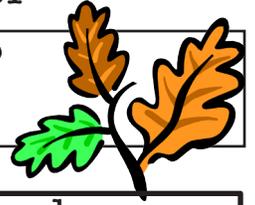


# The Oak Leaf



March 2016

## MODA Annual Meeting

Over 30 residents attended the MODA annual meeting held November 15, 2015 at Peninsula School

**Traffic, Traffic, Traffic:** Traffic congestion was the major topic of the meeting. Remona Murray presented an overview of the various issues of concern to the neighborhood. She noted that Menlo Atherton traffic continues to be a challenge as over 80% of M-A students commute to school by car. This has resulted in many students parking on Menlo Oaks streets, particularly Arlington Way and Menlo Oaks. The situation is exacerbated by drop offs and pick ups at the corner of Ringwood and Arlington Way.

Guest speaker, Simone Rick-Kennel, principal of M-A, outlined initiatives M-A has undertaken, including creation of the MA2020 Task Force to address these issues, and efforts to increase carpooling, biking and walking to/from campus. She advised that additional bus passes have been made available to students from East Palo Alto. M-A is also working to improve the flow of traffic into and out of the campus and the City of Atherton has funds to improve the Oak Grove intersection. However, Ms Rick-Kennel noted that major construction currently under way on the campus will further complicate the traffic situation. She advised that residents having questions or who wish to report an incident related to traffic to contact either of the vice principals: Karl Losekoot, JC Farr, Steve Lippi.

Residents offered suggestions of ways to improve the congestion that occurs at the beginning and end of the school day and further urged that the traffic created by drop off and pick up at Laurel School be taken into account. Several residents emphasized the danger posed to the young children walking or biking to Laurel along Coleman Avenue by the many cars parked

along Coleman and urged that MODA further investigate actions that could be taken to restrict parking on Coleman during Laurel's drop off and pick up times.

**Election of the MODA Board:** Janet Benson, Judy Colwell, Penny Gallo, Kay Hitch, and Celine Sanie were elected to the MODA board. These new board members join current board members Rich Collyer, Remona Murray, and Elizabeth Gheleta.

**Open Board Seat:** The MODA board currently has one vacancy. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact any member of the MODA board

## Coleman Ave. Parking

A recent meeting of homeowners with easements along Coleman Ave., attended by half of those neighbors, was held to discuss the changes in traffic and parking on that street. In the interest of creating a place for neighbors and students to walk in the easements along the entire length of Coleman Ave two applications for no parking zones during the hours of 7:30-9:30 am and 2:00-4:00 pm are being submitted to the San Mateo County.

MODA learned that next fall for at least 6 weeks the number of students commuting to Laurel school will swell from today's current enrollment of 540 to more than 700 until the Upper Laurel School can be opened in the Willows neighborhood. High schoolers and Laurel parents are currently using the narrow easement to park their vehicles to walk to their respective school which results in no space to walk in the easement. Next year we expect the need for parking to reach further into the neighborhood and down Coleman Ave as Menlo Park and Atherton continue to restrict parking on their streets. Coleman residents goal is to create a safe walking area without vehicles impeding the safe passage of students.

## Calendar

Annual Picnic Jun 12

## Beware Of Tree

## Companies Hoping to Scare You Into Removing Trees

This is a helpful reminder to all Menlo Oaks residents to be a wise and watchful consumer. Recently we've heard of several tree companies and their arborists canvassing our neighborhood in an attempt to alarm homeowners of potential risks their larger trees might pose. This has included urging people to cut down their Heritage Oaks, Redwoods and other older trees.

After scaring them, these companies have their arborist look at the trees, issue a report saying the trees should be removed, and finally they sell them costly tree removal services that may be unnecessary. They particularly target older home owners, and they give a bad name to good tree companies and arborists. See our list of reputable ones on the Menlo Oaks Tree Advocacy (MOTA) site at [www.menlo-oaks-mota.org/](http://www.menlo-oaks-mota.org/)

These services can cost \$5000-\$10,000— just to remove a single tree, and in some cases removing a tree is ill-advised when pruning it, reducing the canopy or having

## In This Issue

Annual Meeting	1
Coleman Ave Parking	1
MOTA - Tree Service	1-2
Annual Picnic	2

# Neighborhood News

## Annual Picnic

At Peninsula School SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2016 4 p.m.

CHANGES...CHANGES...CHANGES... Having the Peninsula School grounds for our annual neighborhood picnic has been a wonderful bonus for all of us living in Menlo Oaks! SO FAR. This has been a great experience of truly stepping back in time, just coming together with food and sense of community. FOR HOW LONG? Once things end, they are seldom brought back!

Again, with CHANGES in the neighborhood, are we and are you willing to make this a special 'save the date' event?

Bring a blanket or folding chairs, pay the modest (\$20 per household) annual dues, so that the basic costs of Jumpy Houses, BBQ hamburgers and chicken, drinks and dinnerware can be covered 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!

YOUR FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS ON WHAT WOULD MAKE THIS A BETTER EVENT FOR YOUR FAMILY WILL BE CONSIDERED AND ARE WELCOME!

Elizabeth Gheleta  
MODA Board

an arborist feed it will take care of (cont on page 2)  
(Tree Compais cont.)  
problems. Unfortunately, by the time you realize the tree was actually healthy on the inside, it's too late because your "poorly formed", "sick" or "at risk" tree is gone (all terms arborists use to support their opinions). It's too late, and it will take hundreds of years to replace the tree you loved.

Before you let any arborist tell you to remove a tree completely—or perform extensive and expensive pruning, explore some of these of options:

- Get a second opinion or a third—from an arborist, not the fellow who just happens to be in the neighborhood and knocks on your door. Check our list of arborists on the MOTA site.
- Find out what the arborist recommends to revitalize or make the tree healthier.
- Find out how many years the arborist thinks the tree can survive with good care.
- If the tree or branch is near a high voltage (upper) power line, check with PG&E to see if it considers the tree or a branch as a danger. If it does, PG&E will handle the issue for free.
- An estimate to cut down a tree should be free. You should only pay if you receive a

full arborist report in writing, not a skimpy report. The evaluation should include things such as a description of the tree including location, measurements, tree type and approximate age, a detailed explanation of the areas needing attention, a rating scale for the overall health of the tree, and options for revitalizing or saving the tree.

- Get a least one second opinion from another qualified, licensed arborist.
- Always ask what can be done to rehabilitate the tree and save it if the initial proposal was to cut it down.
- Remember that if this is a Significant Tree or a Heritage Tree, pruning or tree removal by a homeowner requires a permit from San Mateo County - along with an arborist report and payment of a fee. There is a public posting, and notification is sent to nearby neighbors. Those who object to removing the tree can appeal it but also must pay a fee to do so.

Remember, the trees in Menlo Oaks come in all sorts of fantastic and irregular shapes -- shape is NOT an indicator of health. Neither are holes and cavities or areas where the bark is irregular, but has probably healed itself. Old oaks frequently have holes, but that doesn't mean they are dangerous or dying.

Pruning, reducing the canopy, balancing the branches of a tree, cabling and applying treatments to its roots or injecting it with healthy vitamins can keep it alive for the enjoyment and benefit of all for many years.

EDITOR & LAYOUT:  
Richard Collyer

CONTRIBUTORS:  
Remona Murray-Collyer  
Penny Gallo

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

District Association

2015-2016

[MODA\\_Board@menlo-oaks.org](mailto:MODA_Board@menlo-oaks.org)

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

Janet Benson, Judy Colwell, Penny Gallo, Celine Sanie