

The Grapevine



March 2024

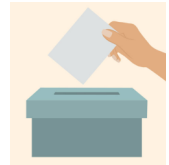
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim Foley
VP	Michael Toback
Secretary	Laurel Smith
Treasurer	Gloria Felcyn
Director	Tom Schmidt
Director	Pam Nomura

ELECTION RESULTS:

- There were 5 candidates for 4 open director seats: Since we have 165 units, a quorum (25%) is 42 ballots. There were 82 ballots received, but two were not signed, so 80 ballots were tallied:

Gloria Felcyn	71 votes	elected
Michael Toback	69 votes	elected
Laurel Smith	69 votes	elected
Pamela Nomura	68 votes	elected
Andrew Thrall	8 votes	not elected



- 2024 IRS Resolution 72 For/ 2 Against/ 5 Abstentions Approved
- 2023 Minutes 74 For/ 1 Against/ 5 Abstentions Approved

VINEYARDS WEBSITE

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

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

DUES INCREASE ON APRIL 1:

As we had warned, our dues are increasing to **\$645 per month** (an \$65 increase). Insurance costs in California have skyrocketed—many insurers have decided to leave the state to minimize their risk. We have also been impacted by high inflation: water and garbage costs have jumped up, and vendor costs have steadily risen. Our trees and landscaping have required extra care to withstand the ravages of drought and to minimize storm damage. The Board is working hard to maintain our beautiful grounds, to keep our reserves strong, and to keep dues as low as possible. We are all unhappy with another dues increase but it is a sign of our inflationary times.

ANIMAL POISON INVESTIGATION:

Towards the end of February, a dog-owner in our community found a pile of food baited with pills at the base of a tree on the Vineyards property. The pills were identified as a heart medicine that can cause severe problems for any small to medium-sized animal. Fortunately, the food was discovered and removed before it could be ingested by any pets. This incident has been reported to the Sheriff and **will be prosecuted** if the perpetrators are identified. Please keep your eyes open and report any suspicious activity to the Sheriff's office (408-299-2311).

PLEASE KEEP YOUR PET ON A LEASH:

There have been a couple of complaints about dogs being off leash on the Vineyards property again. For everyone's safety and peace of mind, please keep your pet on a leash no longer than six feet. This is also in compliance with City of Saratoga ordinance:

"As tempting as it is to let your furry friend roam free, it's illegal in Saratoga. When in public or at city parks, dogs must be on a leash no longer than six feet. The law exists to protect your dog, other dogs and everyone enjoying our great outdoors." [The Mercury News (7-6-17)]



GROUNDS UPDATE:

- **Front Gate:** The City of Saratoga is close to approving our plan for the security gate. Once received, the Board will work on the specifics of how to open the gates and what hours they will be closed. We hope to employ license reading technology, so please make sure you have sent CMS an Occupancy Form with information on all of your current vehicles.



- **New Trees/shrubs:** We have some new plants along the creek.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District also recently planted seven sycamores and will help with watering them this summer as they get established. Though small now, they will grow quickly, but for now we can enjoy a clear view of the creek waters flowing. Thank you to our Landscape Committee for keeping our grounds so beautiful—it's one of the most attractive features of our community!

- **Pilot Program for new landscape lighting:** We are continuing to beta test a small section of solar-powered lights after identifying some technical problems. Eventually, sectional solar-powered lights should save a lot of money by using less electricity and being much easier and less expensive to maintain. Many thanks to Michael Toback who has been the main overseer of this important project!



- **Well project:** There is no new progress to report yet (it is likely to remain on hold until the front gate installation is underway).

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS:



- **Spring Wildflowers:** There is a beautiful display of wildflowers down the street at Westhope Presbyterian church (just down the street on Saratoga Ave., past Cox Ave. on the right). From now until the end of April there will be a growing number of colorful flowers blooming. Please drop by to enjoy the garden. It has become a favorite spot for many neighbors to take photos.

- **Weekly Farmer's Market:** In case you don't know, there are two nearby farmer's markets. On Wednesday afternoons (2-6pm), there is one at Prince of Peace church (on the corner of Cox and Saratoga). On Saturday mornings (9am-1pm), there is one at West Valley College. Check out the fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, seafood, and

more—and support our local farmers and food producers.

- **The Elms update:** The townhouse complex on the corner of Cox and Paseo Presada continues to undergo construction, but some of the units are ready for move-in. In total there will be 90 two to three bedroom units, listed from \$1,769,990 and up. (We are also hoping that the Starbucks will open soon!)
- **Drivers:** 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.



NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK: If there is an article you would like to submit, or topics you want to see covered, or if you have other feedback, please email pam.nomura@gmail.com. Thank you.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

Our Board meets on the second Thursday of every month. Our next Board meeting is on Thursday April 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.