

# The Oak Leaf

May 2015

## Annual Picnic

At Peninsula School SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2015 4 p.m.

Bring a blanket or folding chairs, enjoy BBQ hamburgers (veggie too), hot dogs (kosher too), chicken, drinks, and be prepared to enjoy a few hours with neighbors old and new!

You also are asked to bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. With the obvious increase of "take out," it is OK to bring something other than your own homemade special salads, casseroles, cakes or pies... let COSTCO or your favorite deli help you out!

Awards for best adult and child's salad and dessert are still planned!

### MODA BOARD ELECTIONS AT PICNIC

In order for the MODA board to be properly elected to position. The remaining members of the board decided to accept the new members on a temporary basis (in order to get this newsletter done and ensure the picnic happens). We will hold an election of the temporary members during this year's picnic. The new members of the board will need at least 50% of the paid members of MODA to approve their being on the board. So those households that are current members of MODA will get a ballot to approve, Kay Hitch, Penny Gallo, & Judy Colwell to the board.

## Draft EIR Comments

The current MAHS Facilities Master Plan (FMP) is missing the unique opportunity to address safety concerns and mitigate impact while improving safety, traffic flow, and parking for the future. The proximity of MA to the Menlo Oaks District neighborhood makes it an important subject for our residents, children and neighbors. In reviewing the current Draft EIR there are surprises - of concern are following points:

Written comments on the scope-of-work from public agencies for the Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) was not solicited from San Mateo County Public Works and excludes:

- *Arlington*
- *Coleman*
- *Menlo Oaks*
- *Toyon*

The Impact Analysis Scope did not include Ringwood local street intersections:

- *Ringwood/Arlington*
- *Arlington/Menlo Oaks*
- *Ringwood/Toyon*
- *Ringwood/Coleman*

Long-Term Parking data not addressed for the expected increase in teachers and support staff is not apparently in the data collected for the TIA and Draft EIR. Current 'on-pavement' parking that interferes with traffic flow generated by school occurs on:

- *Coleman*
- *Menlo Oaks*
- *Arlington*
- *Madison*

Notice of Preparation (NOP) residences within 500 feet of the MAHS distribution list did not include the 100 block of Arlington.

(continued on page 2)

## Calendar

Jun 14

Annual Picnic

## MAHS DEIR - Info. on MODA Web Site

For a deeper understanding of items covered in MODA's article review of the three substantial documents M-A Draft Environmental Impact Report Vol 1, Vol. 2, and M-A Draft Traffic Report Appendices available on MODA's website at [menlo-oaks.org/MAHS.html](http://menlo-oaks.org/MAHS.html).

Key figures and the EIR Summary impact for traffic and transportation excerpts from the Draft EIR can also be found at this link.

For those wishing to look at the Draft Environmental Impact Report in hardcopy it is available at the MAHS Main Office, Atherton Library and SUHSD Main Office.

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# Neighborhood News

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Not incorporated in the report is a formal traffic study of campus ingress/egress, bus ridership data, carpool, busing drop-off/pick-up and parking area locations the primary goal of improving safety to minimize the impact of the increase in enrollment for the next 5 years. No work is assigned to improve safety of the flow traffic, buses, pedestrian or bikes on campus in current FMP.

By not including the above in the assessment of how students access MAHS safely, the current impact and recommendation improvements made falls short and must go further to change the FMP before the draft EIR is approved. The traffic and transportation improvements must go further to change the FMP to reflect safety concerns of the impact that the recent redistricting boundaries has triggered.

Out of concerns for the safety of students at MAHS, MODA encourages you to visit our website ([menlo-oaks.org](http://menlo-oaks.org)) and look at our in detailed analysis. Then take your own safety concerns, observations and input to comment on the Draft EIR (for how to do so, see "voice your concerns" article on this page). Also available on the site are links to the full draft EIR documents and there will be sample letters and sticking points that may help you form your comment.

A reminder MODA maintains a closed neighborhood Bulletin Board for communication (to join, just contact the MODA treasurer - [treasurer@menlo-oaks.org](mailto:treasurer@menlo-oaks.org))

## Community Meeting

Stanford is holding two open houses to engage the public on the best uses and designs for the public plaza - Middle Plaza at 500 El Camino Real. The open houses will be held in the small multi-purpose room at Encinal Elementary School at 195 Encinal Ave.

Thursday, May 28, 6 to 8 p.m.,

Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Signs of the Future

Gallant efforts have been made. The Sheriff has been called.... In an effort to make it clear to people that picking up students off-campus at and in the intersection of Ringwood/Arlington and Menlo Oaks is not acceptable. No Parking Signs have gone missing....A Red Zone along the curb thru the intersection with larger fines may be the next step.



*Enforcement is key to changing the behavior of drivers and people parking in neighborhood easements. Please note that a vehicle that has its wheels "in the roadway" is subject to C.V.C. 225001 ticketing. In our District this means any on-pavement parking with the exception of Ringwood, Bay and one side of Coleman where white lines delineate the lanes of traffic. Call 363-4911 to report vehicles impeding traffic or visit <http://www.smcsheriff.com/contact-us/traffic-complaints>*

## You Need to Know

### Voice Your Concerns

Facts regarding MAHS Facilities Master Plan:

Does not adequately address the impact the boundary adjustments the SUHSD made last year.

Schools have an obligation to provide safe, adequate and effective bus access, drop-off and pick-up on campus.

All students leaving school via bus must cross carpool lane ingress or egress and parking lot before boarding a bus.

Careful consideration as to the placement of bike cages, pedestrian access in fences and curb cuts for buses can improve traffic flow by reducing conflict.

460 current increase of enrollment numbers is based off feeder schools current data does NOT take into account gentrification MAHS district boundary cities or the recently approved 737 dwelling units in East Menlo Park

Written responses emphasizing any or all of the points made above and your own observation of the Draft EIR are requested as early as possible, no later than 5 pm on June 22, 2015, to Mr. Matthew Zito, Chief Facilities Office, 480 James Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94062 or [ma-eir@seq.org](mailto:ma-eir@seq.org) (enter "MAHS FMP Draft EIR" in the 'Subject' line).

The final EIR will most likely be presented to the SUHD District's Board of Trustees at the next regularly scheduled public meeting June 24th. Check the for the Agenda <http://seq.org/?id=113> for the approve MAHS Facilities Master Plan EIR.

# Neighborhood News

## Unaddressed Solution

*MAHS DEIR Impact TRA-2: Additional related traffic could increase conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians, bicycles, and emergency access personnel. During student drop-off and pick-up periods, local streets adjacent to the campus, in particular Ringwood, Oak Grove, and Coleman experience a temporary but periodic surge in traffic flow, which results in improper and/or illegal student loading and unloading in the middle of these roadways (i.e., not at an intersection, crosswalk, or other designated pedestrian facility) and vehicle queuing to enter or exit the campus.*

Because parents are trying to avoid getting stuck in traffic on campus, I believe residents should be asking for an analysis of the flow of MAHS traffic. Described below is a solution, which has received some community support, should be included in the EIR impact recommendations and mitigations. Please feel free to share this with the residents you know in Atherton, Menlo Park and other MAHS parents to gain support for the change before the deadline of June 22nd.

In the segment on Ringwood Ave between Middlefield Road and Arlington Way, on the Atherton side of the street there is a SamTrans Bus stop with a mini-pull out space. While a bus is waiting for students to board at this stop, it impedes the lane of traffic that turns right onto Middlefield. As the bus cannot pull fully out of the lane of traffic it directly interferes with the flow of traffic and that of the egress of the student parking lot.

Although I realize that often SamTrans and the rules governing stops locations often determine said location, in 1951 when school was built it was never intended to have 2,100 students. The Draft EIR informal study of students shows that 73% arrive on campus via automobile. All students leaving school via bus must cross carpool lane ingress or egress and parking lot before boarding a bus. Moving this one bus stop

further back between the Student & Tennis Court Parking lots seems a far safer location than the middle of the intersection.

Bringing change is complex as the multi jurisdictional agencies involved in the intersection managed by Menlo Park, the bus stop by SamTrans, the pull out encroaches on the Atherton and MAHS easement and the new location of the stop would fall into the segment of the road way assigned to the San Mateo County transportation agency.

I have contacted the various agencies listed above and request an assessment of their traffic personnel to observe the intersection during the drop-off and/or pickup area. I believe that the impact of moving the bus stop would make a marked improvement to the flow of traffic in the intersection.

## Contact Information

MAHS  
Matthew Zito  
SUHSD Chief Facilities Officer  
mzito@seq.org  
650 369-1411, ext. 22357

Simone Rick-Kennel  
Principal  
skennel@seq.org  
650-322-5311, ext. 50110

Karl Losekoot  
Admin. Vice-Principal  
klosekoot@seq.org  
650-322-5311 ext. 50130

Noemy Menjivar  
Admin for Behavior/Truancy & Parking  
nmenjivar@seq.org,  
650-322-5311 ext. 50131

Don Horseley  
District 3 SMC Supervisor  
dhorsley@smcgov.org  
650-363-4569

## Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

### Training

The purpose of the CERT program is to improve community emergency preparedness and response in the event of a major disaster. Learn more about Menlo Park Fire District's CERT program at <https://sites.google.com/site/menloparkcert/>

Contact MPFD CERT Coordinator Carol Parker, [carolp@menlofire.org](mailto:carolp@menlofire.org), 650-688-8415.

When: Aug 26, 29

Aug 26, 2015 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Aug 29, 2015 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Where: Station 77  
1467 Chilco Street  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

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## County Notification

### Letters

The MODA web site ( <http://www.menlo-oaks.org> ) is getting some long overdue updates. I have added a couple of new pages and new information. There will now be a section of more detailed information about the trees in the neighborhood, information about the planning, construction, and changes taking place at Menlo-Atherton High School, and a place where you can find copies of letters we get from the San Mateo County about changes or request for changes to the properties within MODA ( [http://www.menlo-oaks.org/County\\_Notification.html](http://www.menlo-oaks.org/County_Notification.html) ).

# Neighborhood News

## New Menlo Oaks Tree Advocacy Group

Several neighbors have formed Menlo Oaks Tree Advocacy (MOTA) to communicate, educate and work with residents and the County on behalf of the significant old-growth and heritage trees in Menlo Oaks. They welcome your participation.

Menlo Oaks is unique—because of its beauty and privacy, and because it lets us live amid nature in a lush old-growth wooded setting. This is what differentiates us from typical suburban developments and why new families are attracted to Menlo Oaks.

### Our Trees As Assets

Our trees keep the neighborhood vibrant and property values high.

These trees are part of our indigenous landscape and have grown in our neighborhood for many years – in some cases for centuries.

Existing trees in Menlo Oaks are especially important given the ongoing drought that is expected to last for many years.

Significant old-growth and heritage trees are well established and face far fewer dangers from the drought. They demand far less water (often no additional water) than any new trees, bushes and lawns that might be planted.

## New MOTA Website

Taking care of the remaining significant and heritage trees and redwoods that form our local environment is a critical but sometimes puzzling responsibility for homeowners, especially when considering home and garden renovations.

MOTA will launch a small website with articles and links to resources about correct ways to landscape around and under these trees.

It will list neighbor-recommended arborists and tree care specialists who have done good work in Menlo Oaks.

The website will serve as a communications vehicle about our trees for Menlo Oaks residents.

## Working With the County To Preserve & Care For Old Growth Trees

MOTA also plans to advocate with San Mateo County to improve and enforce the current regulations that prohibit destroying a significant tree unless it is diseased or a safety hazard. (It is actually illegal to cut down significant trees without a permit from the San Mateo Planning & Building Department). In fact, the Board of Supervisors declared that the County's outstanding Heritage Tree population has been and continues to be an "invaluable asset to the economic, environmental and aesthetic stability of the county and the welfare of its people of future generations.") MOTA's goal is to ensure that these values are consistently applied in Menlo Oaks.

To learn more about Menlo Oaks Tree Advocacy, visit [www.menlo-oaks-mota.org](http://www.menlo-oaks-mota.org) today.

## Thank You New Board Members

The MODA board recently found itself down to just a few members. We reached out to the neighborhood and had a number of people volunteer to jump in and help out.

We would like to thank and welcome Judy Colwell, Penny Gallo, and Kay Hitch for their help to keep the board active. This brings the board up to 7 of the 9 required by the By-Laws.

- President - Rich Collyer
- VP - TBD
- Treasurer - Remona Murray
- Welcoming - Elizabeth Gheleta
- Editor & Web Master - Rich Collyer
- MA-Liaison - (Remona Murray)
- Secretary - Kay Hitch
- Member - Penny Gallo
- Member - Marie Mathevon
- Member - Judy Colwell

In the coming year, the issues we are taking on as a board include:

- MA growth/traffic
- Heritage tree removal
- Further board recruitment
- and the regular set of events to bring the community together

EDITOR & LAYOUT:  
Richard Collyer

CONTRIBUTORS:  
Remona Murray-Collyer  
Marge Draper  
Elizabeth Gheleta

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 (www.menlo-oaks.org)**

**District Association**

**2014-2015**

**MODA\_Board@menlo-oaks.org**

**Rich Collyer ..... president@menlo-oaks.org**  
**TBD ..... vicepresident@menlo-oaks.org**  
**Remona Murray..... treasurer@menlo-oaks.org**  
**Elizabeth Gheleta ..... welcomingcommittee@menlo-oaks.org**  
**Rich Collyer ..... editor@menlo-oaks.org**  
**(Remona Murray)..... ma-liaison@menlo-oaks.org**  
**Kay Hitch..... secretary@menlo-oaks.org**

**Marie Mathevon, Judy Colwell, Penny Gallo**

## 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 flyer's.

Thanks to everyone who supported MODA with their dues last year. An addressed envelope is attached to this newsletter if you prefer to pay by mail, or bring your 2014-2015 dues of \$20.00 to the Annual Meeting.

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

If you have any questions about dues, expenditures, etc., Contact Remona Murray, MODA Treasurer, at 327-2806 or [treasurer@menlo-oaks.org](mailto:treasurer@menlo-oaks.org).

## 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!

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>

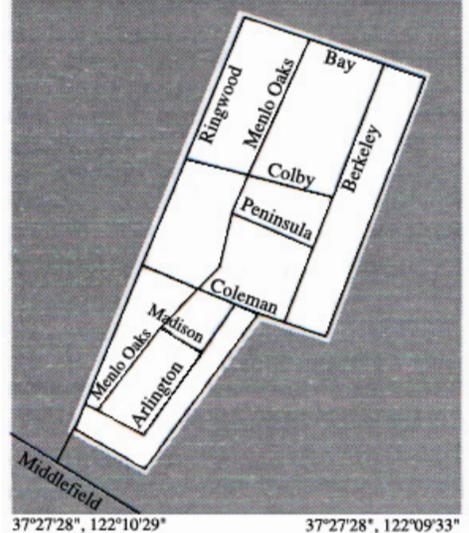
There appear to be no apps on the Android for Spare the Air.

Marge Draper

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

37°28'21", 122°10'28"

37°28'21", 122°09'33"



## The Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Newsletter



# The Oak Leaf



May 2015

**PLEASE PAY  
"MODA" YOUR  
ANNUAL DUES  
OF \$20.00 PER  
HOUSEHOLD**

[www.menlo-oaks.org](http://www.menlo-oaks.org)

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

**ANNUAL  
Picnic  
\* Sunday \*  
Jun 14, 4-7 PM**

**PENINSULA  
SCHOOL**

# Menlo Oaks District Association (MODA) Newsletter Mailing List & Directory Additions/Deletions & Changes

In an effort to reduce cost, please let me know if you received more than one newsletter, do not wish to receive another, or have corrections.

**Please send additions/deletions and changes to  
 Remona Murray, 441 Arlington Way, treasurer@menlo-oaks.org**

Do you wish to receive your Newsletter or Directory electronically? **YES** **NO**

Do you wish to be included in the directory? (circle) **YES** **NO**  
 (Published in Feb each year)

**Adults' first and last names**

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**Address**

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MODA Request this information for Disaster Preparedness Purposes

*Check Box if you do not wish your child's info be published in the Directory*

**Children living at home**

Interests

Names (first and last)	Birth year	Babysitter?	Pets/plant/mail during vacations?	Odd Jobs?

**Telephone Number**

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**E-mail Address**

*Check Box if you do not wish your e-mail published in the Directory*

**Year residents since**

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