

The next board meeting is Tuesday, September 8th at 7 p.m. Meeting Notice, Link, and Agenda is included.

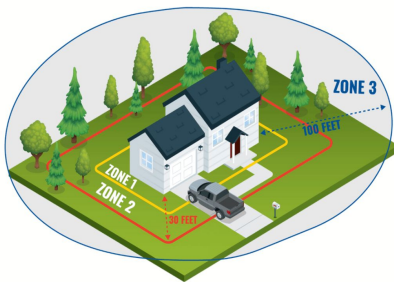
Wildfire Defense - We're part of a bigger picture...

Heritage Grove is in the Los Gatos Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fire hazard zone, and 14 of our 44 homes are further designated in the State's VHFH (very high fire hazard) zone, seen in red at the left.



In February, the Town of Los Gatos adopted new legislation¹ to address the heightened need for fire safety. With the recent lightning storm and fires, it is imperative that we all do everything we can to protect our lives and property from this unpredictable and growing threat.

Along with the Ordinance, Los Gatos has released a new website, [Be Wildfire Ready](#),² which we highly recommend reviewing. **We spoke with the SCC FireSafe Council on August 13th** about conducting an on-site risk assessment by the Fire Department and to hear about education and mitigation events they offer to communities at fire risk. If you are interested in learning more, email hoa@heritagegrove.org and/or attend the next board meeting.



We have two required access roads into our development - the main entrance and the fire lane on Heintz Court. Earlier this spring, we made repairs and raised poor clearances for emergency vehicles on the fire lane, and we're regularly clearing hazards. We're looking at the horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees and the vertical spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees. You may have noticed the large redwoods and pines in the orchard whose branches were at ground level are now sporting a new, clean look with branches cleared to the recommended 6' height. Not all vegetation is equal, so we're prioritizing native, lower risk vegetation in all new and replacement plantings.

But that's not all that needs to be done.

You can help by creating the required defensible space around your home to slow or stop the spread of wildfires. This increases the chance of *all* of our homes surviving.

The "Be Wildfire Ready" website has all the details, recommending things like:

- cleaning gutters
- checking metal mesh on exterior attic vents
- clearing 5 feet (zone 1) of mulch, flammable plants, firewood piles - anything that can burn.
- Trimming trees so branches are 10 feet from other trees and 6 feet from the ground.
- Talking with your family to be prepared for wildfires and other disasters.

Consider signing up for Red Flag Alerts from the county, or join us in a FireSafe education event.

More info at heritagegrove.org with links out to resources and *Be WildfireReady*.

¹ Ordinance 2031, adopted Feb 4, 2020, effective March 4, 2020

² <https://www.losgatosca.gov/2581/Be-Wildfire-Ready>

Landscape Plan 2020-2022

The Homeowners Association is responsible for a number of maintenance and landscape components, including our orchard, fire lane, linear park (landscaping along one side of Regent), the Heintz exhibit area. There are others we are not responsible for, including the asphalt paths, street lights, and Heintz shed, which are managed by the town.

The board tasked the landscape committee with working on a plan that focuses our limited resources to accomplish our priorities as a community, and in an organized and productive manner. Recent work has been based on research, discussions with homeowners, recommendations from the town and arborists, landscapers both previous and current. It has involved curating a robust document library from town ordinances, guidelines and recommendations, and going through boxes of historical files for relevant documents, which were in the old management company's storage.

The board and landscape committee have been working together on eliminating confusion about permits, approved and recommended landscaping design and vegetation for hillside communities and the orchard.

We are discussing how we might revitalize the Heintz exhibit area and have a concept in the Plan for consideration. Many dozens of rusty wire cages stored for years in the shed area have found new homes in working orchards, as the new Redbuds will not require cages. We've been working with the Town on the stalled Heintz exhibit structure and signs removed in 2018, a sticky point with the town as it is required by ordinance, with focus on Professor Heintz, his lab and inventions.

"Version 1.0" of the plan will be formally presented and recommended to the board at the next meeting.

You'll notice a number of new changes this fall, including:

- Grinding those old protruding stumps left over from years ago removals.
- Replacing trees in the orchard with Redbuds as soon as the weather is favorable for planting.
- Replacing path lighting in the walkway between the two sides of Regent before the rainy season, to remedy broken fixtures. New fixtures, chosen by unanimous vote of the committee, are LED and will improve the look, functionality and safety of the walkway, along with other improvements.

Irrigation breaks, specifically several broken and run-over large sprinkler heads, continue to be capped or replaced with bubblers, in line with town landscaping guidelines for hillside developments.

Natural weed control, rather than carcinogenic weed killer, is used preferentially. Perennials rather than annuals, and low fire risk and lower water intake natives, are planned. Yarrow and manzanita, mulch and soil nutrients are being added to the landscape for much needed erosion control and health of the existing soil. Thanks to everyone who has emailed when you noticed things requiring immediate attention - like the malfunctioning sprinkler heads and leaks on Ayala, Heintz Court, and at the walkway entrance.

Lastly, please remember that the Yahoo group, Facebook, and Nextdoor are social groups - not everyone is a member nor checks them regularly, and non-residents have received our internal communications from time to time. To ensure that everyone has equal, timely and accurate access to communications and opportunities, please use hoa@heritagegrove.org to contribute information or relay questions. Heritagegrove.org also links out to the HOA portal managed by Grayson Community Management.

Stay Well, Be Safe, and See You Soon,

Board of Directors: *Nate Barton, Dana Marcus, Dennis Reker*

Landscape Committee: *Juliet Vadvilavich - Chair, Mario Gonzalez, Robert Martines, Karen Vogel Hayes*

OFFICIAL MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA

HERITAGE GROVE of LOS GATOS BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, September 8, 2020, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. **via Zoom** (from 104 Ayala Court, Los Gatos)
To keep neighbors safe during this Covid-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors will use remote conferencing. You may register anytime in advance, or at the start of the meeting by entering your name and house number: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlkduivrTwvGNEQYgDBr7dMc403mill_8nM. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing online and dial-in information. The Registration link is also posted on <https://heritagegrove.org>.

AGENDA

- I. Quorum, Notice, Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2020 Board Meeting
- III. Financial Update
 - a. Performance - Budget / Forecast
 - b. 2021 Budget Direction
 - c. 2020 Reserve Account Study
 - d. Confirmation of Board review of monthly Financial reports
- IV. Overview of 2020-2022 Landscape “Plan 1.0”
- V. Unfinished Business
- VI. New Board Business
 - a. Inspector of Election
 - b. Engagement of CPA firm for 2020 taxes and audit
- VII. Next Meeting - Annual Meeting, Tues., December 8th
- VIII. Open Forum

During open forum, each attendee may address the board for up to three minutes. A director or manager may respond to statements made or questions posed. Speakers must observe the rules of decorum and not engage in shouting, profanity, or other disruptive behavior. If a speaker is in the middle of a sentence when time is called, she/he may finish their thought before sitting down. The time guidelines ensure that others will have an opportunity to speak. Speakers may not allot their time to others. As provided in the “Open Meeting Act,” members may observe the board meeting but do not have the right to participate in the Board’s deliberations or votes. If attendees become disruptive, they may be expelled from the meeting and fined.

- XI. Adjournment

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