, and cat poop on a patio is not pleasant either! Pet owners are responsible for doing whatever it takes to make sure their pets are not a nuisance or an inconvenience to other residents – this may mean keeping your cat indoors.

Dog owners – please pick up poop after your dog! Tell your family members, guests, and dog walkers to do the same! There has been an increase in the number of poop sightings. Roads, paths, lawns, verges, and creek-side alike need to be kept clear of a smelly and unsightly problem.

11.4 Animal Owners are responsible for any environmental damage, noise, or damage or inconvenience to other residents caused by their animal. Failure to control animals will result in removal by the HOA.

11.6 Any person walking an animal shall immediately remove animal waste, should the animal defecate in the common area, patios, decks or balconies. Failure to do so could result in a hearing before the Board and could result in removal of the pet and fines for each offense.

The proposed Operating Rules state that renters cannot keep pets. Before a general panic ensues, please remember that this rule has already been enacted in the CC&Rs, and that existing residents and their pets are exempt from this restriction.

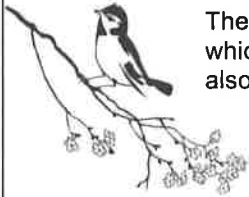
VINEYARDS BIRDS – PART 1

Inspired by Don Stoner's list of birds seen at the Vineyards (which you can see on the Vineyards Website), and some recent conversations, this is the first of a series of articles on the birds one may see at the Vineyards. The next few parts will focus on identifying some water birds, small songbirds, medium sized woodland birds, and birds of prey.

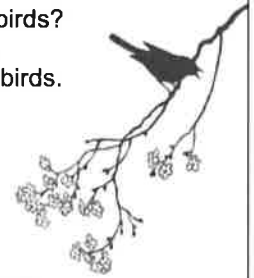
TO FEED OR NOT TO FEED?

California State Law bans breeding, feeding or sheltering wild animals. Does this include backyard birds? According to "Keeping Wild Birds Safe", a California Department of Fish and Wildlife website article, feeding suburban birds should be done with an awareness of the problems feeding may cause wild birds. *"Feeding wild birds in the backyard increases the chance for these birds to develop diseases from closer contact with other birds, or exposure to food and water contaminated by a diseased bird."*

www.wildlife.ca.gov



The bird species that visit backyards feeders are susceptible to Avian Influenza, which is spread through direct contact and through bird droppings. Wild birds can also spread Salmonella. Daniel Becker, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Georgia, has been studying the complexities of supplemental feeding and wildlife health since 2012. "Feeders can bring unexpected species together more frequently than normal, creating ideal conditions for parasites and other contaminants," Becker says. "Birds often crowd into tight spaces to get at the tasty morsels which makes it easier for pathogens to leap between birds."



SHOULD I FEED BIRDS YEAR-ROUND?

The Humane Society advice is not to feed birds year-round; in fact Spring is a good time to stop filling our seasonal bird feeders. Feeding is most helpful at times of when birds need the most energy, such as during temperature extremes, migration, and in late winter or early spring, when natural seed sources are depleted. When they are nesting and rearing their young, many birds focus on eating insects, so feeding is less necessary at those times. It is also important for young birds to learn how to find naturally occurring foods, so take a break from filling bird feeders in summer and early autumn.



Two exceptions to this rule are **hummingbirds** and **goldfinches**. Offer your summer hummers nectar in feeders to help fuel their high metabolism, and provide nyjer seed for goldfinches (who nest later than other birds) until thistles go to seed. Unlike most other birds that come to our feeders, Goldfinches eat seed almost exclusively. Goldfinch chicks are fed few, if any, insects; instead they get the same seeds their parents eat. When a parent returns to feed its young, its crop is full of partially digested seed – enough to feed their whole brood. www.humanesociety.org

To avoid wasted seed going bad on the ground (or attracting rodents), the Audubon Society recommends using specific seeds for each birdfeeder – so use cracked corn, millet, and sunflower seeds separately. Cheap mixed birdseed often contains fillers like milo that most birds just pick through, resulting in a moldy mess under the feeder. As well as decreasing waste and mess, this useful tip also decreases the interactions between the species that eat different seeds. <http://www.audubon.org/news/to-feed-or-not-feed>.

Folks who like to feed wild birds can help to keep them safer and healthier, and prevent the spread of avian disease by taking the following precautions:

- Avoid concentrating birds – vary feeding locations and spread seed
- Replace wooden feeders with easy-to-clean plastic or metal
- Use one type of seed per feeder to decrease contact between species
- Keep wild birds away from pet food and water
- Use gloves when handling feeders, and wash hands when done
- Do not place feeders near the BBQ or patio furniture, where humans eat or drink
- Clean bird droppings off patios and decks with soap, water, and disinfectant
- Clean feeders and bird baths weekly, using a 10% bleach solution, and let them dry thoroughly before refilling
- Clean up old food around the feeders regularly to prevent disease, mold, and discourage foraging by mice or rats
- Report sick or dead birds http://www.westnile.ca.gov/report_wnv.php

NEXT MONTH – VINEYARDS BIRDS – PART 2 Water birds seen around the Vineyards Koi Pond

MAY 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.

VOLUNTEER AT FULL CIRCLE FARM

Dates: every Wednesday and Saturday, Apr 11th – Dec 31st

Activity: Come join us for a family day under the sun. Activities include: harvesting crops, watering plants, and weeding, as well as feeding the ducks, chickens, and quails. Enjoy play dates with regular farm friends.

Distance: 5.8 miles, 15 mins

Location: Full Circle Farm School, 1055 Dunford Way, Sunnyvale 94087

Cost: free

Website: <http://fullcirclesunnyvale.org/education/full-circle-farm-school/>



CINCO DE MAYO

Dates: Saturday May 6th, 10AM – 6PM

Activity: About 8,000 people attend this annual festival. The Cinco de Mayo celebration showcases the best of Mexican and Latin American culture with a diverse array of foods, music, dance, and artistry.

Distance: 47 miles, 1 hour

Location: Valencia Street, between 21st and 24th streets, San Francisco, CA

Cost: free

Website: <http://cincodemayosf.org>



HAKONE MATSURI FESTIVAL

Dates: Sunday May 21st, 11 AM – 4 PM

Activity: Hakone Gardens is very excited to host the 18th annual Hakone Matsuri Japanese Festival. Hakone is proud to share Japanese culture presenting music, martial arts, and food, kimono sale, a kids' corner, and Japanese tea ceremony. **Hakone will be closed for vehicle access and walk-in access for safety reasons. You must take a shuttle from Parking Lot 5 at West Valley College.**

Distance: 3 miles, 9 mins

Location: Hakone Estate and Gardens, 21000 Big Basin Way, Saratoga, 95070

Cost: \$5 (under 5 and Hakone members free)

Website: <http://www.hakone.com/hakone-matsuri.html>



THE NEWSLETTER AT A GLANCE

Monthly HOA dues \$500

Review period for new Operating Rules

No scooters or bicycles on inner paths or fire lanes

Always pick up after your dog!

Always make the Clubhouse door "click" shut

New resident? Contact the Welcome Wagon at welcomewagon@vineyardsofsaratoga.com

Next Board meeting – Thu May 11th @ 7:00pm

Spring Clean Up Dumpsters May 12th – 22nd

Tips on how and when to feed wild birds

If your cat is a local nuisance you may need to keep it indoors

Swimming pool heater will turn on when good weather forecast

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

Anna Scicinska, Carole Lunny, Linglin Niu

