



The Grapevine



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DEC 2016/JAN 2017

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



ANNUAL MEETING & BOARD VACANCIES

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 Luis Heredia at CMS before the January 9th board meeting.

Our seven Vineyards HOA directors are elected to a two-year term and three board positions fall vacant in 2017. **The nominating committee chair is Board Vice-President Michael Toback.** In January all homeowners will receive an information packet and ballot papers for the board election. Even if you are not planning to attend the annual meeting please fill out your ballot and mail it in. This will 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 13th. The list of candidates will be printed in the January newsletter. If there are multiple candidates, a Candidate Forum will be held in late January.

THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled on Thursday January 12th 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.

DECEMBER NEWS

Thank you to Chris Burns and the whole landscaping committee for organizing a great Holiday Party and decorating our Clubhouse so beautifully. A sparkling tree and beautiful garlands make the lounge warm, festive, and inviting!

Wine corks popped as we got into the festive spirit. As always, Vineyards residents old and new brought a range of delicious appetizers and desserts to share with neighbors. The party atmosphere was further enhanced by an informal cello recital by talented young resident Rio, who entertained us with some holiday tunes on the cello. Everyone joined in with the chorus of cheery sing-a-long melodies.

The proposed new governing documents are being sent out this month. Please see over for some very important information and a timeline of the official procedure for their implementation.

TEMPORARY PARKING PERMITS: Please remember to give overnight holiday guests a card with your parking sticker number written on it to display on their vehicle dashboard (or hang from the rear-view mirror). For security do not write down any names, unit numbers or phone numbers

COMMUNITY NEWS

This year, December, a month that encompasses the celebrations of Christmas and Hanukkah, also includes spiritually significant days for Muslims, Buddhists, Pagans and Zoroastrians. Best wishes for a wonderful festive season to all as we celebrate with family and friends, and wish goodwill, health, peace, prosperity and good cheer to all.

* * * MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY HANNUKAH! YULIDE GREETINGS! * * *
* * * HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL * * *

CATS AND RATS came up again during Open Forum at this month's Board meeting.

We have seen a recent increase in the number of "rats break-ins" to Vineyards garages, despite the numerous traps set outside by the pest control service. If you have a rat problem, a couple of our members highly recommend the Electric Mouse Traps. In the meantime, please do not store any food in your garage unless it is sealed in a tin or glass jar. In addition to this, always tie a knot in bags of food scraps, and close the lid on the garbage dumpsters !!!

There are many stray cats at the Vineyards. Too many! One point at which they congregate is near the landscape contractor's corner storage area by the Saratoga Creek and HWY 85. If you would like to befriend one of our homeless cats, please take full ownership responsibility for it – adopt the lucky kitty, get it's veterinary shots up-to-date and take it home. Leaving food outdoors for feral cats does not help the rat problem! If they get hungry they may start to feed on the rats!



Please feed your domestic pets indoors.

MAILBOX BREAK-IN



Another mailbox break-in occurred in the middle of the night in the 200's mailboxes this week. Such incidents must be reported to the Sheriff as well as CMS, so that the thieves can be identified and caught. If you are missing some mail, please tell the Sheriff that we have security cameras with vehicle number plate recognition at the entrance gate, which can be checked for car arrivals and departures around the reported time of the crime.

This time the thieves targeted the outgoing mail slot. If you are sending gift-cards or paying bills by check, you may want to mail these directly from a Post Office over the holiday period. To deter future attacks and protect yourself from property or identity theft, please be sure to empty your mailbox every day, and arrange for the Post Office to hold your mail when you are traveling. Also, be careful to monitor doorstep parcel deliveries, as these are targeted for theft at this time of year.

The Saratoga Sheriff's Office is working hard to catch criminals stealing mail and packages. One strategy is placement of unmarked vehicles and deputies in civilian clothes in areas where package thefts have been reported. Thanks to the efforts of the Sheriff's Office, three people suspected of package theft in Saratoga and Cupertino were recently arrested.

Make sure that your packages arrive by following these simple tips:

1. Call 911 if you see someone who does not look like a delivery person removing packages left at your neighbor's door.
2. Request a signature for delivery to ensure package are not left at your door.
3. Ship packages to work.
4. Have packages delivered to a trusted neighbor or friend who will be home when the package is delivered.
5. Send packages to a secure location identified by the shipping company. USPS, FedEx, and UPS can hold your package at their nearby locations and you can use an Amazon Locker* close to home.



*Our closest Amazon locker is: Locker code name "Deurot" is located at Safeway at 12876 Saratoga Sunnyvale Road.

FITNESS ROOM

The Board is looking into upgrading the fitness room at the Clubhouse. Any ideas? Board member Tom is looking into some options. Please contact him if you have any suggestions or want to volunteer your time to help with this project.

UPDATE ON NEW GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

The new Bylaws and CC&Rs are ready for a vote by the membership. Owners will receive a voting package, which will include a copy of the proposed docs. Please bear in mind that many of the changes are as a result of the Davis-Sterling laws that apply to all condo complexes in California. For any additional questions, there will be a Town Hall style **Information Meeting on Saturday January 21st at 10AM in the Clubhouse.**

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 draw for a \$100 gift certificate from Gene's.

The length of the consultation period is set by law – in line with this CMS will count votes at noon on March 15th 2017.

LANDLORDS & RENTERS

The Vineyards has a Welcoming Committee that greets each new resident. We would like to extend an equally warm welcome in person to all our new neighbors – new renters as well as new homeowners.

Landlord Owners – please ensure that you and your new Tenants fill in an Occupancy Form to get current parking passes and to register the holder of the key fob that gives access to the pools and Clubhouse. At the same time a copy of the Lease should be sent to CMS. Owners, Renters and all their guests alike are obliged to comply with by Vineyards' CC&Rs and Rules & Regs on all issues including pets, outdoor grills, proper moving box and garbage disposal, smoking, pool use etc. A lack of communication between Landlords and their renters in 2016, resulted in several summons to hearings and fines (some large) for actions by renters for multiple pets, smoking, improper garbage disposal, and pool use.

New renters – if your Landlord has not filled out an Occupancy Form with you, please harass them until they do – it is important that we know who is living in each Unit and how the Board or the management company CMS can get in touch if need be. Need reasons? Cars without parking permits are liable to be towed (at the owners cost) if they need to be moved suddenly and we have no means to contact the owner. Unregistered key fobs, which give access to the pools and clubhouse, may be deactivated. Moreover, in case of emergency – we do live in earthquake country – we need to know who the residents are in each Unit.

Finally, Landlord Owners cannot hide behind the excuse of handing off responsibility to a property manager – that is not how condominium ownership works – the Owners of a Unit are 100% responsible for their Tenants.

WE VOLUNTEER BECAUSE ...

To round up our series on Vineyard residents volunteering in the community, check this list of local opportunities within the city of Saratoga, some of which have current vacancies: <http://www.saratoga.ca.us/cityhall/hr/volunteer.asp>.

City Hall 13777 Fruitvale Ave. Babette McKay
phone ; 408.868.1265 email: hr@saratoga.ca.us

CERT emergency response teams Jim Yoke
phone: 408.887.7818 email: jim.yoke@sccfd.org

Saratoga Historical Foundation Museum www.saratogahistory.com
phone: 408.867.4311 email: info@saratoga.com

Friends of the Saratoga Libraries www.fslonline.org
phone: 408.379.1699 email: president@fslonline.org

Montalvo Arts Center www.montalvoarts.org/volunteer
phone: 408.961.5828 email: volunteer@montalvoarts.org

Walden West Science Camp & Outdoor School
www.waldenwest.org/volunteer/

Santa Clara County Parks Department
www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/Volunteer/Pages/GetInvolved.aspx

Saratoga Library Teen Volunteers <http://www.sccl.org/teens/Get-Involved>
Birgit Spring phone: 408.867.6126 ext.3815 email: bspring@sccl.org

*"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."
~ Winston Churchill*

**SITE
SPEED
LIMIT**



Be seen. Be safe.



Always wear bright
colours when walking
at night.

by Linglin Niu

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

San Francisco New Year's Eve Fireworks

Dates: 11:59pm, Dec. 31st

Activity: A 15-minute midnight fireworks show synced to music, played out through speakers set up along the promenade stretching from Pier 14 down almost to the Bay Bridge.

Best Fireworks Viewing Location: The fireworks will launch from barges located 1,000 feet out in the bay just south of the Ferry Building near Pier 14 (Mission Street and The Embarcadero), so the best viewing spots will be along the Embarcadero between Mission and Folsom Street.

Distance: 50 miles, 63 min

Location: Pier 14, San Francisco, California

Cost : free

Website: <http://sf.funcheap.com/san-francisco-new-years-eve-fireworks/>



Community Free Day at Seymour Marine Discovery Center

Dates: Jan. 6th

Activity: Our events and activities are designed for all ages and all interests. Kids can have the experience of a lifetime with Ocean Explorers.

Distance: 30 miles, 43 min

Location: The Seymour Marine Discovery Center, 100 Shaffer Rd, Santa Cruz

Cost : Free

Website: <http://seymourcenter.ucsc.edu/visit/hours-admission/#freeday>



Penguins+Pajamas Sleepovers

Dates: Jan. 28th – Jan. 29th

Activity: Admission to Penguins + Pajamas sleepovers begins at 6 pm, and ends at 8 am the following day. Stay overnight in one of our exhibit areas. Live animal demonstrations. Rainforest access 'til 8 pm. Planetarium showings. Late night snack and early morning breakfast. Overnight parking in Music Concourse Garage. Next day admission to the Academy. Penguins + Pajamas is a program for children between the ages of 5 and 17 with an adult chaperone.

Distance: 47.6miles, 56 min

Location: California Academy of Sciences, 55 Music Concourse Dr, SF

Cost : \$89/member, \$109/ppl

Website: <http://www.calacademy.org/penguinspajamas-sleepovers>



MORE IDEAS: <http://www.bayareakidfun.com/more-family-events-bay-area/>

THE NEWSLETTER AT A GLANCE

Next Board meeting – Thu Jan 12th @ 7:00pm
New Governing Document Vote

Annual Board Meeting Thu Feb 9th @ 7pm

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

