

The Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Newsletter

The Oak Leaf



February 2005

Annual Meeting

We had about 50 folks join us for the annual meeting at Peninsula School on November 7th. Due to the auditorium being unavailable, we set up chairs in the gymnasium.

Remona Murray gave her Treasurer report and thanked our MODA Board Members Joel Wilhite (President), Holly Still (VP), Rich Collyer (Editor), Marge Draper (Welcoming Committee), Terry Tsu (M-A Liaison), James Dowley (MP City Liaison), Dave Jevans (Webmaster) and Jennifer Dignum for their hard work and dedication. It is through their input that our neighborhood newsletter, picnic and annual meeting take place.

The two main topics covered were the status of the Coleman Avenue petition and the changes and updates at Menlo-Atherton High School (MAHS) due to Measure H.

I invited Carla Dewar to make a presentation regarding her petition for a bicycle/pedestrian pathway on Coleman Ave. to the audience. I also presented some follow up material that we received from the county to bring the meeting attendees up to speed with what has been discussed to date.

The floor was then opened to the general comments of the attendees and could have gone on beyond the hour that we allowed for the subject. The main action item that came up was the need to have a meeting with all 20 property owners on Coleman Avenue who will be impacted by the plan. The MODA board is planning a meeting to be held in March.

We also covered some issues that were brought to my attention during the last year regarding MAHS. After collecting all the comments forwarded to me over e-mail, I took the list over to the school and met with the administrative staff. After having met with the school I relayed some of their positions and actions back to the folks at the meeting.

We asked for and got a neighbor from the meeting, Charles Riley, to help liaison with MAHS. Charles and I will be going back to visit with the new MAHS principal, Mr. Estrada, to find out what actions are being taken to correct the issues our neighborhood has with MAHS. We hope to determine if there are ways we can help them resolve our issues.

Three members of the MODA Board members terms had expired. So we said goodbye to Terry, James and Jennifer. The opening were filled by Charles Riley, Celine Sanie, and Mary Sapountzis.

Joel Wilhite and Remona Murray

MODA Board Meetings

We are busy planning the next steps on several items as this news letter goes to press. The Board will be holding a meeting for the Coleman Avenue residents in March. We'll be contacting all those residents personally but anybody is welcome to come; however, seating will be limited. I will know more as the newsletter goes to press, so if you're interested in going, drop me a line and I will see if we can fit more folks in.

Thanks to those who paid their dues, the MODA budget report shows a slight surplus. What also has helped the budget is the savings in postage, now that we can provide the Oak Leaf in electronic form. Thank you for providing your email to help us reduce our printing and postage costs.

Your MODA board is starting to plan the annual picnic activity for 2005. We have already picked the date (see calendar) and started looking for the entertainment for this year. Please contact any of our board members if you have any suggestions. Hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Joel Wilhite

Calendar

March 12th	Coleman Meeting
April 9th	Spring Cleaning
June 12th	MODA Picnic

Treasurer's Report

Thanks to the collection of \$3,800 in dues from 184 of the 280 residences over the 2003-2004 MODA year, the Board members decided to increase its budget for the annual picnic. This provide us with enough cash flow to add a keg of micro-brewery beer which did not last long.

The balance remaining on October 1, 2004 of the collect dues was \$2,557.49. The MODA Board has expanded its Calendar to include a Spring Clean Up Party in April (see article pg 3).

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President's Corner

Hello and welcome to 2005 and another issue of the Oak Leaf. With all of the rain we have received my fruit trees are just about ready to drop a huge crop and the first year since we moved into Menlo Oaks my lemon tree has produced not much more than just a handful of scrawny and pathetic entries. I guess all the fertilizer is starting to finally kick in. I suppose it is time for a lemonade stand. I also noticed blossoms have already started to bloom, which should make for yet another gorgeous delight while walking the neighborhood.

I don't know about you but I have fun walking the streets if not just for the exercise alone but to take in all the views, meet new folks on the street and see all the new construction and how they are progressing (or not) week after week. I can't help but think that new families will soon be moving in, some with kids to help fill the playgrounds and backyards with laughter and the occasional yelp for joy. I also can't wait for spring to return and get digging into the garden and see what I can grow this year.

Before too long, summer will descend upon us as the days get longer and it will soon be time for the annual MODA picnic. As always, we hope to get a huge turnout to come visit with neighbors and sample food and entertainment. The kids seem to enjoy Mr. Horsefeathers and all of his antics and feats of ballonery. We will see if he can come back and give us another show again this year. The picnic is also a good time to meet the MODA board and staff and heck, if you're inspired, help chip in. Every year we always have left over chicken or better yet, beer. It's paid for, why waste it? Just walk on over to Peninsula school on June 12th and join us.

Joel Wilhite

Did You Know That.....

There are over 36 new families with small children that have moved into the neighborhood since 2000.

Kindergarten enrollment packages are available at Laurel School Office beginning in February of each year. You must bring your PG&E bill to receive an enrollment package.

The San Mateo Mosquito Abatement Department (MAD) 344-8592 or <http://www.smcmad.org> will remove yellow jacket nest for free. MAD will also provide mosquito fish for your ponds.

It is a stinky/messy job, but your neighbors appreciate it when you clean up after your dog.

When walking in the evening wearing light or reflective clothing and carrying a flashlight allows drivers to see you better.

If you write down the license plate number of a repeat speeder with the make and/or model, and the time of day they were seen you can call the CHP at 369-6261, who will dispatch a car during that time a day or contact the owner.

If you have a tire on the pavement, even if parked in front of your home, your vehicle is considered a hazard to traffic and it is subject to a ticket.

The new contact for community policing is Deputy Sean Gonzalez at 599-9186 or 363-4597.

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) training begins on Thursday Evening for six weeks starting March 3rd. Contact CERT@menlofire.org to reserve space for this class. Get more information about our Fire Districts CERT Program at <http://www.menlofire.org/CERT/>.

The Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) has free physics lectures on their ongoing research. Go to: <http://www2.slac.stanford.edu/lectures/default.htm>.

[MODA] E-MAILS

Over the past few years many of you have sent your e-mail to me. The information is not shared with anyone other than upon request or when you ask to have it published in the directory. I only send out e-mails when an issue arises of importance to our neighborhood or if you have requested to receive your newsletter or directory. Thank you for continuing to update me with your new e-mail address.

MODA also has its own bulletin board list managed by Jim Wampler (jim@igc.apc.org). If you have never received an e-mail beginning with [MODA] in the subject line than you have not been added to this important neighborhood tool.

It allows residents to put out information about police action, concerns/interests, free bee/events, rental request/availability and car/yard sales.

To subscribe to the list e-mail Jim with your name and address so he can confirm you're in the neighborhood.

Remona Murray, Treasurer

www.menlo-oaks.org

As always, we are 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. Please bookmark the site and check back often as we will be adding other useful information like Coleman Avenue updates. Please forward all your material and ideas to David Jevans, webmaster@menlo-oaks.org, for consideration.

Joel Wilhite

Spring Cleaning

April 9th

Menlo Oaks District

Want to talk trash with your neighbors? Then join us for a Spring Cleaning day full of friendship and fun. We will be meeting at Peninsula School on Saturday April 9th at 10AM. We will split into smaller teams to comb the streets and pick up trash as well as recycling. Hot dogs and drinks will wait for all the participants at noon on Madison, that will be closed for the occasion. Bring your own chairs and toys, tricycles and balls!

Celine Sanie

Marking the passing of a Neighbor

Jeanne Diedericksen, a graduate of San Jose State (BA) and Stanford (MA), taught Physical Education for 17 years at Menlo Atherton - swimming & track coach. After leaving the PE department she became a counselor. Jeanne Died on Sept. 18, 2004. She and her husband, Roy, lived on Menlo Oaks since 1956. All her friends and neighbors miss her lovely smile and graciousness. She died of brain cancer.

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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. Past issues are available at <http://www.menlo-oaks.org/?page=theoakleaf&area=theoakleaf>

Dues & Directory

MODA has annual dues of \$20.00, which helps to cover the cost of our Annual Picnic in June, the Annual Meeting in November, the Web Site, and the ever increasing printing, postage costs of the three issues of the Oak Leaf and Annual Directory. If the newsletter you received has an envelope, with my return address of Remona Murray, MODA Treasurer, 441 Arlington Way, attached, then my records show that I have not received your dues for 2004-2005 MODA calendar year. Please check your records and let me know if I am in error. I can be contacted via email at treasurer@menlo-oaks.org or by phone at (650) 327-2806.

The MODA Directory will be distributed this week to members who have paid their annual dues, PDF or Excel format are available via email upon request. If you have paid your dues, but have not received a Directory by the second week of March and you would like to receive one, please let me know so I can correct my records.

Remona Murray

Wanted

Amateur pianist to play chamber music with violinist. Please contact Jack Fink at 325-8835.

Ordinance Section

7.28.030 Parking of Commercial Vehicles.

Recently there was a discussion about a tree company parking their truck and chipper overnight along the streets of the Menlo Oaks District. The discussion took place on the MODA Bulletin Board. During the discussion it was determined that there was a county ordinance against the parking of commercial trucks along our street for more than one (1) hour. There is a fine of \$30 for any vehicles that are found breaking this ordinance. I have included the text of the ordinance below, in case you are concerned about what is legal and not legal.

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No person, firm or corporation, nor any agent or employee thereof, shall stop, leave standing, or park for the period of more than one (1) hour any commercial vehicle, whether attended or unattended, upon a street, road, highway or other thoroughfare, or place of whatever nature, publicly maintained and open to the use of the public for the purpose of vehicular travel, located in any residential zone in the unincorporated area of said County, except when such vehicle is in actual use for the transaction of any lawful business in said zone or is temporarily disabled.

Menlo Oaks District Association 2004-2005 Board

- Joel Wilhite..... president@menlo-oaks.org
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