

# The Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Newsletter



# The Oak Leaf



October 2007

## ANNUAL MEETING

This year's annual meeting is planned for November 4 from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM. Do be sure to attend. The meeting will be held The Cunitz's, 740 Menlo Oaks. You may want to bring finger food to share with the group.

The MODA board is faced with significantly increasing costs involved in putting on the annual meeting. The two facilities we have talked to about renting space (Pennisula & Laurel) require the signing of a contract that requires us to indemnify the school and have a \$1,000,000 insurance policy. The cost of the insurance is \$383 this year. The cost to rent Pennisula is \$50. This has a fairly significant impact on the MODA budget. Some of the options we are considering, and need to talk about at this years meeting, are:

- 1) move the meeting to someone's home
- 2) move the time and date to a time when we can have the meeting outdoors
- 3) Up the dues to cover the cost

### Meeting Agenda Items:

- Safe Routes
- Construction Hours
- Caterpillars
- Oak Tree Care discussion
- Pick Up Emergency Info Packet
- Play Groups
- Treasurer's Report
- Future Meeting Location/Cost

## The Annual Picnic!

Our annual MODA picnic was held on Sunday, June 10, from 4 – 7 PM, at Peninsula School.

The salads and desserts were creative and tasty and improve with each passing year. The winners in the kid's dessert category were:

- 1st. prize for Frog Fun by Tessa Dignum
- 2nd. For MODA Burger by S. Ellie Rice
- 3rd. for Pear Crown by Victoria Sanie

### The kid's salad winners were:

- 1st. Napa Cabbage by Gigi Rusky
- 2nd. Fruit Salad by Maysor Rusky

### The adult dessert category winners were:

- 1st. Coconut Cake by Anya Crave
- 2nd. Huckleberry Delight by Mary-Lou Collyer
- 3rd. Chocolate Berry Tart by Zoe Laidlaw
- 3rd. Rhubarb Cherry Tart by (unknown)

### The adult salad winners were:

- 1st. Chicken Salad by (unknown)
  - 2nd. Grilled Veggies by Robbie Baxter
  - 3rd. Feta Salad by Vera Mall
- Honorable mention Delicious Baked Beans by Rich Gordon

We had some new activities for the picnic as well. Face painting, and a bike decorating contest were added to the jumpys and slides. There was a strolling musical group that added to our festivities.

The MODA board prepared the chicken and burgers along with all the fixings. The upgraded beer and wine selections were widely appreciated. Your annual dues provide for the food, drinks and the ever increasing insurance required to use the school's grounds.

Your MODA board looks forward to putting this picnic together every year. We hope that everyone will come and enjoy this afternoon of good food and good fun with our neighbors!

## Calendar 2007

Nov 4	Annual Meeting
Nov 21-23	No School MPCSD
Dec 24-Jan 4	No School MPCSD

## Yellow-jacket Abatement

San Mateo County Abatement not only will take care of your mosquitoes, but they will also take care of your Yellow-jackets. If you find you have a nest you need to be rid of, call 344-8592

The service is FREE!

... OK it isn't free, but you have already paid for it in your county tax bill.

## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>ANNUAL MEETING</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ANNUAL PICNIC</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>BUNCO</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>MODA DUES</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>YERBA BUENA</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>AMERICORP</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>YELLOW-JACKETS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>MODA DIRECTORY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>WHY MENLO OAKS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SAFE ROUTES</b>	<b>4</b>

# Misc. News

## “Safe Routes to School”

There was a public meeting for the Safe Routes issue at Laurel School on October 3. It was very well attended by neighbors from Menlo Oaks.

The major announcement made at that meeting was that the Coleman Ave. issue is going to be tabled for now. The members of the steering committee have requested a meeting with the residents living on Coleman. The meeting has been delayed and postponed because of scheduling conflicts that the members of the steering committee have. Coleman can't be addressed in this go-around because the Safe Routes plan is scheduled to be presented to the City Council on November 3 (see you there?).

The consultants to the City of Menlo Park, Kimley Horn and Associates, presented a 29 point recommendation of changes to the area around Laurel School. The recommendations range from narrowing the westbound (toward Middlefield) travel lane of Ringwood from 11 feet to 10 feet in order to improve bike and parking along that side to creating several lighted crosswalks like we have at Ravenswood and Alma. If you want a full digest of the 29 points look at the MODA web site. Attendees of the meeting had an opportunity to give input to the points. We broke into small discussion groups that had a representative from either the City or Kimley Horn.

Before the plan goes to the Council, it will be presented to both the Transportation Commission and the Bike Commission. Non-commission members may attend the meetings but are not welcomed to contribute to the discussion.

There are still many questions still unanswered:

- The number of people/children who would be using the bike lane/pathway
- Who would be responsible for upkeep of the bike lane/pathway
- Who would pay for the installation of the bike lane/pathway

- Would the bike lane/pathway meet ADA standards? ADA standards bring to light a whole new issue.

- Can a bike lane/pathway legally be installed that doesn't meet ADA standards?

by Marge Draper & Holly Stills

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## Menlo Oaks Bunco Group Starting!

What's Bunco? It's a fast, fun and super easy dice game that is really just a means to meet and talk to your neighbors on a monthly basis. It's a game played by ladies groups in communities all over the country. We are hoping to get a Women's Bunco Group started this fall. Here is what's involved:

- We'll need 16 people plus some subs to get started.

- The location rotates from house to house on a monthly basis.

- Hostess is responsible for providing 4 tables to play at, small bowls of finger food for each table (chips, M&Ms and such) and some drinks. The group can decide on how to handle wine purchases. You'll only do it every year and a half or so.

- Participants need to be able to roll three dice at once and talk at the same time.

- Most groups have everyone chip in \$5 and then reward the top three and single worst players for the night.

That's it. Historically, Tuesday or Wednesday nights from 7pm to 10ish have had the best attendance. If you are interested in participating please send a note to Laura Cunitz at [laura@bellaknitting.com](mailto:laura@bellaknitting.com) and let her know which day of the week works best or is impossible for you – remember it's just once a month.

by Laura Cunitz

## 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](mailto:treasurer@menlo-oaks.org).

An addressed envelope is attached to this newsletter if you prefer to pay by mail, or bring your 2007-2008 dues of \$20.00 to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 4.

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

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## Street Lights

Street lights that go out in our neighborhood can easily get repaired by calling San Mateo County Office, Dept. of Public Works at #363-4100. Ask for the Street Lighting Maintenance Dept. for the Unincorporated Areas. A real person answered and the very next day the street lights at Colby & Menlo Oaks Dr. and Peninsulas Way & Menlo Oaks Dr., were fixed, both of which had been out since the fall. He told me that they do not replace the bulbs unless someone calls in.

by Betsy Bowersox

# Neighborhood Directory

Remona Murray-Collyer

A Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Directory will be published again in February 2008. 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](mailto: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 2007-2008 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  
485  
490

## Bay Road

414  
422  
518  
530  
538  
542  
546  
626  
632  
  
Berkeley Avenue  
500  
501  
510  
520  
524  
528  
544  
560  
561  
570  
581  
600  
620  
622  
624

626  
630  
660  
662  
680  
700  
701  
710  
720  
754  
760  
766  
770  
785  
799  
800  
803  
815  
821  
855  
880  
886  
901  
902  
903  
920  
930  
940  
950  
951  
985  
995

## Colby Avenue

920  
930  
935  
940  
950  
981  
1040  
1051  
1060  
1070  
1095

## Coleman Avenue

870  
876  
890  
900  
951  
1001  
1021  
1051  
1070  
1099

## Entrada Way

511  
521  
  
Frederick Court  
1  
2  
3  
4

## Menlo Oaks Drive

210  
220  
221  
240  
241  
281  
298  
299  
300  
301  
330  
360  
361  
398  
399  
400  
451  
461  
462  
481  
500  
507  
510  
520  
530  
531  
549  
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560  
570  
573  
590  
591  
601  
611  
621  
631  
660  
670  
698  
699  
701  
740  
750  
751  
800  
807  
830

855  
865  
875  
885  
900  
901  
910  
931  
935  
940  
941  
960  
990  
999  
  
Peninsula Way  
915  
925  
931  
935  
941  
951  
955  
961  
975  
990

## Ringwood Avenue

200  
220  
250  
300  
400  
410  
420  
540  
550  
570  
572  
660  
670  
680  
780  
788  
790  
800  
890  
894

# Neighborhood News

## Why We Moved to Menlo Oaks

At the most recent MODA board meeting, a discussion about Coleman Avenue (see another related article) started several of us to recall why we moved to Menlo Oaks. I hope that sharing this will jog your memory and perhaps prompt you to write your thoughts and forward them to us.

The board is made up of people who have lived in MO from 1960 to people who have been here for just a couple of years. We all mentioned the rural aspect of our neighborhood; the oak trees in our yards and in the middle of some streets, the winding nature of some of the streets and, of course, the beloved pothole ;-).

We bought in MO in 1975 because it was near to SRI and because it reminded us of the Midwestern rural areas we had grown up in. We wanted a dog and so felt that we needed a large backyard for that. My husband also likes to cut the grass himself! Our house is on a flag lot so we truly love the sense of privacy that gives us.

We also liked the fact that each house wasn't a cookie cutter sample of the rest of the houses in the neighborhood. No one ever says how their house is just like their neighbor's except that the floor plan is just reversed.

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Richard Collyer

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Remona Murray,  
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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.

In the 32 years we've lived here, Menlo Oaks has stayed the same and has changed drastically. I remember an article in the Almanac about 25 years ago that characterized MO as being a haven for hippies and for gardens that were overgrown with weeds. There are degrees to "hippyness" and I think, happily, some of us have never gotten over it. It is what I think has given us children who think for themselves and are successful in their own ways. As for weeds, what is yarrow anyway?

by Marge Draper

## 2007 Yerba Buena

### Nursery Farmhouse

### Christmas Tea Lunches

Dec 6-9 & 13-16 starting at noon

Gather in the Great Room of the old farmhouse at Yerba Buena Nursery for a memorable Christmas Tea. Includes Appetizers, entrée and yuletide dessert - as well as a Holiday Tea Blend.

Group size limited to 50 guests. Cost is \$40 per person

Call Kathy Crane to make reservations, 851-1668

[www.yerbabuenanursery.com](http://www.yerbabuenanursery.com)

## AmeriCorp

The nonprofit Catholic Worker House in Redwood City feeds and houses low-income teenagers and families. They also feed people lunch from their porch, distribute appliances and furniture to those who need them, and run an English Language School for women and a homework club for children.

Many generous MODA neighbors have contributed household items to the House, for which Larry Purcell and the others thank you.

They wanted MODA to know that there is now a Day Labor Program going strong. Larry says, "If you need a gardener, clean-up guy, painter, or whatever, call Cesar at 650.339.2794. He will hook you up with a worker who will fit your needs. This can be full-time or part-time work or a one-day job."

by Robbie Fanning

## Menlo Oaks District Association 2007-2008 Board

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