



The Oak Leaf



October 2003

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS

As we walk and bike on the streets of our neighborhood, we all worry about safety as we move out into the street to avoid plants, decorative structures and other things in the right-of-way. Have you ever wondered if there is any governance regarding the right-of-way on our streets or if it's all just a free for all? Most of us have chosen to live in Menlo Oaks because it is in the county and has a different structure than the city of Menlo Park or the town of Atherton. In the past we have resisted the "citification" of our neighborhood streets.

As it turns out though, there are some rules and there is some structure. I had some misconceptions regarding the county's right-of-way. I thought it was measured from the center point of the street. It actually is measured from the property line of one property owner across the street to the other property owner. So here are the right-of-way measures for our streets: Ringwood Ave. has a 55 foot right-of-way, Coleman and Arlington 60 feet, Menlo Oaks, Berkeley, Peninsula, and Colby 40 feet. The county would like to see landscaping, etc. five to nine feet from the pavement. The right-of-way for the Menlo Oaks side of Bay Road is governed by the city of Menlo Park.

Any work done in the county right-of-way requires a permit and must be inspected. There is a \$250 surety fee that is refunded when the project is finished and inspected. If you have a question about where your property line is, the permit section staff at the Public Works Dept. will help you.

www.menlo-oaks.org

If there is a tree in the right-of-way, the Road Maintenance crews will trim it for view, or clearance or remove it to maintain traffic and pedestrian safety. If the branches are threatening power lines, PG&E will take care of it. Now is a good time to check your trees to see if they are in danger of hitting the electrical lines during a winter storm. PG&E can tell you which lines they are.

All of this information and much more can be found at www.co.sanmateo.ca.us I spoke with the permit section of the Public Works department for San Mateo County. They were very responsive. You can reach them at (650) 363-1822 or 363-1821. Inspectors can be reached at (650) 363-4103. You can reach Road Maintenance at the same number. Call 1 (800) 743-5000 for PG&E.

Marge Draper

Annual Meeting Sun. Nov 2nd, 3-5 PM

The MODA Board members invite all the neighbors, both new and old to join us at the Peninsula School Auditorium for the MODA Annual meeting.

We will be electing four new members to our Board. If you are interest in being on the MODA Board or would like to nominate someone and can not make the meeting, please contact Remona Murray-Collyer (327-2806 or treasurer@menlo-oaks.org) or any other Board member.

This is the time to bring up any issues you think the Board should consider or to comment on our neighborhood.

Refreshments will be beverages and hors d' oeuvres. Please bring wine, beer, soda, cheese, crackers, cookies and such to share.

MODA Picnic 2003

Thank you MODA Board members and neighbors who help to make the annual picnic a success this year. This event gives the entire family a chance to connect and meet our neighbors, new and old every year.

We would also like to thank Peninsula School for generously allowing the use of their grounds for this event. Thanks goes out to M3 & Lisa Sweatt, Terry & Dennis Tsu, & Paula & Paul Martin for the generous donations of prizes for best salad & dessert contests for adults and children. Once again the volunteer judges had a tough job of choosing between the wonderful assortment of flavors you brought for our enjoy, thank you judges.

Finally, thanks to our neighborhood cooks, Elmer Reist, Joel Wilhite, Richard Collyer, and the other volunteers who step in to man the barbecue.

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M-A Addresses Parking Concerns

Last May, Menlo Atherton students and parents were up in arms when the high school announced that, due to construction of the new gym, the adjacent T-lot would be closed, eliminating approximately 100 parking spaces. When it was further announced that the remaining 200+ student parking spaces would be awarded only to seniors through a lottery system, students reacted with a mix of panic and outrage.

But, as the saying goes, that was then and this is now.

As it turns out, the parking problem is a non-issue, at least for the time being. What happened to cause this happy result?

First of all, only 180 seniors entered the lottery, so all were awarded parking spaces. (Extra spaces have since been assigned to more seniors.) In addition, over the summer, the M-A administration took several measures to compensate for the loss of the T-lot. Firstly, the under-utilized teacher parking lot on the corner of Middlefield and Oak Grove was consolidated, freeing up an additional 25 spaces for student parking along Faculty Lane. Secondly, the school worked with the county to temporarily bag No Parking signs on Ringwood, creating approximately 30 more spaces. Finally, to address the age-old problem of inadequate visitor parking, a meeting was held with Vice Principal Steve Benigno, PTA President Judy Hess and SRI staff Dennis Gaydos and Alice Resnick to come up with a "limited use permission" agreement to provide 50 spaces on the SRI lot for M-A PTA parent volunteers.

Once the new gym is completed sometime in January 2004, the T-lot will reopen. Also, 20 more spaces will be created when the former guidance

office portable is removed. According to Dr. Benigno, "When the T-lot opens and the portable is removed we will gain approximately 120 spaces which combined with existing parking should accommodate most of our juniors and seniors."

Unfortunately, the limited use agreement with SRI will expire on December 31, 2003 and volunteer parking must be addressed yet again. On different but related issue, planning is in the works for a much-needed theater on campus. While this brings up more concerns about parking, it also seems the opportune time to fix the problem once and for all. However, Principal Eric Hartwig did not return emails addressing questions regarding if and how more parking would be planned into the project.

In the meantime, parking at M-A is being strictly enforced. During school hours, faculty, student and volunteer permits must be displayed in their respective lots, or drivers will be issued a \$35 ticket. PTA volunteers must apply at the school for an SRI parking permit and must agree to follow a list of conditions. The 15+ officially designated Visitor Parking spaces in front of the school are now reserved strictly for "visitors."

For sporting events, athletes and visitors must park in the student parking area. Atherton Police will issue tickets to cars parked along Ringwood where No Parking signs are still in effect.

If you have further questions about parking or other issues regarding M-A, please feel free to email me at maliason@menlo-oaks.org.

Terry Tsu

FAQs about M-A

Is M-A a closed campus?

Menlo Atherton has a "closed campus" policy. This means that

students are not supposed to leave campus during school hours, including lunch, unless they have a legitimate reason (medical or dental appointment, outside classes, sports event, etc.) and receive permission from the school.

What are M-A's school hours?

On Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays the seven periods are from 7:50 to 3:15. But most students do not take 7 periods and leave by 2:20. Wednesdays and Thursdays are block days, which means that instead of having all six or seven periods, students have only 3 or 4 periods, but in longer chunks of time (1 hour and 40 minutes, instead of 50 minutes). For a student taking 6 periods, a Wednesday and Thursday would typically be from 7:50-1:35.

Why are students leaving campus at all hours?

By the time students reach their senior year, many take only 4 or 5 classes. This is another reason why you may see students leaving campus and also explains why at times, there appear to be so many empty spaces in the parking lot.

What can I do about loiterers in front of my house?

However, if you are having a problem with students whom you feel should not be outside of campus, please feel free to call the Vice Principals' office. They will promptly send their security personnel to check out the situation. The two Vice Principals are Dr. Steve Benigno, 322-5311 x5132 and Dr. Alice Campbell, 322-5311 x5130.

What is M-A's website?

Go to www.mabears.seq.org to find out more about student activities, sports calendar and volunteer opportunities.

Who do I call about Traffic Issues?

Call the CHP at: 369-6267

Neighborhood Directory

Remona Murray-Collyer

A Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Directory will be published again in February 2003. Only MODA members who have requested to appear in the Directory will be included and will automatically receive a copy. If you were in the last Directory, you will be included in the next unless you drop a note to me at 441 Arlington Way requesting to be removed.

The street numbers of homes include in the last Directory and the request I have received over the past year are shown in this list. If your number is on the list and you want to be in the next Directory, you do not need to do anything. Please let me know if there are name, e-mail or phone number changes or errors to last years Directory.

If you're not on the list and want to be include in the next Directory, please fill out and return the Directory Form at the end of the newsletter to me at 441 Arlington Way. The envelope included with this newsletter may be used for both the directory form and your 2002-2003 dues.

Arlington Way			
125	298	411	470
151	300	440	480
199	301	441	490
260	320	443	
280	390	450	

Bay Road			
414	518	542	632
422	530	546	
510	538	626	
Berkeley Ave			
500	620	754	886
501	622	760	890
510	624	766	902
520	626	770	930
524	630	799	940
528	660	800	950
544	662	803	951
561	680	815	995
570	700	821	
581	701	855	
610	710	880	
Colby Ave			
920	940	1040	1095
930	950	1051	
935	981	1070	
Coleman Ave			
870	880	951	1020
876	900	1001	1070
Entrada Way			
511	521		
Frederick Court			
1	2	4	
Menlo Oaks Drive			
210	461	590	855
220	462	591	865
240	481	601	875
241	500	611	885
281	501	621	900

298	507	631	901
300	520	660	910
301	530	670	931
330	531	698	935
360	549	701	940
361	550	750	941
398	551	751	990
399	560	800	999
400	570	807	
451	573	830	
Peninsula Way			
931	951	961	990
941	955	975	
Ringwood Ave			
200	400	660	800
220	420	670	890
250	440	680	894
260	540	780	
300	570	788	
320	572	790	

School Board Election

Vote to reelect our own neighbor Olivia Martinez along with Lorraine Rumley, and Don Gibson, incumbents for Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees, on Tues., Nov. 4th 2003.

Remona Murray

BLOOD DRIVE AT PENINSULA SCHOOL

Last year, Peninsula School had its first blood drive. This year the Blood Centers of the Peninsula asked us to do it again. We in turn invite our neighbors to participate with us in this worthy endeavor. The date is October 27 from 12 to 4pm.

Why give blood? Every three seconds someone needs blood. Just one pint can save three people's lives. Much of today's medical care depends on a steady supply of blood from healthy donors. Giving blood is truly the gift of life.

How do you give blood? Come to the bloodmobile just off the driveway to the left of the Big Building. Blood donation takes 4 steps: medical history, quick physical (such as testing blood for iron, checking blood pressure), the donation, and juice and cookies. The total time is about one hour, but only 10 minutes is needed for the actual donation.

Who can give blood? You must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in general good

health. (Don't come if you think you are coming down with a virus, or have recently gotten over one.) . Bring valid identification with you. You need to wait for at least two months between donations. Some restrictions relate to travel: if you have traveled to a malarial country you need to wait one year; if you have lived in Britain for 3 months between 1980 and 1996 you are ineligible.

Donors can make appointments for any 15 minute slot between 12 and 4. If you would like to donate, call Linda Wagner at Peninsula, 325-1584 and leave a message, or call the home phone at 323-1115, to get on the master list. If you want to decide later and just drop in, you're welcome.

Terry Tsu

Recommendations

Modern Mexican Restaurant

Check it out
Cafe del Sol Restaurant
650-326-2501
1010 Doyle Street
Down town Menlo Park
Across the street from Su Hongs ToGo

MODA DUES

Annual MODA dues are collected each year starting the first of October. Dues are \$20.00 per household and are used to publish newsletters and the neighborhood directory, for the annual picnic and annual meeting, as well as occasional incidental neighborhood related expenses and flyers.

Thanks to everyone who supported MODA with their dues last year. If you have any questions about dues, expenditures, etc., contact Remona Murray-Collyer, MODA Treasurer, at 327-2806.

An addressed envelope is attached to this newsletter if you prefer to pay by mail or bring your 2002-2003 dues of \$20.00 to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 3.

Make a check for \$20.00 payable to Menlo Oaks District Association

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The Oak Leaf is published by the Menlo Oaks District Association and is distributed to all homes in the Menlo Oaks neighborhood of unincorporated San Mateo County.

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