

The Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Newsletter



The Oak Leaf



October 2005

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 13th, from 3 - 5 pm at the Peninsula School Auditorium.

We need to elect three new members to our Board (President, Vice President, and Board Member). If you are interested on being on the MODA Board or would like to nominate someone, please contact Remona Murray (327-2806, treasurer@menlo-oaks.org) or any other Board member.

We are also looking to have the Sheriff come to talk to the neighborhood about organizing a Neighborhood Watch Program.

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

Important Cell Phone Numbers

Police

Atherton	323-6131
Burlingame	692-0310
Foster City	753-3333
Menlo Park	325-4424
San Carlos	592-2222
E. Palo Alto	321-1112
Hillsborough	759-3818
SFO	876-2323
Belmont	595-7400

Sheriff

363-4911
Redwood City, Redwood Shores, Ladera, LaHonda, Menlo Oaks, Portola Valley, Woodside, West Menlo Park

EMS

364-1313

Fire

368-1421

Coleman Vote Results

The results were tabulated and couldn't have been any more contentious.

No Change	52
#1 (Class One Bike Path, 1 side)	4
#2 (Paved Shoulder, both sides)	0
#3 (Sidewalk, 1 side)	0
#4 (Sidewalk, both sides)	2
#5 (Graded Shoulder, 1 side)	2
#6 (Limited Parking)	1
#7 (Paved Shoulder, 1 side)	3
#8 (Raised Curb)	8
#9 (Small scale adaptive solution)	0
#10 (Close Coleman, County Line)	6
#11 (Close Coleman, Arlington)	4
#12 (Remove 3' of landscape)	12

269 total APN
201 registered MODA members
107 ballots printed
103 ballots returned
52 said no change
51 said do something (with 9 cases of exceptions)

(Some ballots had additional comments, which suggested either some solution or No Change)

Joel Wilhite has proposed and received approval for the formation of a one-time ad hoc committee composed of both board members and MODA members at large to work together to prepare our final presentation to the County. Joel asked Nancy Joeckel, Lola Goheen and Jim Wampler to be our MODA members of the ad hoc committee and they have all indicated a desire to support us. It is the desire of the board to be as comprehensive about this matter as possible and as such is expected to require a fair amount of work to complete. Once the presentation is ready to be submitted to the county, we'll ask to be scheduled in at the convenience of the county.

A preliminary version of the county presentation is expected to be presented at the annual meeting on Nov 13th.

Calendar 2005

Nov 13 Annual Meeting

ICE (In Case of Emergency)

MODA has learned that your cell phone can now be a useful tool for Emergency providers (Police and Fire) in the event of an accident. The first responders will look thru your cell phone's address list for the initials ICE in hopes of contacting the nearest family members or designated emergency contact. This newest and useful tool will provide quicker contact in the event that the cell phone use is unable to tell first responders who to call. Take the time to pickup your cell phones and program in your emergency contact's phone number under ICE. It just may save your life. Take it a step further and program ICE OUT with your out of state contact in the event of a earthquake.

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Picnic & Coleman News

ANNUAL PICNIC

MODA's annual picnic was held on June 12th and it's safe to say that those who attended had a great time. New board members brought fresh ideas to the planning of the picnic and the kids had the benefit! We added two bounce houses and a great slide to the entertainment at the picnic.

The entertainment and the great food provided an excellent backdrop for neighbors to catch up with each other. In addition to the hot dogs, chicken, burgers and the condiments provided by your MODA dues, we all enjoyed the salads and desserts brought to the picnic by all of you.

As usual, the salad and dessert judges had a great time determining this year's best of the categories. The winners were:

Children's Desserts

- 1st Clair's famous English Toffee
- 2nd Annalise Farmer, The Fairy Garden
- 3rd Jesse Colligan, Lemon Pie

Adult Desserts

- 1st Andrea Jevans,
Apple Pie
- 2nd Molly Pam & Penny Stroud,
Chocolate Cheesecake
- 3rd Bonnie McGregor & Rich Chambers,
Banana Cake

Adult Salads

- 1st Jim Bird,
Curried Veg. Cous Cous
- 2nd Doug Rice,
Guacamole
- 3rd ?,
Lemon Mint Pea Salad

Message From Our President

Where did the summer go? It seems like yesterday we just had the picnic. But by now, everybody has settled into the new school year while our fabulous weather continues. As the day light hours shrink, I start to think about getting ready for colder weather and planning holiday activities. But alas, there is the yard work and house repairs along with the resumption of MODA activities. In fact, the newsletter is coming a little later than normal and mostly because I like many others have been extremely busy.

Tree maintenance is a huge issue that is easy to notice when you walk around the neighborhood. I spent a solid weekend going through my canopy of seven oaks trees around my yard last year, a job I do not recommend for those afraid of heights, and can still see areas where I need to do more work to take some of the weight off the longer limbs. I plan on having an arborist take a look at one of my trees to see what I can do about the branches that are sagging on SBC lines. It's a good thing we don't get many days of high wind but I don't want to wait for the inevitable to happen either.

I also started thinking about disaster preparation and enrolled myself into the CERT course. I and others in the neighborhood are learning about how to perform certain tasks to help out in a mass conflagration. Let's face it, it isn't a matter of what will happen, but rather when. Do you know how to shut off your gas if you smell it? When was the last time you checked your fire extinguisher(s)? Do you have a first aid kit in your car? I would like to believe we won't get flooded like the effects seen in the aftermath of Katrina, but I do wonder about how I would get home if I was at work and a major earthquake hit. One thing I wonder about is if the bay area gets hit hard, will the peninsula be the place to be if any one or all of the bridges go out? Can we survive for a week or more in our neighborhood with out any outside re-supply or relief if we had to? It brings back memories of bomb shelters in the mid west back during the cold war years.

Morbid thoughts I realize but questions none the less that are being asked in the wake of the events in the south from this past summer. The bottom line is could we ever be ready and what more can you and I do? We hope it never happens but that is of course unrealistic. I would like to hear more about neighborhood planning in case of a large infrastructure collapse and would ask those interested to forward their comments to me at joelwilhite1@yahoo.com.

Coleman Traffic Monitors

It is this time of year again! Children are back to Laurel every morning. Over one hundred Laurel families are using the Coleman avenue again either driving, biking or walking. A Laurel school survey last year showed that a lot more families would like to bike to Laurel, even occasionally. However, the majority of the responses to the school survey expressed a great concern for safety on Coleman, and a lot more families would leave their car in the garage if something was done to make them feel safer.

Neighbors of the Menlo Oaks neighborhood organized a traffic watch and survey over the last two weeks of school last June. The mere presence of these friendly observers posted at the corner of Coleman and Menlo Oaks resulted in an unexpected decrease in speed and improved the behavior of both drivers and bikers. Since making changes to Coleman is a complex issue that will not be resolved quickly, a "traffic watch" pilot program will be tested for two months from November to December 2005. We are looking for volunteers to stand at the corner of Coleman and Menlo Oaks once a month or once a week from 8AM to 8:15AM on school days. By taking turn slowing down traffic in the morning, we can make the street feel safer for all of us during the peak morning rush.

So if you would like to see less cars on Coleman, join the group and volunteer! You can send an email with your preferred morning of the week or the month to celine@sanie.com.

Celine Sanie

Neighborhood Directory

Remona Murray-Collyer

A Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Directory will be published again in February 2006. 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, treasurer@menlo-oaks.org.

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 2005-2006 dues.

Arlington Way

125	151
199	220
221	260
280	281
298	300
301	320
381	390
400	411
440	441
443	450
470	480
490	

Bay Road

414	422
518	530
538	542
546	626
632	

500	501
510	520
524	528
544	561
570	581
600	620
622	624
626	630
660	662
680	700
701	710
754	760
766	799
800	803
815	821
855	880
886	890
902	903
930	940
950	995

Colby Avenue

920	930
935	940
950	981
1040	1051
1095	

Coleman Avenue

870	876
890	900
901	951
1001	1020
1051	1070
1099	

Entrada Way

511	521
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Frederick Court

1	2
3	4

Menlo Oaks Drive

210	220
240	241
281	298
299	300
301	330

360	361
398	399
400	451
461	462
481	500
507	510
520	530
531	549
550	551
560	570
573	590
591	601
611	621
631	660
670	698
699	701
750	751
800	807
830	855
865	875
885	900
901	910
931	935
940	941
956	960
990	999

Peninsula Way

915	925
931	941
951	955
961	975
990	

Ringwood Avenue

200	220
250	300
320	400
410	420
440	540
550	570
572	590
660	670
680	780
788	790
800	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, treasurer@menlo-oaks.org.

An addressed envelope is attached to this newsletter if you prefer to pay by mail, or bring your 2005-2006 dues of \$20.00 to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 13.

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

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/>

Getting Ready for the Big One

By Rob Riley

In the event of a major disaster our emergency services will be overwhelmed, and we will need to be able to cope without them for at least seventy two hours, if not a week or two. The CERT program trains volunteers to assist their neighbors until fire, police, medical and other emergency services are available. Since September 14 four of your neighbors have been training on Wednesday nights to better prepare themselves for a major disaster in our community. There are also two additional neighbors who have completed the training.

Rich Collyer, Joel Wilhite, Charles Riley and Rob Riley are enrolled in a program called CERT -- Community Emergency Response Team -- which is being conducted free of charge by the Menlo Park Fire District. The other agencies participating in training the volunteers are the Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and Atherton police departments. This comprehensive training consists of six sessions of approximately 2 1/2 hours each. The topics covered are:

- * Earthquake Awareness, Preparedness and Hazard Mitigation
- * Basic Disaster Skills
- * Medical
- * Light Search and Rescue
- * Team Organization and Management

* Skills Development and Application

The Menlo Park Fire District currently has free CERT training sessions scheduled three times in 2006.

March 9 - April 13 at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers

April 26 - May 31 at the Ravenswood Family Health Center

September 21 - October 26 at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers

Additional information about the CERT program can be found at <http://www.menlofire.org/cert>

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. If you have something you wish to contribute 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. Please forward all your material and ideas to David Jevans for consideration. If you have a favorite site you wish to submit, we'll consider the link after a short review and share the link from our site.

EDITOR IN CHIEF:

Richard Collyer

CONTRIBUTORS:

Joel Wilhite, Marge Draper,
Rob Riley, Celine Sanie,
Remona Murray

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 2005-2006 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
Charles Riley..... ma-liaison@menlo-oaks.org
Dave Jevans webmaster@menlo-oaks.org
Mary Sapountzis **Celine Sanie**