



# The Oak Leaf

February 2012

## SAVE THE REDWOOD CITY SALT PONDS

At our November 14<sup>th</sup> annual meeting guest speaker Stephen Knight from "Save the Bay" spoke to us about the proposed development of a new city of over 30,000 residents on San Francisco Bay salt ponds in Redwood City east of Highway 101 between Marsh and Woodside Roads by the privately held, Minnesota-based agribusiness Cargill and DMB Associates.

Mr. Knight said that if this development goes through it would mean 8000 new car trips an hour at Marsh Road and 101.

Save the Bay opposes this development because Cargill's property in Redwood City is not zoned for housing, but for making salt out of bay water.

Scientists, the *SF Chronicle* and *SJ Mercury News* say the Redwood City ponds should be restored to tidal wetlands. Bay fill has already reduced the Bay's size by one-third and destroyed more than 90 percent of its natural wetlands. Wetlands are the lungs of the Bay, and they provide major benefits to the community including clean water; protection from flooding and sea level rise; open space and recreation; and economic benefits.

More than 200 elected officials and community organizations from all nine Bay Area counties and neighboring cities like Menlo Park, oppose Cargill/DMB's bay fill plan, and have urged Redwood City to reject it. Our local League of Women Voters declares that "**This is not an infill development.**" Numerous public agencies including the Mid-Peninsula Open Space District, the San Francisco Water Board, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service have raised concerns or opposed the project outright.

Mr. Knight had a petition that almost all of the attendants of the annual meeting were anxious to sign. If you missed the meeting or left before the end, you can go to [www.DontPaveMyBay.org](http://www.DontPaveMyBay.org) to sign it on line.

In addition Menlo Oaks residents can contact our elected officials and demand that they add their voices to this important effort to preserve our neighborhood's and the Bay Area's quality of life.

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## MA PAC

You drive by it often enough to notice the lights illuminating the corner at night, but do you know what and when events are occurring within the MA-PAC Theater? Of course, there are the usual events one expects to find on a high school campus MA Fashion Show, Band, Drama and Musical performances. "The PAC" hosts Lectures, Dance and Ballet companies, Musical Performances of Modern, Chamber, Orchestras, Violinist, Chanticleers, & South Indian Fine Arts music.

I look high and low for a complete one stop event calendar for the center. Unfortunately the website for The Center of Performing Arts calendar of events is not up and running. The closest I could come is the MA Sequoia District website, click the Filter Options arrowhead left corner of calendar, uncheck all boxes to turn off all categories except Performing Arts Center then click

## Calendar 2012

June 3th Annual Picnic

on filter. Events on the calendar includes both school events, City of Menlo Park and outside vendor reservations.

Unfortunately, schools calendar does not include the details of events and one must search other resources for more information about the performances. Links such as Music@Menlo, Live SV (Current & Upcoming Events tab), SJ Mercury News (very bottom left), and Almanac Online (most recent, under Arts & Events) have similar results with little variation.

## ANNUAL MEETING

MODA held our annual neighborhood meeting on Sunday, November 13th 2011 at Peninsula School. Many neighbors turned up to hear our guest speaker Stephen Knight from "Save the Bay, see article Save the Redwood City Salt Ponds

MODA President, Michael Johnston, provided an overview of the last MODA year from our successful picnic to the events on All Hollows Eve. Elizabeth Gheleta brought a slide show of the pictures she took of trick or treaters that made the trek down her 700 block cul de sac.

MODA Treasurer, Remona Murray presented year ending Sept 30th 2012, Dues & Expense Report with a remaining balance of \$1046.63 in our Chase bank account.

New members of the board are Marge Draper, Kate Fickle and Warren Jones.

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# Neighborhood News

## STATUS OF FLOOD PARK

Flood Park's operating budget will run out on June 30<sup>th</sup> and barring any changes, San Mateo County will close the park until additional operating funds become available. On Jan 24<sup>th</sup> the Menlo Park City Council voted 5 - 0 not to pay San Mateo County the \$150,000 required to keep the Flood Park open for another fiscal year. While Menlo Park was initially eager to help San Mateo County keep the Flood Park open, a state budget decision to dissolve redevelopment agencies resulted in a \$3M gap in Menlo Park's budget...so funds are scarce, and this was not deemed one of the highest priorities. Several additional options to keep the park open are being considered, including pursuing additional revenue streams from public/private partnerships with a private school, or a sports club. There has also been some discussion of locating a fire station within Flood Park. Apparently the Fire Chief has expressed some interest in this option, but the Firefighters Association feels this would be a poor decision. Essentially, at this point the future of the park remains uncertain.

## SPARE THE AIR!

Ah! The fire is crackling in the fireplace. It was a cold day, and now it's time to settle in front of the fireplace and throw another log on it!

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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.

Wait! Is it a spare the air day? How do we know? What is a spare the air day anyway? My quick and dirty answer to that is if you can't see the hills around us through the smog or have trouble breathing as you walk to or from your front door -- that's a spare the air day!

The more precise answer to those questions can easily be found on these web sites: <http://www.sparetheair.org/Stay-Informed/Todays-Air-Quality/Reporting-Zones.aspx>

<http://www.sparetheair.org>

If you'd like to get alerts on your iPhone about when a spare the air day has been called, get this app! <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/spare-the-air-bay-area/id441186308?mt=8>

There appear to be no apps on the Android for Spare the Air.

See Also: "A Burning Question: Wood Pollution": <http://www.momscleanairforce.org/2012/02/01/a-burning-question-wood-pollution/>

would set up 5 or 6 stations throughout the neighborhood where we could learn about various methods to preserve and enhance our environment. Some ideas include bee keeping, oak tree care, creating song bird habitats, starting new plants, raising chickens, organic gardening, growing tomatoes, etc. Neighborhood families could visit the stations (set up at neighborhood homes) to learn and share about a particular topic.

We are seeking ideas for topics that our neighborhood is interested in. We are also seeking volunteers who are themselves experts (or knowledgeable amateurs!) in something relevant to our habitat, or can suggest someone who is. And finally, we are seeking volunteers who would be willing to open up their driveway or yard as a station. Please contact Kate Fickle (501 Menlo Oaks, 650-327-9379, [kate.fickle@gmail.com](mailto:kate.fickle@gmail.com) or Michael Johnston (500 Menlo Oaks, 650-533-5102, [mjohnston@apr.com](mailto:mjohnston@apr.com)).

## 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.

## EARTH DAY PLANS

Earth Day on Sunday, April 22, is an opportunity to celebrate and care for our earth. For our neighborhood, that can have many meanings. The MODA Board suggests that this year we focus Earth Day on learning about our habitat. The idea is that we

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2011-2012

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