

The Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Newsletter



The Oak Leaf



October 2004

Message From Our President

Greetings and welcome to another issue of the Oak Leaf. We have 4 new neighbors that have moved into our neighborhood within the last year. And by the looks of the ongoing construction, we will have more on the way.

In a manner of speaking, we have a changing of the guard at MODA every year because of how the terms are set up. The Menlo Oaks District Association (MODA) board is comprised of 4 officers and five board members elected by the MODA members. Holly Still is still our Vice President and our new Bay Road representative. Remona Murray is coming back again this year as our trusted and devoted Treasurer and lives on Arlington. Some of you may already know Marge Draper. She is our MODA Secretary and our welcoming committee person and lives on Berkeley. My name is Joel Wilhite, MODA President and bar-b-que chef for the annual MODA picnic. I live on the corner of Colby and Menlo Oaks Drive.

Our board members include James Dowley, Jennifer Dignum, and Terry Tsu who are all stepping down in November. Richard Collyer our Oakleaf Editor and David Jevans our webmaster round out the staff. We started out short one staff member but we were able to operate without having to fill the position since we didn't initiate any business that required a tie breaking vote.

www.menlo-oaks.org

We are always looking for input for the MODA Web site <http://www.menlo-oaks.org> to provide a more useful interface to the people of our neighborhood. Our site is paid for and maintained by us, the people that LIVE here. If you have something you wish to contribute and no matter if you have web experience or not, we would love to hear from you. It is always under construction as it is a rolling work in progress effort. Check back as we will be adding other useful information like important numbers

www.menlo-oaks.org

for the county services. Bring any input or ideas with you to the November meeting.

Traffic, Roads and the Coleman Ave Petition

We have received a road usage survey that helps us characterize the street usage. There are few if any conclusions to be drawn from the report and we'll cover all of those details at the November meeting.

Carla Dewar asked for a meeting with Neil Cullen from San Mateo County Department of Public Works, which Remona Murray and I attended, to discuss and understand what options were available from the county. San Mateo County Department of Public Works developed a matrix of possibilities that includes columns of data points along with pictures that overlay the effect of each of the choices available and highlights the differences between the various options.

To be clear, San Mateo County will NOT do anything except to provide guidance and will NOT react until the majority of Menlo Oaks residents desire change.

The board was preparing to hold a special meeting earlier this year at Peninsula School to allow Carla to address the issue but we didn't get the data we needed in time and then it was summer. Now that we have a good representation of data, we'll add this presentation to the agenda during our normal meeting as a matter of new business.

Joel Wilhite

Annual Meeting

Join your MODA Board members and neighbors in a discussion on the many issues concerning the Menlo Oaks District, at our annual meeting Sunday, November 7th, from 3 - 5 pm at the Peninsula School Auditorium.

We need to elect three new members to our Board. If you are interested on being on the MODA Board or would like to nominate

Calendar 2004

Nov 7 Annual Meeting

2005

Menlo Park Fire Protection District Classes Begin

Mar 17 CERT
Aug 6 CERT
Sept 13 CERT

Mar 7 CPR
Apr 11 CPR
May 2 CPR

(for more dates and details see:

<http://www.menlofire.org/cert/schedule.html>)

someone, please contact Remona Murray (327-2806, treasurer@menlo-oaks.org) or any other Board member.

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

We wish to STRONGLY encourage ALL Coleman residents to attend this years annual meeting.

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Picnic & High School News

ANNUAL PICNIC

Did we see you at this year's annual picnic? About 230 of your friends and neighbors were there! It was a great time to catch up on people you've seen but haven't been able to stop and chat with, enjoy the entertainment and, of course, sample the flavorful food. In addition to the super cooking by the MODA chefs, we enjoyed the salads and desserts brought to the picnic by everyone.

One of the many highlights of the picnic is the judging of the salads and desserts. This year's winners are:

Children's Desserts

- 1st Caitlin and Matthew Marianacci,
Golf Course Cake
- 2nd Maya Jevens,
Apple Pie
- 3rd Tessa Dignum,
Strawberry Mountain
- 4th Ellie Rice,
Chocolate Cake

Adult Desserts

- 1st Betsy Davis,
Carmel Pistachio Chocolate Torte
- 2nd John Davis,
Key Lime Bars
- 3rd Molly Pam,
Chocolate Caramel Torte
- 4th Nancy Joeckel,
New York Cheesecake

Adult Salads

- 1st Astrid Lang,
Cabbage Crunch
- 2nd Carmen and Kate Dowley,
Sesame, Pasta & Spinach Salad
- 3rd Vera Mall,
Spinach Salad
- 4th Diana McCullough,
Strawberry and Spinach Salad

We'd like to give our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed time and effort to make the picnic possible. We'd also like to thank Peninsula School without which the picnic would not be possible!

Marge Draper

What is Measure H?

Measure H is a bond proposal to continue the modernization, improvement and expansion of classrooms and facilities for school and community use at local high schools, including Carlmont, Menlo-Atherton, Sequoia, and Woodside. A 55% vote is required to pass this measure.

Measure H and Menlo-Atherton High School

M-A has benefited from recent bond measures with a new administration building, much needed classrooms, new athletic fields and gym facilities, a new library with computer lab, and the overall beautification of campus grounds.

Funds from Measure H would be used to build performing arts classrooms and a theater at M-A to be designed for use by students and the community. Also, the district is looking to lower the cost of electricity by installing environmentally friendly solar power systems at M-A and its other schools.

The Menlo-Atherton PTA has unanimously endorsed Measure H.

Measure H will maintain – *not increase* – tax rates

Local school bond funds received strong support from voters in recent elections and have made it possible to renovate and modernize the four high schools that serve our community. Some schools (Menlo-Atherton, in particular) had not received major improvements in almost 40 years.

Although each school of the Sequoia Union High School District has been greatly improved as a result of the 2 bond measures, more remains to be done. Measure H will raise the funds needed for these projects without raising property tax rates.

Over the last eight years, local voters have approved two school bonds. These bonds currently cost homeowners and businesses in the district \$24 per \$100,000 of assessed value. This tax rate decreases every year because, as homes and businesses are sold, the total assessed value of property in the district increases.

Measure H will allow the district to raise additional bond funds by keeping the tax rate constant at \$24 per \$100,000. The cost of Measure H will be an annual average of \$5.64 (per \$100,000 of assessed valuation). That small difference will fund the completion of much needed improvements at our local high schools.

Measure H funds will address specific needs

Enrollment in our local high school is increasing. Measure H funds will be used to build the new classrooms needed to avoid overcrowding. Measure H funds will be used to update the computer and network systems serving high school buildings and classrooms. Measure H funds will complete the upgrading of water, gas, sewer, electrical, communications and safety systems. These improvements will allow our high school to serve the community for years to come.

Measure H funds will be used to build music, vocal and performing arts classrooms and a theater. These will be designed for use by students and by the community.

The cost of energy has increased dramatically over the last few years for everyone. Measure H funds will allow the high school district to lower the cost of electricity by installing environmentally friendly solar power systems. That's money available for the classroom. Foothill De Anza Community College and UC Berkeley have both launched similar efforts to reduce energy costs through the installation of solar power systems.

www.AboutMeasureH.com

Thoughts less in favor

This all sounds great, but it does not say anything about fixing the increasing parking problem that Menlo-Atherton High School is creating. In Fact the way I read this, the Performing Art Theater will likely make the problem worse.

MODA Newsletter Editor

Neighborhood Directory

Remona Murray-Collyer

A Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Directory will be published again in February 2005. 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.

Below are the street numbers of homes included in the last Directory. The requests I have received over the past year are also 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, additional children, e-mail or phone number changes or errors to last years Directory.

If you're not on the list and want to be included in the next Directory, please fill out and return the Directory Form on the cover sheet 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 2004-2005 dues.

ARLINGTON

125	381
151	390
199	411
221	440
260	441
280	443
298	450
300	470
301	480
320	490

BAY

414	538
422	542
510	546
518	626
530	632

BERKELEY

500	710
501	754
510	760
520	766
524	770
528	776
544	799
561	800
570	803
581	815
610	821
620	855
622	880
624	886
626	890
630	902
660	903
662	930
680	940
700	950
701	995

COLBY

920	981
930	1040
935	1051
940	1070
950	1095

COLEMAN

870	901
876	951
880	1020
890	1070
900	1099

ENTRADA

511	521
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FREDERICK

1	3
2	4

MENLO OAKS

210	570
220	573
240	590
241	591
281	601
298	611
299	621
300	631
301	660
330	670
360	698
361	701
398	750
399	751
400	800
451	807
461	830
462	855
481	865
500	875
501	885
507	900
520	901
530	910
531	931
549	935
550	940
551	941
560	960
	999

PENINSULA

915	955
925	961
931	975
941	990
951	

RINGWOOD

200	572
220	590
250	660
320	670
400	680
420	780
440	788
540	790
550	800
570	890
	894

Misc. News

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 2004-2005 dues of \$20.00 to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 7.

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

Reduce Junk Mail

For more information about reducing junk mail, visit the Recycle Works website

www.recycleworks.com/resident/junkmail.html

or call the City Environmental Program for a "Junk Mail Reduction Kit" at (650) 330-6763 anytime and leave your name and address.

County of San Mateo (888) 442-2666.

Community Emergency Response Team

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), began promoting nationwide use of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept in 1994. Since then, CERTs have been established in hundreds of communities through out the country.

CERT training promotes a partnering effort between emergency services and the people they serve.

The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of the neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic response skills. CERT members are then included into the emergency response resources for their area.

<http://www.menlofire.org/cert/>

Oak Tree Care

There is a great web site of information about how to take care of your oak tree. I strongly recommend that you take a look at it and do what you can to follow the guidelines.

<http://www.californiaoaks.org/>

HINTS CORNER

As I go around the neighborhood a few things come to mind that would make Menlo Oaks an even better place to live.

1. Please pick up after your dog. I know it's a pain to carry that nasty bag for the rest of your walk, but it's even worse when I step in the poop and have to pick it out of the grooves in the soles of my walking shoes.

2. If your walk is going to last 'til after dark, please wear light color clothing.

3. If you are parking on Ringwood while picking up your Laurel student, park on the Menlo Oaks side of the street. Cars have been keyed on the Atherton side.

4. Call/Email (see directory) Holly Still if you have a request to be made of the county. She has been successful in getting the street markings renewed when the county was content with letting them disappear from wear.

If you have any other hints, just let us know.

Marge Draper

EDITOR IN CHIEF:

Richard Collyer

CONTRIBUTORS:

Remona Murray-Collyer

Jennifer Dignum

LAYOUT:

Richard Collyer

ABOUT THE OAK LEAF:

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.

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**