

## Vineyard Oak Community Newsletter, Winter 2018

**We are digital!** All HOA ARC Forms and supporting documents can be submitted electronically by email now, and all can be found on the website! Big thanks to Mark Hofmann for taking the time to make this happen and for updating our website!

**Open Board Seat:** Akbar Khan is finishing his term of service on the board. We thank Akbar for his time, involvement and work over the past three years on behalf of our community! If you are interested in volunteering on the HOA board, please send an email to the HOA or attend the annual meeting in January. We will include a proxy ballot with the December dues mailing if you cannot attend the meeting. Lindsay Ondrako is moving, and we wish her the best as she relocates to Florida and we thank her for her service to the board and community this past year.

**Annual Meeting:** We will have our meeting on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm, at the Bel Air Public Library downtown. We will meet in Classroom Number 3 upstairs. All are encouraged to attend. They usually last about an hour.

**Updated Hydrants:** We noticed on our annual walk through that our fire hydrants were looking dated. We inquired and were told the fastest method to get them painted was to do it ourselves. So, we did!

**Revitalization:** You may have noticed revitalization of monuments, landscaping, and tree maintenance at entryways and along Frog Leap. It is a long-term plan, but we are thinning overgrown planting and generally trying to make our entryway look fresh and updated. The trees were removed that were overhanging and hitting cars. All dead trees were replaced in island, vegetation was trimmed around all lighting. We will continue to work on making things look as beautiful as when they were first planted! Additionally, it was quite a process, but we were able to determine responsibility for lighting and after much persistence, were able to replace unlit streetlights. Also changed were the time and frequency of sprinkler systems. Obviously with all the rain we had we reduced the amount we watered.

**Trash:** After countless hours and multiple communications; we believe the issues with the trash company have been resolved. Huge thanks to Mark Hoffman who took over the lengthy negotiations with the trash company! We have been persistent in requesting our pick-up times be extended to after 6 am as to not disturb neighbors. We had many complaints about the time of our trash pickup!

**HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE:** Christmas week schedule is one day later after Christmas Day. New Years' Day the trash company will run on normal schedules, no delays. Christmas tree collection for Vineyard Oak will be **Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**. Please advise residents to have trees curbside overnight.

**Dues:** Thank you for continuing to pay your quarterly dues on time. This really helps the neighborhood finances and makes the treasurer's job much easier.

**Lights/Lock Your Cars:** Using your porch and lamp post lights nightly is a great way to deter any vandalism or car break-ins. Please also make sure that you lock your vehicles in your driveway to discourage theft.

**Snow:** Please keep your sidewalks and driveways shoveled and free from snow as soon as possible after snowfall. If school is in session, please have this done prior to times when kids need to use sidewalks to walk to bus stops. High School students usually walk around 7 a.m.

**Tree Removal:** Paperwork must be submitted for any significant tree removal. Three things are required: The ARC form on the website (first form under tab that says Forms), a quote from a tree service indicating condition of trees, and a diagram of where the tree(s) are located on your property.

**Yard/Walk upkeep:** It is our responsibility to keep our sidewalks passable, safe, and free from overgrown plantings, and to level paving bricks that may have shifted and collapsed around beds and trees. Please keep bushes and trees from covering sidewalks, home windows and at a reasonable height. Low lying tree branches overhanging the sidewalk and obstructing path should be pruned back.

**Recycling/Trash Cans:** Cans are to be kept in garage- not in driveway or on side of house visible to neighbors. When putting out recycling, please use a secure can with a lid. On windy days this must be put out in a secure fashion. PLEASE take your cans in the same day after trash has been picked up.

**Paperwork:** When making improvements to your home, it is important to follow proper channels with the HOA. This includes hardscapes, playhouses, patios, roof replacement, changing doors or shutter colors, and outdoor spaces. We want to emphasize that this is not to prevent anyone from improving their property; it is to make sure projects are in line with general appearance of the community and to make sure you are compliant when it comes to reselling. Often in sales there is a sense of urgency and if a homeowner has not followed proper channels, the HOA can't make things happen more rapidly if paperwork isn't up to date on modifications to a home.

**Dogs:** Please clean up after your pets. If your children/pet walking service are walking your dog, they need to do the same. It is not ok to let your dog walk in neighbor's yards, even while you are walking your pet on a leash. They should be kept to the grass in between street and sidewalk, and off front yards and landscaping. Please be courteous while walking your pet.

**Mailman:** Our longtime mailman, Kin, has moved to a smaller community. He was here for a lot of years and many of us know him well from his wonderful service and bright smile. We thought it would be nice for Christmas to send him a package of thank notes from our community. If you want to participate- please send your note to the HOA mailbox by Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> and we will put them together and send them to him. Mark the envelope with "FOR KIN." You can also send an email and we can print it and include it. Thank you.

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