



# The Grapevine

December 2023



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b>	Jim Foley
<b>VP</b>	Michael Toback
<b>Secretary</b>	Laurel Smith
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gloria Felcyn
<b>Director</b>	Tom Schmidt
<b>Director</b>	Charles Sudderth
<b>Director</b>	Pam Nomura

## VINEYARDS WEBSITE

[www.vineyardsofsaratoga.com](http://www.vineyardsofsaratoga.com)

Go to the website to view the Monthly newsletter, HOA forms and documents, Bylaws, CC&Rs, Operating Rules, HOA Board meeting minutes.

## NEXTDOOR

The Vineyards of Saratoga uses **Next Door** to post important notifications for residents and homeowners. There are now two groups. One for homeowners and one for residents. You can join the groups using the links below.

**Residents:** <https://nextdoor.com/g/hx4j0w8rx/>

**Homeowners:** <https://nextdoor.com/g/hu8us8brn>

## Community Management Services

1935 Dry Creek Road, Suite 203  
Campbell, CA 95008  
Phone (408) 559-1977 Mon-Fri 8a-5p

## Association Manager

**Bill Oldfield**

[boldfield@communitymanagement.com](mailto:boldfield@communitymanagement.com)

Contact the Association Manager if you have questions about rules, repairs, or other things related to the Vineyards. *Please include your name, address, email, phone and a description of your concern.*

## Sheriff's Dept. (non-emergency)

(408) 299-2311

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

This year on Saturday, December 2 about thirty residents gathered for our annual holiday party to spread some holiday cheer. Everyone brought a favorite drink and/or food to share, so we enjoyed various delicious sweets, hors d'oeuvres and spirits. Thank you to Chris Burns, Tom Schmidt, Michael Toback, and Jim Foley for decorating the Clubhouse so beautifully. And thanks to everyone who came out to make this a festive event!



## GROUNDS UPDATE:

- **Front Gate:** We are almost ready to seek approval from the City of Saratoga for the security gate. Hopefully we will be able to break ground on this project early next year, though there also may be delays in ordering the materials.
- **Tree maintenance:** I'm sure you have seen the crews busy trimming our trees. Thank you for your patience. Hopefully the work will be completed by the end of the year and our trees will be ready to withstand the winter wind and rains.



- **New Trees/shrubs:** Since the Water District removed our damage-prone eucalyptus trees along the creek in September, now our Landscape Committee is consulting with a revegetation specialist to select the most fitting replacement plants.
- **Pilot Program for new landscape lighting:**

We are still beta testing a small section of new **solar-powered** lights. Besides using less electricity, these updated lights would be much easier and less expensive to maintain.

- **Well project:** There is no new progress to report yet.

## 2024 ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS:

Our Annual Meeting will be held as usual at our February Board meeting on 2/8/24. We hope you will come out to hear what the Association has accomplished in 2023 and what our goals are for 2024.

Due to some administrative issues, our election of Board members will not occur until March. Board members serve for a two-year term and in 2024, three of seven positions will be on the ballot. Ballots will be mailed to all owners in February.



## **NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS:**



- **Neighborhood Watch:** Recently a set of mailboxes was broken open. The mailboxes are owned and maintained by the U.S. Postal Service, so until they fix it, these residents will need to pick up their mail at the Saratoga Post Office. There was also a garage broken into last month. Please report any break-ins to the Association Manager **as soon as possible**. We have numerous security cameras on our property, so if the approximate time of the crime is known, we can search the video footage for a license plate. In the future, we hope that a security gate closed at night will help deter these crimes. Also, remember to be a good neighbor: keep your eyes open and report any suspicious activity or damages to the Sheriff as well as our Association Manager.
- **Spa:** The grate over the drain was damaged so the spa has been temporarily closed for repairs.
- **Pond:** You may have noticed one male duck who never seems to leave. We think he has an injured right wing which prevents flight. However, there are two other male ducks and a male and female couple who seem to visit him frequently. Many thanks to Chris Burns who watches over our ducks and koi and feeds them regularly.
- **Walkers:** Now that it's winter, it gets dark very early so walkers should use flashlights, walk toward oncoming traffic, and **avoid wearing dark clothing**.
- **Drivers:** Please be aware that we have a lot of people who walk around the perimeter of the Vineyards. Please **DRIVE SLOWLY (15mph)**, especially as you enter the property and go around corners. There are joggers out and children playing and dogs being walked. You do not want to be responsible for injuring anyone due to inattention or excessive speeds.

## **WARNING: DUES ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN 2024:**

As we review Association expenditures for the current fiscal year, we have been consistently over budget, especially for tree care, water, and garbage. Our fiscal year runs from April to March, so in April we expect that a dues increase will be required to keep up with inflation and to meet the costs of maintaining our property in good condition.



### **Wood Burning**

For many of us the aroma of burning wood evokes comfort and memories of good times, but for others it can present a health hazard. Wood smoke contains small particles and toxic chemicals which can cause serious health problems, especially in children, older adults, and those with heart or lung problems. As the weather cools, please consider the health of yourself and your neighbors before deciding to burn wood. Also, remember that on Spare the Air days, wood burning is strictly prohibited and violators can be fined.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Our Board meets on the second Thursday of every month. Our next Board meeting is on Thursday January 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM. We meet in person, upstairs in the Clubhouse. The meeting agenda will be posted at the Clubhouse at least four days prior to the meeting. There is a 15-20 minute Open Forum session at the start when you can bring up any issues or questions to the Board and the Association Manager.

Following Open Forum, the discussion 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 approval at the following month's Board meeting.