

The Oak Leaf

May 2016

Annual Picnic

Since the March Newsletter already had an article with details:

Just a reminder to all, with a SPECIAL INVITATION and WELCOME to all who have recently moved to the Menlo Oaks neighborhood....come and spend a part of your afternoon, Sunday, June 12th, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the ANNUAL PICNIC.

WHERE: On the grounds of Peninsula School in the heart of our lovely neighborhood. BRING: A blanket or folding chairs if you wish (there are NO picnic tables). ALSO, bring a salad or dessert to SHARE at our lavish buffet of YOUR potluck contributions. Adults and Children are asked to identify their offering and prizes and verbal recognition follow!

MEET new neighbors or RECONNECT WITH others you may not have seen in a while, AND share the latest events affecting you and your family.

BBQ'd BURGERS & CHICKEN are provided c/o our talented chef, President Rich Collyer, and WINE & BEER, and drinks for the kids are also ON THE HOUSE!

LOTS OF PLAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE KIDS in an old-fashioned oak-shaded setting AND THEN there are the BOUNCY HOUSES!

HOPE to see you on June 12th!



Marsh Road Closure

As many of you are aware, the Town of Atherton is about to start work on a major repair project along Marsh Road. The repair is a BADLY needed effort on the stream that runs along (and under) Marsh Road. For decades there have been conversations about the state of that waterway and it has finally gotten to the point where the town MUST do something about it - the alternative is to wait for the road to collapse and then do an unplanned closure and repair.

The reality of the project is that there is no way to do it without significant impact on all surrounding neighborhoods. The good news is that the Town of Atherton is making an honest effort to minimize this impact. Some of what they are doing includes:
- Extending construction hours to maximize the work per week; therefore shorten the total time of the project (8-8 M-F, 8-5 Sat)
- Set out about 50 traffic counters in the surrounding roads to get a traffic baseline, then monitor the traffic to determine if further balancing efforts are needed to spread the pain.

- Maintain a 24 hour hotline throughout the project (650-847-4045)
- Communicate with the makers of the WAYZ app to get them to help minimize the traffic in the area
- Expand police enforcement (Atherton, Menlo Park, Sheriff, & CHP)
- Provide and maintain up to date information on the town web site (<http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/marshroad>)
- Create a placard program for the Fair Oaks residents, which they are very open to expanding to the MODA area (the details of the program are still being worked out with the contractor and county)

For details about the detours, please see the graphics on the following web sites:

- <http://ca-atherton.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/2974>
- <http://ca-atherton.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/2981>

Calendar

Jun 12

Annual Picnic

At this time, the time-line goal that the Town of Atherton has for the project is to be completed on Aug 11th. This gives them a 3 week buffer before the start of school in the Menlo Park City School District (Starting Sept 1) and a 1 week buffer before the start of Menlo-Atherton High School (Starting Aug 17th). In the event that the project does extend past the start of school, the town is prepared to push the detour off of Ringwood Ave. and onto Willow Rd.

Over the past month, the Town of Atherton has held several community outreach meetings, at which they have taken input and adopted changes. The MODA board is working on setting up a meeting with the Town of Atherton, the High School and Don Horsley. We will communicate with the neighborhood when this gets scheduled.

In This Issue

Annual Picnic	1
Marsh Road	1
Drop-Off/Pick-Up	2
MA Contacts	2
CERT	2
Local Film	3
MOTA	3
Summer School	4
County Planning Letters	4
Know 911	4

Neighborhood News

Drop-Off/Pick-Up on Ringwood

On April 12th the Menlo-Atherton 2020 Transportation Committee had a meeting to discuss a Safe Routes To School grant application that would move the west-side Ringwood Ave bus stop from north of Arlington Way to the tennis courts. The application would include space for the bus to pull completely out of the roadway and add a crosswalk with a clear zone at the intersection of Ringwood Ave. and Arlington Way. At this meeting, High School Administrators requested that the San Mateo County Public Works Department remove the No Parking zone along the High School easement and allow student drop-off and pick-up between the Gym Parking and Tennis Court Parking driveways.

Currently, No Parking is posted from Toyon Rd. to the tennis courts on the high school side and from Toyon Rd. to Arlington Way on the County side. This zone is not enforced by the Town of Atherton as the jurisdiction belongs to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department for code violations and the CHP for traffic enforcement. It is infrequently enforced by the sheriff's department and the trend over the last few years has been that during sports events drivers ignore signs and park in bike lanes at their own risk.

If you look at all of the SUHSD schools and the local elementary schools, you see that none allow drop-off and pickup from the street in order to prevent conflict between drivers merging into traffic and those merging out to drop-off. The High School's request also increases the probability of cyclists, traveling from Coleman Ave., being struck by drivers.

The MODA board is against the creation of a new drop-off/pickup zone on Ringwood Ave. without a proper traffic study. What capacity should this student drop-off and pick-up zone have in order to not backup traffic on other streets? Will more vehicles make u-turns out of the zone due to the

wider turning radius it provides? What will be done with the vehicles that turn left on Arlington Way, left down Menlo Oaks Dr, left on Coleman Ave and left on Ringwood Ave in order to "wait" for their student, or look for a opening? How will the stream of student on foot or bicycle on Ringwood be protected? Providing a no-left-hand turn on Arlington Way from westbound traffic on Ringwood may discourage this behavior, but enforcement hasn't worked on illegal parking to date.

Many feel that MAHS needs to provide more on-campus parking where the traffic flows from a controlled area rather than just eliminating the No Parking Zone on Ringwood Ave. It was suggested that the dirt fire land along the perimeter of school on the back of the sports fields is occasionally open during weekend sports events. Why not create a new student drop-off/pick-up and parking area utilizing that entrance?

One resident I spoke to wondered if the school will provide someone to monitor/provide traffic control during after-school and weekend sports events. They noted the trash, discourteous drivers who park in bicycle lanes on both sides of the street, against fences and on plants in easements, and the number of witnessed near-miss-collisions have gotten worse in the past three years. They do not see this behavior improving by eliminating the No-Parking zone on Ringwood.

The plans also include for Arlington Way, Menlo Oaks Rd. and Coleman Ave. shared lane pavement markings (or "sharrows") that are bicycle symbols carefully placed to guide bicyclists to the best place to ride on the road, avoid car doors and remind drivers to share the road with cyclists.

Please feel free to contact me at treasurer@menlo-oaks.org to voice your support or objections to any of the plans above. You may also contact Simone Rick-Kennel, MAHS Principal, skennel@seq.org, 650-322-5311, ext. 50110 or Matthew Zito, SUHSD Chief Facilities Officer, mzito@seq.org, 650-369-1411, ext. 22357

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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 <http://www.menlofirecert.com/home>

Numerous classes are now provided by the Menlo Park Fire District.

Contact MPFD CERT Coordinator Carol Parker, carolp@menlofire.org, 650-688-8415.

Neighborhood News

Butterfly Town, USA

One of our neighbors has produced and directed a new film about the butterflies of Pacific Grove.

Produced by DOROTHY FADIMAN and MARLO McKENZIE with the OSCAR-nominated, EMMY-winning CONCENTRIC MEDIA Film Team

Butterfly Town, USA follows activists in Pacific Grove, CA, who work together to protect their fragile monarch butterfly grove from the winds. One courageous activist leads this citizen effort to plant and care for more trees. The effort requires not only hands-on intensive labor, but showing up at City Council meetings to defend their plan. Butterfly ecologist, Lincoln Brower, adds his perspective throughout the film.

Why this film is so important now

While the numbers of monarch butterflies in certain locations are improving, the story in this film is still relevant as citizens worldwide unite to fight habitat loss due to climate change, deforestation and pesticides.

This film can be viewed at:

- Vimeo: (<https://vimeo.com/126672536>)
- YouTube: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7-P6RtTIMk&feature=youtu.be>)

The Film's website is: <http://butterflytown-film.org>

This film will also be viewed at the Santa Cruz Film Festival, Sunday June 5 at noon.



MOTA Update

MOTA is a group of your neighbors working to help Significant Old-Growth and Heritage Oaks survive and thrive in Menlo Oaks. We are not anti-development, but we want to ensure that the character of Menlo Oaks remains intact and that developers abide by the current Heritage Tree and Significant Tree Ordinances. To that end, we have filed complaints with the County when recent developers removed old growth trees without permits and when they failed to put proper, required tree protection in place.

Two Action Items

- We are waiting to hear when the Supervisors' Meeting regarding the Heritage Oak Tree at 671 Menlo Oaks will be held. Our appeal of the tree permit started last summer and was upheld by the Planning Commission in January—primarily because neighbors and other professionals in tree management and conservation wrote letters and joined us at the Commission hearing. The developer has refused on several occasions to let us bring an independent arborist onto the property to get an objective, thorough arborist report. We hope the Supervisors will vote to uphold the Planning Commission's decision made in January. We will let you know when the hearing is scheduled through our website at <http://menloaks-mota.org/>

- A Stop Work Notice was posted at 799 Berkeley in early May because several neighbors opposed a tree's removal without an objective arborist report, and we filed objections to the developer's removal of three Significant/Heritage Oaks without permit and the lack of required tree protection. If a new permit request to remove the Heritage Oak is filed soon, we will oppose it and hope to get an in-depth, objective independent arborist report on the tree with recommendations as to improving its health. If this report indicates it should be removed, then we will not oppose the permit. However, we will continue to press for proper tree protection of the remaining trees.

As one neighbor said about this tree, "...my primary objective is to make sure the design of the structure takes this tree into account. It may cost the developer time and money to do so, but they knew, or should have known, the constraints on developing the property when they bought it." (Representatives of MOTA met with the developer prior to any demolition activity taking place on the lot and informed him of the ordinances pertaining to Heritage Oaks and Significant Trees.)

Selecting An Arborist

While we have a recommended list of arborists and other resources you can use to care for your trees, it's important to remember that to truly know what's happening with your tree requires that an arborist climbs up into the tree, closely examines its root system and looks at the health of the tree in depth. All arborist reports should offer recommendations for how to care for and improve the health of the tree. That way the property owner can make an objective decision.

Unfortunately, many arborists generally report the downside of the trees, and unless asked how the trees can be cared for to extend their lives, arborists don't volunteer that information. A good arborist would (and should) do that. In the case of many developers, the arborists they hire give them the reports they were looking for by issuing similar kinds of reports—stating that "the tree is of bad form or disease and should be removed as it poses a hazard". That's what has been happening in Menlo Oaks, and that's why we lose large Heritage Oaks or Significant healthy trees every month or two.

Native Valley and Coast Oaks are survivors, and while they twist and lean over roadways or look gnarly, they live for many years. As one leading authority who wrote the Palo Alto Technical Tree Manual told us when we met with him, "All defects don't equate to a hazard."

Neighborhood News

8 Things to know about

911

It's Dispatcher Appreciation Week and the San Mateo County Office of Public Communications 9-1-1 Dispatch Center would like to share this important information with you on teaching your child how to use 9-1-1.

1. It's hard to track down "mommy" and "daddy." It's never too early to teach your children your first and last name.

2. Have your children memorize their address, including city, as well as your home phone and cell phone numbers.

3. Knowing the name of their school is important, especially for pre-schoolers and children at day care facilities in the event something happens to the provider and/or teacher and a child has to call 9-1-1 for help.

4. Location, location, location! Explain that knowing where you are is important for the police or an ambulance to get to you for help and that calling from a cell phone doesn't always transmit location to 9-1-1 so help your children be aware of their surroundings and memorize important addresses.

5. Make sure your children understand that calling 9-1-1 as a joke is a crime in many

places and stress that whenever an unnecessary call is made to 9-1-1, it can delay a response to someone who actually needs it.

6. Tell your children that even though they shouldn't give personal information to strangers, it's OK to trust the 9-1-1 operator. Walk them through some of the questions the operator will ask, including:

What's the address?

What type of emergency is this?

What is the phone number you're calling from?

What's your name?

Tell me exactly what happened.

7. Always refer to the emergency number as "nine-one-one" not "nine-eleven." In an emergency, a child may not know how to dial the number correctly because of trying to find the "eleven" button on the phone.

8. Explain what constitutes an emergency, such as a fire, an intruder in the home, an unconscious family member — these are all things that would require a call to 9-1-1. A skinned knee, a stolen bicycle, or a lost pet wouldn't. Still, teach your child that if ever in doubt and there's no adult around to ask, make the call. It's much better to be safe than sorry.

Summer School

Menlo-Atherton High School

Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- Session I - June 13-June 30
- Session II - July 5-July 22
- Special Education Extended School Year - June 15 - July 13

Laurel Elementary

Monday - Friday: 9am - 12pm

- Session: June 27 - July 22, 2016

Peninsula School

- Session 1: June 27-July 15
- Session 2: July 18-August 5

Morning: 9am - 1pm, M-F

Afternoon: 1pm - 3pm, M,W, F or T, Thu.

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).

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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.

Menlo Oaks (www.menlo-oaks.org)

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2015-2016

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