



The Oak Leaf



May 2008

BURGLARIES

Our neighborhood has been the target of many burglaries of late. These burglaries have taken place in the middle of the day (usually between 11am and 1pm) at homes with security systems where the alarms weren't set. Many of the burglaries took place at homes on corner lots. Access was gained through the back of the house. Some burglars gained access by an open window.

Remember to:

- Lock all windows and doors before leaving your home, even if you are only planning to be gone a short time
- Lock your car
- Don't leave valuables in your car
- Placing locks on gates will be a deterrent for those trying to gain access through your yard into your home
- If you see something that seems out of place, call the Sheriff (650-363-4911) or 911
- Use your cell phone to take a picture of a vehicle that you don't recognize

A Brief Summary of the 2007 MODA Annual Meeting

The 2007 annual meeting of the Menlo Oaks District Association was held on November 4, 2007 at 420 Menlo Oaks. The venue was changed from Peninsula School to the home of Laura and Herb Cunitz because of the high cost of HOA insurance to rent a space at the school.

Treasurer Remona Murray reported there is \$2,026.98 in collected dues in the MODA account as of November 4. The association uses the dues to pay for the printing and distribution of the newsletter and the annual picnic held in June.

Our featured speaker for the meeting was Katherine Jones of the Cooperative Extension of San Mateo. She discussed the care of oak trees and the control of the Western Tussock Moth (*Orgyia vetusta*). She shared

many web sites that provide information on the life cycle of the moth. One is http://phytosphere.com/publications/influence_bay_distribution_SOD_coast_live_oak.pdf.

She also said that the natural enemy of the Tussock Moth is a parasitic wasp which, unfortunately, is killed by the same pesticides that many of us use for the control of the moth. The use of the pesticide can cause a cycle of having to repeatedly spray because the natural predator of the moth is being eradicated as well.

She recommended that the interested homeowner look at the following site for a publication that provides more information: www.ucce.ucdavis.edu/freeform/anrcs/documents/Inventory_Tools3346.pdf

GORDON CREATES TASK FORCE OF 5 ELECTED OFFICIALS

San Mateo County Supervisor Richard Gordon has formed a group including himself, now Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson of Menlo Park, Vice Mayor Jerry Carlson, MPCSD Board of Education Clerk Deborah Fitz, and a member TBA of the Trustees of the Sequoia Union High School District. Members of this task force have volunteered their service and will involve their staff members on all levels. Many of their constituents have voiced concern around congestion, safety, and the degree of action required around the schools in our area.

Their task will be to find a fresh perspective on these concerns and create a solution that suits the needs of everyone. Using the following 5 guidelines:

1. Address Safety for Pedestrians, Bicyclists and Vehicles
2. Alleviate Congestion and Promote Traffic Reduction
3. Respect the Desires of the Neighborhoods
4. Improve Air Quality
5. Promote a Healthy Lifestyle

Calendar 2008

Jun 8

Annual Picnic

Spring Clean

Want to talk trash with your neighbors? Then join us for the 4th Annual MODA Spring Clean. We will meet in front of the Peninsula School on Sunday, April 27, at 10 am, rain or shine. MODA Board Members will be handing out trash bags, gloves and trash collection maps. We will split into smaller teams to comb the streets and pick up trash and recycling. Prizes will be awarded for the most unusual item found and the biggest item found. A BBQ will follow at 441 Arlington Way.

**High School students are eligible for community service credit.

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Neighborhood News

Book Donations

Do you have books that you will probably never read again? Do you have children's books that your youngsters have outgrown? Lynn Mortensen has been collecting used literature to send to Archbishop Ndingi High School, its associated grammar school and orphanage in Naivasha, Kenya. Africans do not have a tradition of reading as we do in this country, and the Administrator of these schools is trying to change that. However, good English literature is hard to come by there--expensive too. The teachers, as well, are hungry for good literature. Children's literature is especially welcome. If you have books you could pass along, please call Lynn at 321-5161.

CERT

Community Emergency Response Team

CERT will be beginning on April 16 thru May 21 (Wednesday nights). Menlo Park City Council Chambers:

701 Laurel St
Menlo Park CA
6:30pm - 9:00pm

Please pass this on to help spread the word.

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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.

House Hunting

Most of you know me through my dog Cody who I walked for 14 years everyday past your houses (he was the black and White Husky who passed on 4 years ago). After 24 years of living in Menlo Oaks, my family has finally grown (triple in the last couple of years). My relatively new wife Iris and new baby Brandon have outgrown our house. Several of you wisely convinced us to stay in the neighborhood and remodel, and that is what we are planning to do this spring. During the remodel, we will need a place to stay, and prefer something in our neighborhood first. If you have an in-law unit, or are going on a long vacation and need a house sitter, or even need a companion, or any other situation that allows us to continue in the neighborhood, we would love to talk to you. Thank you in advance for being great neighbors in a great neighborhood.

Brian and Iris Mattal
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CALLING ALL NEW

NEIGHBORS!

Welcome to Menlo Oaks, our great neighborhood, and now YOUR great neighborhood! What are your expectations of living here? Whether you are part of the Silicon Valley dotcom techies, raising a family, or here for the leafy solitude our neighborhood offers beautiful, quiet surrounding. Whether you are in a demanding career, or following one, you are an important part of the changing and new Menlo Oaks community. Let's get to know each other and support things that will keep this neighborhood as one of the best places to live on the Peninsula!

The Picnic on Sunday, June 8th is a great place to meet face to face, so please plan to come. In the meantime, any of the Board Members would be glad to hear from you. I would be glad to have you call or e-mail me for a start.

Elizabeth Gheleta (happily here for over 40 years), and yes, we were the new house on the block back then: 650-322-1355 or

elizabethgheleta@aol.com.

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