



# The Oak Leaf



May 2004

## WHAT'S SO GREAT

### ABOUT JUNE?

The kids might say it's because school's out. Dads might say it's got Father's Day. High school and college seniors might say Graduation Day!

We at MODA say The Annual Picnic!

Mark your calendar on June 13 for our Annual Picnic. Gather your family, lawn chairs and/or blankets and contest entries and join your friends and neighbors at Peninsula School. The picnic is scheduled from 4:00 - 7:00 on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

The food will be great as usual: chicken, burgers, and hot dogs cooked ably by your MODA board members, Joel and Terry. Soft drinks, wine and beer will be provided.

Don't forget to bring a salad or dessert! One of the highlights of the picnic is tasting the wonderful salads and desserts brought by our neighbors. We also hope you will enter your dish in the salad or dessert contest. There is a kid's category for desserts, too. It's great to see and taste the creative dishes the kids put together! David Jevans is in charge of judging the salad and dessert entries. If you want to have a good excuse for tasting everything at the picnic, look for David and volunteer your services.

There will be some great entertainment again this year. Last year Mr. Horsefeathers had everyone greatly entertained. We will

(about June cont.)

also have some musical entertainment as well. Your board is currently working on those arrangements.

Don't forget your annual dues pay for this picnic so come and eat, drink, and enjoy some super entertainment. It's better than take-out!

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## Coleman Avenue

The Coleman Ave. petition that was circulated by Carla Dewar last year raised the question about pedestrian safety on that street. We are not unique in the county with regard to the lack of sidewalks but we do border and host several major surface streets. What makes a street a major street? We are still trying to get a straight answer to that question but it should be obvious to anyone living here that we live smack dab in the middle of a corridor with no expressway access between US101 and El Camino Real. As the communities established over the years, the vocal residents of the time forced development to limit the traffic and not allow the equivalent of Oregon Expressway on Willow Road. The Embarcadero was at one time planned to be extended and become the west side entrance to the Dumbarton Bridge until the residents in the area stopped it.

The combination of local traffic created from us going to work and the school day 'traffic and SamTrans bus route elevates the

## Calendar

May 9	Mother's Day
May 31	Memorial Day
June 13	Annual Picnic
June 20	Father's Day
July 4	Independence Day
Sept 6	Labor Day
Nov 7	Annual Meeting

(Coleman cont.)

use of Coleman Avenue. We have requested a current road survey data report to represent this characterization. The concern has been raised about the coincident vehicle and pedestrian traffic in combination with our narrow road profile. Specifically, since we don't have a curb or sidewalk paths to provide separation between children walking to school from the vehicles, Carla and other parents are asking "shouldn't we do something about this before something unthinkable does?" Not knowing what is possible, we invited Neil Cullen from San Mateo County Department of Public Works come speak to a group that gathered

## Help The MODA Picnic Organizers!

- Please remember to label your dish with your name and address.
- With the use of a small PA System for the day's event.
- Volunteer to be a host, barbecue cook, contest judge or on clean up crew.
- Donate prizes (i.e. toys or gift certificates from your business).
- Remember to pay your \$20.00 annual dues.

[www.menlo-oaks.org](http://www.menlo-oaks.org)

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## It's About the Trees...

We have all chosen and are lucky to live in Menlo Oaks. The character and name of our home derives from the abundance of oak trees in the district. The oak trees provide a canopy of shade from the hot summer days, allowing us to keep our homes cool and to enjoy our expansive back yards. Today our oaks continue to face the threat of development as well as new diseases and fungi. Sudden Oak Death was confirmed in Mill Valley in 1995 and has been confirmed in San Mateo County. Sudden Oak Death (SOD) attacks and kills off part of the tree allowing other bugs and fungi to enter and kill off the tree. The basic care of our oaks will preserve the rich canopy that has taken generations to grow for our children and future residents of Menlo Oaks.

The care and preservation of our oaks can be focused on a few simple areas, The root system, fertilizing and pruning. The root system of an oak is the heart of the tree. During the early years of an oak's life, the root system establishes itself and becomes less able to adapt to changes, so care is very important. Oaks do not need irrigation during the summer months, so planting of ornamentals or other water loving plants near the root zone will result in a warm moist soil that will lead to crown and root rot. Avoid trenching or digging near your oak that can result in roots being severed. Also, avoid adding fill around the root zone, as this will hamper the exchange of gases and fluid into the root zone. When

### **EDITOR IN CHIEF:**

Richard Collyer

### **CONTRIBUTORS:**

Marge Draper

James Dowley

Jeol Wilhite

### **LAYOUT:**

Richard Collyer

### **ABOUT THE OAK LEAF:**

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planning a home improvement consult a certified arborist before designing your project to see what the best location for an addition or construction project may be. According to Realtors active in our neighborhood, mature existing trees on a property while very attractive, also may add a lot to the value of your property.

Our oaks need little supplemental water or fertilizer. An application of a light fertilizer is appropriate when the area around an oak is landscaped and the resulting mulch may be raked away on a regular basis. Organic nitrogen fertilizers are the preferred source if your oak needs food and should be applied in holes eighteen inches deep along the drip line of the tree. Pruning of your oak trees is only recommended to remove dead, weakened or diseased and dangerous branches. Pruning should only be done during the dry season of June, July and August.

Resources abound on the Internet for information on care and preservation of California oaks [http://www.californiaoaks.org/html/oak\\_tree\\_care.html](http://www.californiaoaks.org/html/oak_tree_care.html). The University of California maintains an excellent site and is monitoring the Sudden Oak Death situation and working diligently on preventative measures.

Without out the oaks in Menlo Oaks, we may as well be Menlo Park, remember to preserve our trees.

(Coleman cont. from Pg 1)

at Carla's house and later, Carla scheduled a meeting with San Mateo to discuss and understand what options were available from the County. Remona Murray and I attended both meetings.

San Mateo County Department of Public Works has since developed a matrix of possibilities that includes columns of data points that highlight the differences between the various options. We are still waiting on the road traffic survey data but should have it soon. The traffic circles on Coleman were added to provide a narrowing/obstacle to calm the traffic flow and the petition seeks to be more informed about what can be done to increase the safety. It would seem these two attributes contradict each other but for certain, San Mateo is not doing anything except to provide guidance and will not react until the majority of Menlo Oaks residents desire change.

The board is preparing to hold a special meeting at Peninsula School to allow Carla to address those that would listen. The board will make a short presentation on the material options and data samples provided by the county. Time and date to be announced.

## **Menlo Oaks District Association 2003-2004 Board**

**Joel Wilhite..... president@menlo-oaks.org**  
**Holly Still ..... vicepresident@menlo-oaks.org**  
**Remona Murray-Collyer ..... treasurer@menlo-oaks.org**  
**Marge Draper ..... welcomingcommittee@menlo-oaks.org**  
**Rich Collyer ..... editor@menlo-oaks.org**  
**Terry Tsu ..... ma-liaison@menlo-oaks.org**  
**James Dowley ..... Menlo Park City Liaison**  
**Jennifer Dignum ..... Dave Jevans**