

The Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Newsletter



The Oak Leaf



February 2007

MODA Annual Meeting

Neighbors and the MODA Board met at Peninsula School on November 12, 2006, to summarize yearly activity and to address residents' concerns.

Contractor Hours

President Holly Still reported on a proposed survey of the neighborhood on changing hours for contractors to be in line with the cities of Menlo Park, Atherton. (Details of the survey can be read on page 2.) With the robust building activity in Menlo Oaks, some workers are starting loud machines and are banging at 7 am, even on Thanksgiving Day. Susan Ellis, who has recently built two homes on Bay Road, cautioned the audience that workers often drive long distances from the Central Valley to work here. They like to start and end early so that they don't contribute to the commute problems on our highways. Changing the hours will change their commute times.

Finances

Treasurer Remona Murray reported that MODA finances are in solid shape, consistent with past years. Dues are used to pay for the newsletter, for the annual picnic in June, and for one-time expenses like photocopying, tree replacement, supplies, and such.

Emergency Preparedness Kits

Remona also reported on the emergency preparedness kits that have been assembled for all residents. They contain important phone numbers customized for Menlo Oaks, checklists of supplies needed, handouts from various service organizations, and most importantly, a laminated sign for you to put in your front window in the case of an emergency, such as a catastrophic earthquake. One side of the sign says

OK. The other says HELP. Displaying the sign in your front window will save the emergency teams from having to knock on your door to be sure you are OK, saving their efforts for those in deep need of help.

If you have not received your emergency preparedness kit, please contact Remona Murray at treasurer@menlo-oaks.org.

Medical Trailer and Supplies

A quorum voted to allocate \$1,000 toward purchasing supplies for a medical trailer donated by the Reinhart family. Remona Murray and the Board are stocking it in consultation with our local doctors.

No-Parking Signs

Menlo Atherton High School is planning to construct a performing arts building that will remove part of the parking lot at the corner of Ringwood and Middlefield. Neighbors on Arlington Way have requested free-standing No Parking signs to prevent teenagers from clogging the street when construction begins.

MODA cannot yet install similar No Parking signs on Menlo Oaks near Ringwood because there has been no consistent request from neighbors on that street. The County will not let us put intermittent No Parking signs on a street, so the entire street must agree to have them first before they will be installed.

We do not know when construction will begin because Atherton is suing the school over their construction plans.

Neighborhood Watch Signs

Holly Still reported that we have installed nine Neighborhood Watch signs. Read more on page 3.

New Board Members

MODA voted on 2 new Board mem-

Calendar 2007

Mar 15 - Apr 19	CERT Training
Apr 22	Earth Day Clean up
Jun 10	Annual Picnic

bers: Robbie Fanning, who has lived on Bay Road for 39 years; and Laura Cunitz, who currently lives on upper Menlo Oaks and will soon move into their new home on the 400 block of Menlo Oaks.

We still need one more new Board member. Please contact Holly Still at president@menlo-oaks.org if you are interested. It is not a huge time commitment.

by Robbie Fanning

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Misc. News

Construction Hours

Our rural little neighborhood is experiencing a major "remodel." Many new homes are being built, with certain streets experiencing more construction than others. But, as a whole, the neighborhood is going through a renaissance.

It has been asked by many neighbors to change the current hours of construction to be consistent with the surrounding neighborhoods/communities. Although our neighborhood follows County mandates, we have the opportunity to change these ordinances.

San Mateo County

7am-6pm Monday through Friday
9am-5pm Saturday

Menlo Park Construction Hours

8am-6pm Monday through Friday
No Weekends

Atherton Construction Hours

8am-5pm Monday through Friday
No Weekends

A survey will soon be available where you can vote to change construction hours or keep them the same.

Help a Child Read

Better at YES Reading

Enrique is a cheerful second-grader at Belle Haven School in East Menlo, about seven minutes from our neighborhood, off Willow Road over the freeway. Enrique has two younger brothers and lives with his mother and father and grandma and grandpa. He loves tow trucks and big machines.

But Enrique doesn't read well. In fact, he should be in third grade, but he's been held back because he's still sounding out words.

Fortunately, Enrique and about 70 other kids at Belle Haven are enrolled in YES Reading, a one-on-one tutoring program held in an outside building on the campus. Twice a week, Enrique meets with a tutor for 45 minutes. The tutor reads to him for 5-10 minutes, to model how a good reader sounds. Then they work together in a structured program that promotes all the elements of reading mastery: phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.

The tutoring program is set up for busy adults and is very fluid. If you can't make your session, someone else can easily step in for you. You also don't need any more credentials than a love of reading and of kids and the belief that every kid deserves to succeed. You can tutor for only one session, two, or whatever fits your schedule. Available tutoring slots are Monday through Thursday from about 9:30 am to 5 pm.

My husband, Tony, and I have been

tutoring at Belle Haven for the last year. We have enjoyed the contact with these little beings, watching them improve from the direct contact and the consistent reading practice. The school is in a safe neighborhood, with plenty of parking. Below is the map of the location, if you are not familiar with Belle Haven.

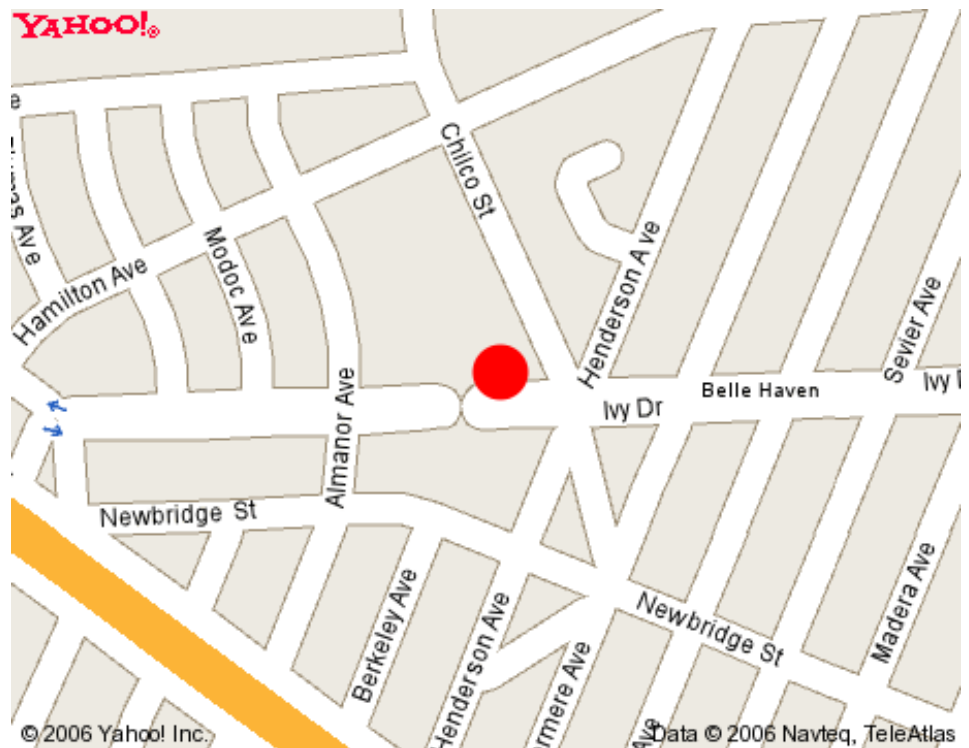
For more information on YES Reading, please visit www.yesreading.org; call Lia Martinez, Site Director, at 326.0996; or email her at lia@yesreading.org. If you would like to discuss more details with me or Tony, call us at night before 9 pm at 323.1183.

Robbie Fanning

House for Sale

Our house will be coming up on the market soon. Interested parties can e-mail me at emfergason@google.com.

Eizabeth, 680 Berkeley Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025



Misc. News

Safe Routes to School

Have you heard that term? Your MODA board members have during the past several months, but just in passing and with no clear idea what it meant. That is until Wednesday, February 7 when Holly Still, MODA president, and I attended the Safe Routes to Laurel Elementary School Project at the Menlo Park City Hall.

The City of Menlo Park has hired a consultant to study safe routes for students from the Willows to Laurel School with the intention of applying for a government grant to implement the result of the study. Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., the consultant, planned this meeting intending to get buy-in for the project from the group attending Wednesday's meeting. Attendees at the meeting were employees of Menlo Park, Rene Baile and Chip Taylor, Michael Meyer; Transportation Commission, Laure Laprais; Bike Commission, Joe Sheridan; San Mateo Co. Sheriff's Dept., Sharon Kaufman; MP Police Dept., Duncan Jones; Town of Atherton, and Jim West and Mike Mowery of Kimley-Horn and Associates.

Where that safe route is developed will be the result of the Kimley-Horn study. Fortunately, they understand that they need the input from the residents of Menlo Oaks, the property owners on Coleman Ave. and the Menlo Park City School district just to name a few.

The next meeting information is in the article titled *Important Public Meeting*

Kindergarten

Registration

If you have a child starting kindergarten at Laurel next year, February 5 is the first day you can pick up your child's kindergarten registration packet. Before you can get the

packet, you will need to come to the Laurel school office (M-F 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and show:

- your current PG&E statement (no other utility bill will do)
- a record of your child's immunizations
- your child's birth certificate or passport

No packets will be given out before Feb. 5. Call Pam Bonino in the Laurel Office, at 324-0186 if you have questions. For more information about Laurel School and registration, go to the district website <http://www.mpcsd.org/>.

Street Changes

The neighborhood has seen the installation of black asphalt berms at certain intersections. These berms have been installed to mainly protect people from vehicles cutting corners too closely. In one instance, the County uncovered a long "lost" dry well at Berkeley/Peninsula Way that is helping eliminate the lake that formed during heavy rains.

The County has also cut back shrubbery at many intersections, so the line of sight for drivers has increased.

Neighborhood Watch

Nine new Neighborhood Watch signs have been placed in and around the neighborhood. Three signs replaced the original, rusted and battered signs that were barely noticeable because of their worn condition. Six more signs were placed at different entrances to Menlo Oaks. If residents would like matching Neighborhood Watch static stickers (no adhesive) for their window and/or doors, please contact Remona at treasurer@menlo-oaks.org

Public Discussion about

Laurel Traffic

Much like the 30+ year conversation with St. Patrick's Seminary about their development plans, the bicycle traffic from the Willows down Coleman and up Ringwood to Laurel is going to continue. We may have voted to leave Coleman as is, but the issue has not gone away. I am including the following information in the newsletter, so the neighborhood will be aware of the conversations that are happening around us. On the Almanac Town Square web site there is currently a discussion taking place that you might want to read. It can be found at: <http://www.almanacnews.com/square/index.php?i=3&d=&t=385>

*** IMPORTANT PUBLIC ***

*** MEETING ***

The notice is dated March 1, 2007, and has Subject title of "1st Safe Routes to Laurel School Neighborhood Meeting".

The particulars are

Date: Thurs, Mar 15, 2007

Time: 7 pm

Place: Laurel School Multi-purpose Room (see link to Agenda below)

The Menlo Park contact person is Rene Baile, 650-330-6775 or RCBaile@menlopark.org.

This meeting is the first of three. This meeting is to discuss project background, goals and objectives and give opportunity for neighborhood comment. The second meeting will discuss potential improvement alternatives. The third meeting will discuss the draft route to school plan.

<http://www.menlo-oaks.org/SafeRoutesToLaurelNotice.pdf>

Misc. News

New Board Member

Needed

Celine Sanie has turned in her hat. Leaving us with one seat on the board available. If you are interested in the position please contact any board member.

Spring Cleaning

April 22nd

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 Sunday April 22nd 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 at 441 Arlington Way.

Free CERT Classes

The next Community Emergency Response Team training will be held at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers from 6:30 - 9 pm starting March 15. The remaining five nights of the training are March 22, 29, April 5, 12, & 19.

There will be additional training dates at the Ravenswood Family Health Center from May 2 through June 6 and again at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers from September 21 through October 26.

There are also CPR classes available at Station 77 (1467 Chilco St, Menlo Park). The classes are \$40 for the general public. For certified CERT members the cost is \$5.

For further details about CERT Schedules, please see the CERT web site <http://www.menlofire.org/cert/schedule.html>.

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 2006-2007 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 third week of March and you would like to receive one, please let me know so I can correct my records.

www.menlo-oaks.org

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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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HAM Classes

ONE-DAY

“HAM CRAM” CLASS

Offering a one day study session for Technician or General Ham Radio License. FCC Exam administered on site at end of class. Morse Code tests will not be given (Morse Code is NO LONGER REQUIRED.)

When: Saturday: April 28, 2007,
8:00am - 5pm
Where: South San Francisco, CA
Fee: \$30.00 Register: www.baears.com
Quest: Ross Peterson 650-349-5349 or wb6zbu@arrl.net

Class size is limited, reservations are required. Prospective Hams should have an active Ham as a sponsor to assist in familiarization with amateur operation. RESERVE YOUR SPACE! BE A HAM.

Sponsored by: Genentech & South County Amateur Radio Emergency Services: www.k6mpn.org

TWO-DAY HAM RADIO CLASS

NOTE: This is a separate, non-cram 2-Saturday class being offered at the San Jose Police Dept:

24 & 31 March 2007: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the San Jose Police Communications Building on 855 North San Pedro Street San Jose, CA

The exam will be proctored by ARRL on 31 March at 5:00 pm. The class is open to anyone at \$35.00 per person.

REGISTER: Chris Swartout,
N6WCP (408) 272-6835 Option 2
cas30@pacbell.net

SEMINAR & EXAM: AMATEUR (“HAM”) RADIO

What: Amateur Radio (“Ham”) License & Communications Course
When: Tuesdays: 6:30 pm - 9 pm: April 17th, 24th, May 1st & 8th (May 8th is exam night)
Also: There will be a special Emergency Communications Training Class on May 22nd (ideal for new radio operators or those wishing to learn about ARES/RACES and CERT). See below.
Where: Location TBA (Menlo Park area)
Cost: \$35.00 Mail check to: Carol Parker, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, 300 Middlefield Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025. Please write your phone # and e-mail address on the check
Material: The ARRL Ham Radio License book will be provided for this class.
Inst: David Fichou (Menlo ARES) & Ken Dueker (Palo Alto P.D.)
Register: Ken Dueker: kdueker@powerflare.com or 650-617-3100 x1281 Advise if you also wish to attend the May 22nd class.
Spons by: Menlo Park Fire Protection District CERT: www.menlofire.org/cert

This course is open to the public but is designed for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Red Cross, and other emergency volunteers, including first responders. There is a maximum of 35 students for this class (priority for disaster volunteer members).

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CLASS: HAM & CERT

This class is designed for CERT members, ham radio operators, and others who want to learn about neighborhood communications in a disaster. Covers all radio and communications systems, including Ham, FRS, police, fire, etc.

What: Emergency Communications Course for Ham Radio & CERT
When: Tuesday, May 22, 2007: 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Where: Location TBA (Menlo Park area)
Cost: FREE !
Bring: Your radio(s) & instruction manuals for them
Inst: David Fichou (Menlo ARES) & Ken Dueker (Palo Alto P.D.)
Register: Ken Dueker: kdueker@powerflare.com or 650-617-3100 x1281
Spons by: Menlo Park Fire Protection District CERT www.menlofire.org/cert

Please return survey to MODA Treasurer
Remona Murray
441 Arlington Way

By April 15th

Changes to Construction Hours Survey

(Please Circle your choice)

1. I want to keep the current County Construction Hours, which are:

7 AM - 6 PM Monday through Friday
9 AM - 5 PM Saturday
No Sunday

Yes

No

2. I want to change current County Construction Hours for Menlo Oaks to:

8 AM - 6 PM Monday through Friday
No Saturday
No Sunday

Yes

No

THANKS!

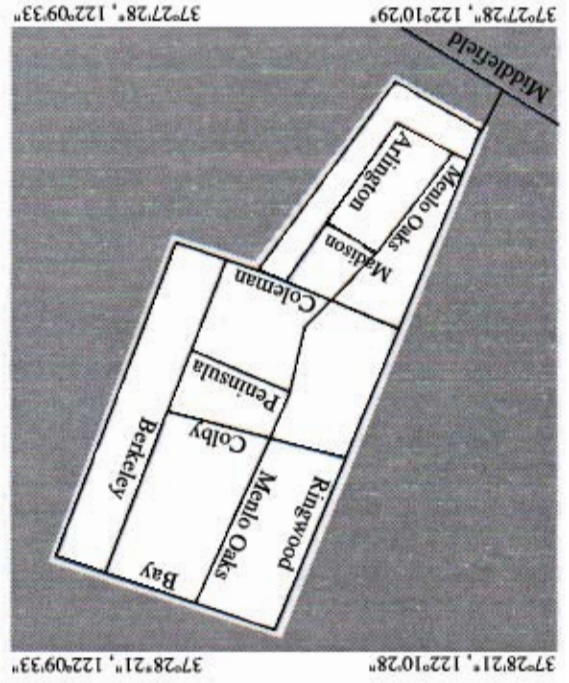
We appreciate your feedback. If this request is passed by MODA, it still has to be approved the
County Board of Supervisors.

Thanks Again!!

MODA Board

P. S. This Survey is available on [SurveyMonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com) by Invitation. Please send an email to treasurer@menlo-oaks.org requesting to take the survey on-line.

P. P. S. Please remember that your computer may be filtering out MODA's emails as we are using scripts to send out emails. Please add Board Member's emails and MODA's Bulletin Board email moda-1@employees.org to your address book.



Menlo Oaks District Association
441 Arlington Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025-2320

The Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Newsletter



The Oak Leaf



FEBRUARY 2007

**PLEASE PAY YOUR
2006-2007 ANNUAL
DUES
OF \$20.00 PER
HOUSEHOLD**

**SAVE US MONEY
LET THE
TREASURER KNOW IF
YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR
NEXT
NEWSLETTER VIA THE
INTERNET**

www.menlo-oaks.org

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

**ANNUAL PICNIC
SUNDAY
JUNE 10, 4-7 PM**

PENINSULA SCHOOL