

Graystone of Almaden

A Neighborhood Association
April 2014 Newsletter

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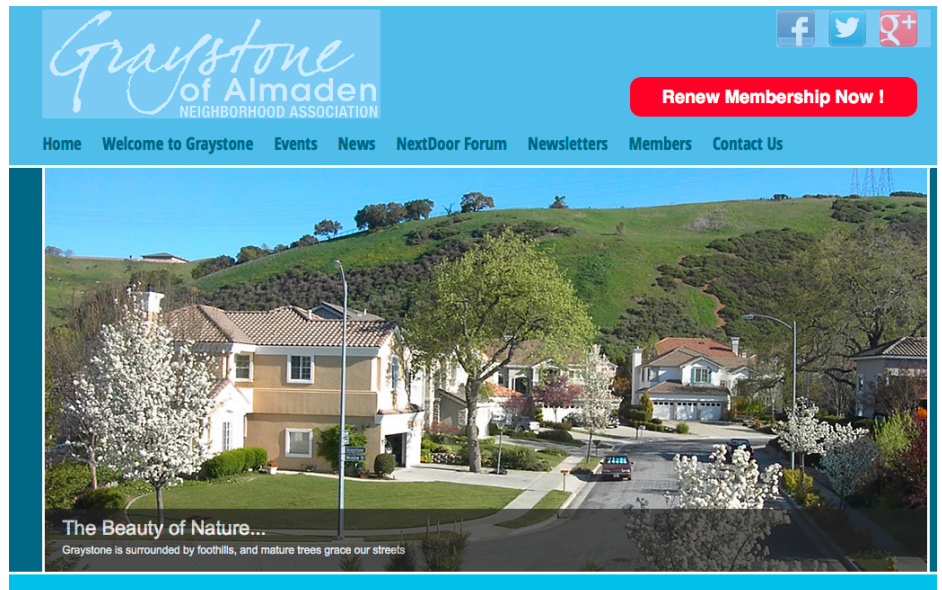
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New Website & Automation

Over the years, we have found that running the Association's administrative needs are always a challenge. In order to reduce the on-going administrative burdens, better connect with neighbors and utilize advances in technology, we have invested both time and funds to build several new capabilities. Working with an outside firm, LunaGraphica, we have made significant progress and are now ready to launch! We will need your participation and feedback to get this right. On the next page, we will ask you to do three (3) things. With your help, we hope that we can make the Association an even better partner. So, turn the page and help us "turn the page" on how we do a lot of what we do.



What You Can Now Do Online

- Access our neighborhood directory to change your personal information, such as add or modify your email address.
- Print a copy of the neighborhood directory with all the latest information anytime you want one or you can just look up the needed information online.
- Renew your membership on-line — no envelopes or stamps needed.
- Get updates in the way you want them — an email, a Facebook post, a Google+ post or a Twitter tweet.
- Link to NextDoor, a neighborhood bulletin board that helps us stay up-to-date on local happenings and provides a wealth of information on contractors, events and issues.
- Ask the Board a question using our website — the website will direct it to the proper person.
- Vote for Board membership on-line.
- And, finally, if the Board has an issue that needs neighbor input, they can ask for that input and the automation program will quickly tally the feedback you give.

Here Is What You Need To Do

- On the hardcopy flyer that you will receive at your doorstep, find your member name and password on the sticker. The password is temporary and unique!
- Log into our new website, graystoneofalmaden.org and click the big red box showing “Renew Your Membership Now”. This action will bring up the instructions on changing your password, checking and updating your information in the directory and then will allow you to renew your membership. Quick and simple without a bunch of paperwork!
- Also, don’t forget to link to social media and NextDoor as a way to stay connected.
- On the next page, is a screen shot of the instructions for easy reference.

Renewal Instructions



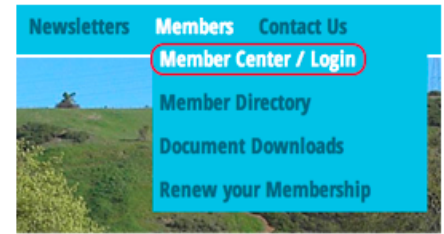
Your **Graystone of Almaden** membership is an annual membership and needs to be renewed each year. As a first step, please check and update your directory information. Then update your password and finally renew your membership. Listed below is more detail on each of the steps.

Login

First, log in to the site. You'll find the **Member Center / Login** page under the **Members** menu. Your user ID is your last name and your first initial, all lower case. (For example, David Smith's username is smithd.)

Your initial password was given to you by the website administrator. You can change it after you log in.

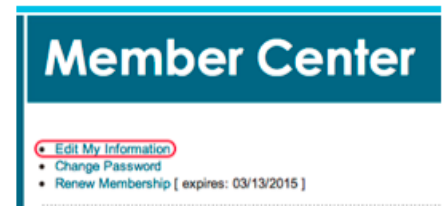
If you've lost or forgotten your password, the **Forgot Password** link on the login page (see the lower right, below the Password field) will email a password reset link to you *if we have a valid email address in our database*.



Update Your Profile

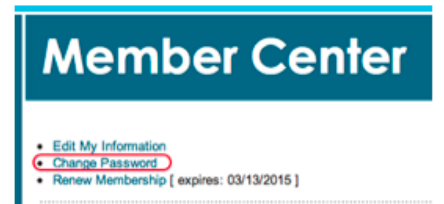
Select the **Edit My Information** link. You'll see a form with your basic information... name, address, phone number, email address, and names of your household members. Check to be sure the information is correct. (It's especially important that we have a valid email address, in case you forget your password.) Click the **Submit** button at the bottom of the form to return to the **Member Center**.

Please note that the information you provide is available to other members, but is not accessible to the general public.



Update Your Password

It's a good idea to regularly change your website passwords; your annual Graystone of Almaden renewal can serve as a reminder. To change your site password, select the **Change Password** link. On the password form, you can enter a new password, retype the password to make sure it matches, and then click the **Update Password** button.



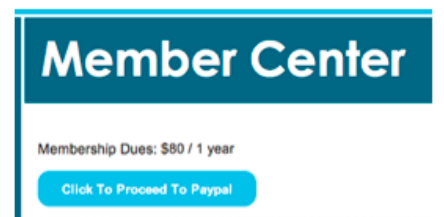
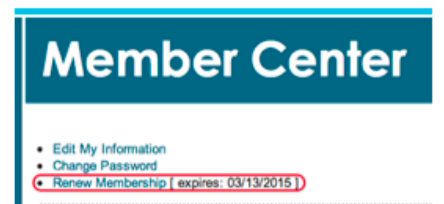
Renew Your Membership

Check your expiration date to determine if you need to renew your membership. If so, click the **Renew Membership** link.

The next page shows the current membership dues, and a button that will take you to **PayPal**.

At PayPal, you can pay your dues using your own PayPal account, or you can log in as a guest and use a major credit card to pay.

You will receive an email receipt from PayPal when your charge has been processed, and your membership expiration date will be automatically updated in our database.



NextDoor Forum



Graystone Neighborhood Association is not connected with NextDoor, but you can set up a free account on NextDoor and join the "Graystone of Almaden" neighborhood to share news and discussion with nearby neighbors.

The image shows a laptop displaying the NextDoor interface. On the left side of the laptop screen, there are two main sections:

- Keep the neighborhood safe**
Look out for each other and send updates to keep the neighborhood safe.
- Share goods and recommendations**
Find a great babysitter or trusty dentist. Borrow a ladder or sell that old bookcase.

Below these sections is a green button that says "SEE A NEIGHBORHOOD IN ACTION".

On the right side of the laptop screen, there is a list of posts:

- Dining set for sale**
We're selling our old dining set. It's solid wood, has four chairs a bench - it seats 6 people. We purchased it for \$2600 and are asking for more details.
- Mail thief back again**
Is anyone else missing their mail from today? We did not receive that maybe the person who was stealing everyone's mail is back. It's important to stay on the lookout, as identity theft can be a big...

NextDoor

We encourage you to sign-up for NextDoor as a great way to stay in touch with your neighbors — neighbors just in Graystone of Almaden, or neighbors in our surrounding area too. Just click on the NextDoor tab on our website. You will get to choose the breadth of the coverage. For your information, there are two Graystone neighborhoods. We are Graystone of Almaden, not just Graystone. The Graystone listing is for the neighborhood located next to Graystone Elementary School.

So, try it out. Many of us have found the information quite useful. We have learned about crime issues, good and bad contractors, lost and then found dogs, free stuff and interesting activities.

Board Members Urgently Needed

As we approach our new fiscal year (May thru April) we will be electing Board members to run the Association. We have around 110 members and an annual budget of about \$9000. We spend approximately \$6000 a year on annual expenses and fund our “capital account” approximately \$3000 a year. Capital expenses are incurred every few years with the Boulder Barrier project and the Association Automation Project discussed on the first page, the most recent projects.

We encourage you to consider joining the Board and providing your input and taking on a project. Without a willing and helpful Board, the Association will not survive and thrive. So, if you are interested in discussing Board membership, please contact Scott Sherwood, our current President, at scottsherwood@sbcglobal.net.

Thanks in advance for considering helping out.

New Open Space Maintenance Program

As you know, the Association maintains five (5) different “open space” areas within our neighborhood boundaries. They are:

- Front entrance - Graystone sign and wall area
- Pfeiffer Ranch - block retaining wall area and hillside
- Pfeiffer Ranch - property between the trail and the street
- Stonehill - the hillside adjacent to the open space
- Boulder Mountain Way & Rocky Crest - the hillside adjacent to the open space

To better maintain all the areas, we have entered into an agreement with an outside contractor (Hernandez Landscaping) to maintain all five areas on a regular basis. The four areas around our homes will be addressed every month and the large land area along Pfeiffer Ranch once a quarter . We should be looking good all year long!

Boulder Ridge Golf Club

Proposed Fitness & Swim Center



In 2008, we spent a great amount of time and effort researching and debating the “Event Tent” proposed by Boulder Ridge Golf Club. After months of meetings with the owner, Rocke Garcia, Santa Clara County planning staff and our County Commissioner, we agreed to a much revised proposal - a proposal to allow Boulder Ridge to build an Event Center building. This building complies with all restrictions imposed on the Clubhouse including adherence to noise and use requirements.

Our agreement with Rocke Garcia and the county was based upon the agreed interpretation that the Event Center was essentially a completion of the Clubhouse, because the Clubhouse had not utilized all approved square footage allowable under the original use permit. The combination of the Clubhouse and the new Event Center is approximately a 22,000 square foot structure. Under the current use permit and the 1994 Board of Supervisors Resolution, this represented the maximum development on the property. It is clearly stated that no outdoor pools are allowable at Boulder Ridge.

Rocke Garcia is now proposing a 20,000 square foot fitness center and an outdoor swimming pool. After meeting with Supervisor Wasserman and interacting several times with the County Planning Department, we are still worried that no one wants to fully understand the long history on this hillside property and enforce the 1994 Resolutions. We will be attending the upcoming Planning Commission meeting on April 24 and will update you. To read the Final EIR on the development proposal, go to the following link:

<http://www.sccgov.org/sites/planning/PermitsDevelopment/>

Progressive Dinner

Save the Date

Saturday, May 17

We have picked the date for this fun event but we still need two neighbors to volunteer to host. Please contact Kristen Vehling at 408 268 5973 or kvehling@yahoo.com to help out. Every year, this adults only event is a great time and super opportunity to reacquaint yourself with so many neighbors. So, please help us out.

You're Invited to a



Save The Date
Sunday, August 24
Starts at 5 pm with dinner at 6 pm

Last year, more than 100 of your neighbors joined in the fun. Hopefully we will have the same great weather and even a bigger turnout. So, mark your calendar now. Block out late afternoon to early evening and come hungry. Details and RSVP information to follow this Summer.