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 Contact Katherine Weiss or Gia Biagi 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

Bill Oldfield, Association Manager boldfield@communitymanagement.com

To report a crime or suspicious behavior call the local Sheriff 4 0.8 - 2.9.9 - 2.3.1.1



## THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled on Thursday Nov 9<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.

## **OCTOBER NEWS**

**From November 1<sup>st</sup>, Bill Oldfield of CMS** will be replacing Luis Heredia as our new community manager. Bill will continue to work closely with Luis to ensure a smooth transfer.

**Electric vehicles cannot be charged in Common Area garages.** Firstly, the Common Area electrical circuits are designed to power lights and garage openers only. The amount of current an EV draws may overload these circuits, which poses a fire risk for adjoining garages and residential units. Secondly, 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. The homeowner needs to obtain all relevant permits from the City of Saratoga, and a qualified electrician must carry out the modification. If in doubt, ask !!!

**Our fall winetasting is on Friday November 10**<sup>th</sup> in the Clubhouse at 7:30pm. Talking of Champagne, in preparation for the holidays, the theme of the next Vineyards Winetasting Evening will be "Bubbles and Syrah". Bring a bottle of Sparkling Wine or a bottle of Syrah, and an appetizer to share. For more info please ask organizer Carole D.

**The pool heaters** will be turned off at the end of October. Pool furniture will be stored for the off-season. The hot tub remains operational year around. As well as saving energy, the pool cover is a safety device. When you use the hot tub please remember to replace the cover.

**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. Make sure that you brush any fallen leaves away from the drainage in your patio area.

Save the date – 4pm Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Vineyards Annual Holiday Party. All residents and owners welcome! The party will be at the Clubhouse. See over for more details.

## **OCT/NOV 2017**

## COMMUNITY NEWS



## Saturday, December 2 @ 4:00 pm Vineyards Clubhouse

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

## SECURITY UPDATE

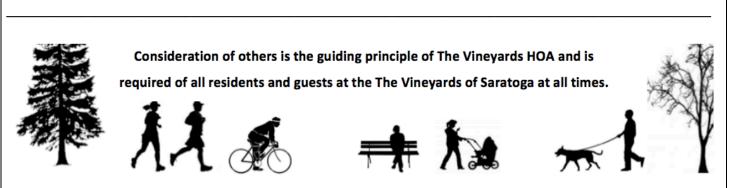
Our security surveillance cameras seem to be doing a good job. So far three incidents have been documented and referred to the police for successful resolution. As well as deterrence of criminal activity, we have noticed fewer problems with frustrating issues like boxes not being flattened before recycling, and Vineyards garbage dumpsters being used by outsiders.

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 (shopping, gifts, travel bags) out of view in the trunk. Thefts of delivery items left in the porch also typically increase at this time of year, as people start to their 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 USPS service. This lets you preview scanned images of the exterior of letter-sized mail pieces. You can also track packages and leave alternative delivery instructions if you know that you won't be home. Sign up is free! https://informeddelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action

## 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.



## COYOTE ALERT

Several people have reported seeing a lone coyote around the Vineyards. It was sighted from a distance both in daylight and close to dusk. This animal was limping and it did not show any signs of aggression. However, wild predators like bobcats, mountain lions, and coyotes may present a danger to domestic cats and small dogs.

Discourage the presence suburban wildlife large and small by not leaving pet food on your balcony or patio areas. Clean your grill drip tray thoroughly, as the smell of grease may attract hungry critters. Make sure you close the lid of garbage dumpsters – we do not need to encourage more rats then we are already trapping! It is also probably a wise precaution not to leave your pets unattended outdoors at the time being.

If you have a close encounter with a coyote, the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley posted the following recommendations in the San Jose Mercury News a few weeks ago: "Do not make direct eye contact and calmly leave the area. Don't run, and don't turn your back. Make loud noises as you retreat." Similar advise was posted on the City of Saratoga webpage www.saratoga.ca.us/residents/coyotes.asp. Residents should report any aggressive coyote encounters to CMS and to the Santa Clara County's Vector Control District at 408-918-4770.

## CITY OF SARATOGA SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

**Newsletters** In addition to the quarterly *The Saratogan* newssheet, the City of Saratoga has a new monthly online newsletter called *Saratoga Source*. You can sign up to have this emailed to you through www.saratoga.ca.us.

**Facebook** users can follow the *CityOfSaratoga* Facebook page for photos, event alerts, and more. The Facebook page has photos of recent events. The most recent post promotes a seasonal Toy and Food Drive. See below for more info.

**Twitter** users can follow *@CityOfSaratoga* for upcoming events, like the annual Tree Lighting ceremony and Wine Stroll. See below for more info.

**Nextdoor** is a local community network, which verified residents of The Vineyards can subscribe to. You can follow notices from as many or as few local areas as you decide. The City of Saratoga and the Sherriff's office frequently shares useful community information via Nextdoor.



## **CITY OF SARATOGA HOLIDAY INITIATIVES**

**TREE LIGHTING** Kick off the holidays with a one-of-a-kind Saratoga tradition at the annual Saratoga Holiday Tree Lighting and Wine Stroll! The festivities will be held the day after Thanksgiving on Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 5 p.m. in Downtown Saratoga. Enjoy the Chamber Wine Stroll from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and take part in the Annual Tree Lighting at 5:30 p.m. in Blaney Plaza. Tree Lighting Ceremony 5:30 p.m. Chamber Wine Stroll 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Enjoy shopping in the Saratoga Village after the ceremony! For more information, visit www.saratoga.ca.us/treelighting. To purchase Wine Stroll tickets, call 408.867.0753 or visit www.saratogachamber.org.

**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.

## SAFETY AFTER DARK

Clocks go back on the weekend of November  $4 - 5^{\text{th}}$ . As our evenings get darker earlier, please take common sense measures to stay safe. Cyclists, joggers, and dog walkers are advised to carry a flashlight, and to wear clothing which increases visibility.

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.





Always wear bright colours when walking at night.

## 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@vinevardsofsaratoga.com.

## MAKERS MARKET IN THE PARK

Date: Saturday, Nov 4<sup>th</sup> Distance: 5.5 miles Activity: Visit this curated marketplace in Santana Row Park (across from Left Bank Brasserie) and shop local artists selling US Handcrafted goods such as jewelry, handbags, ceramics, glassware, soaps, candles and more! Location: Santana Row, San Jose Website: http://www.santanarow.com/events/makers-market-in-the-park

## YULETIDE MARKETPLACE

**Dates:** Thursday Nov 16<sup>th</sup> – Saturday Nov 19<sup>th</sup> **Distance:** 3 miles **Cost:** Free Event, Parking \$5 Activity: The historic Villa will be decorated in holiday splendor! The Yuletide Marketplace features dozens of vendors offering unique gift items throughout the Villa – art and decorations, collectables, photography, clothing, crafts, and specialty gourmet food items. Spend a day at Montalvo and get your holiday shopping done early! Open 1-am -Location: Villa Montalvo, 15400 Montalvo Rd, Saratoga Website: http://www.montalvoarts.org/events/yuletide marketplace 2017/

#### FALL PERFORMING ARTS SERIES: THE FIREBIRD YOUTH CHINESE ORCHESTRA

Dates: Saturday, November 18, 2017, 4:00 pm **Distance:** 4 miles Cost: Free Activity: The Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra repertoire ranges from contemporary orchestral pieces but Opera, and chinese folk music. The 100 young musicians are chiefly American-born Chinese, ranging in age from 7 to 18. They study not only music and performing technique, but also Chinese culture and heritage, teamwork, and leadership skills. Location: Cupertino Library Community Hall, 10800 Torre Avenue, Cupertino

Website: http://sccl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=91182&ag=all&private=0&lib=3&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2017/11/11

#### PUBLIC TEA CEREMONY

**Dates:** Every third Sunday of the month, seatings available at 12 pm, 1pm, 2pm **Distance:** 3 miles **Cost:** \$7 per person, in addition to garden admission fee Activity: Come enjoy a traditional tea ceremony in the oldest Japanese estate in the Western Hemisphere Location: Hakone Gardens, 21000 Big Basin Way, Saratoga Website: http://www.hakone.com/events/upcoming-events.html

## THE NEWSLETTER AT A GLANCE

Bill Oldfield is our new CMS community manager Do not charge EVs in Common Area garages Keep pets safe – several recent coyote sightings

Next Board meeting – Thu Nov 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm Winetasting in the Clubhouse – Fri Nov 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm Save the date – Holiday Party – Sat Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 4pm

## 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, Par Moroak





Cost: Free