

The Oak Leaf

May 2018

MODA PICNIC

Save The Date

Jun 3rd

Calendar *Sunday, June 3, 2018* for our annual MODA picnic at Peninsula School on 920 Peninsula Way in Menlo Oaks.

This event has been a tradition in our neighborhood since the 50's. Neighbors bring an appetizer, salad, side dishes, or dessert to share. All the BBQ and beverages provided by MODA from 4 – 7 PM.

Enjoy the live music and youth events, e.g. face painting & badminton are planned. Have a gaga ball at home? Bring it along and play in Peninsula's court.. Bring your own chairs, blankets and eating tables as needed as this is a rustic event, with no benches or picnic tables.

If you have any suggestions or thoughts, please contact Kay Hitch at (650) 326-1681 or kayhitch84@gmail.com



Plant Health Care

Programs Work!

Living in Menlo Oaks, we often take our Heritage Oaks and other Significant trees for granted.

- Did you know that some of these trees are 400 years old, and the juveniles can be as old as 100 or 150 years old?
- Have you ever thought about planting a 24" box Coast Live Oak this year?
- Do you have an arborist?
- Do you have a tree health plan to make sure your larger trees will survive for another 50 or 100 years?

If you have these magnificent oaks and other trees on your property, it's important they get the health care they need. Make sure an arborist assesses their health and gives you good advice on how to take care of them and trim them. Maybe you can develop a plant health care plan with the arborist to manage the health, structure, and appearance of trees and plants in the landscape—all based on your objectives and thresholds. Did you take care of those unwanted oak moth larva or caterpillars this winter? It may not be too late, Here's what's needed for the next few months.

Early Spring: Monitor for canker diseases on lower trunk and bark beetle activity. Monitor for oak moth larvae or other caterpillar defoliators. Treat if necessary. Apply fungicide treatment to suppress Anthracnose or other leaf and twig blight diseases.

Mid-Spring: Monitor for canker diseases on lower trunk and bark beetle activity. Monitor for oak moth larvae or caterpillars. Treat if necessary. Apply second fungicide treatment to suppress Anthracnose or other leaf and twig blight diseases.

Late Spring: Monitor for cankers and beetle attacks. Apply third fungicide treatment as needed. Evaluate new growth for nutrient deficiency symptoms.

Check out an annual plant health care program at <http://menloaks-mota.org/significant-trees/care/>

To select an arborist, please review several options at <http://menloaks-mota.org/resources/arborists/>

Calendar

May 19th	CERT Class #1
Jun 3rd	Annual Picnic
Jun 7th	MAHS Graduation
Jun 13th	Pen School Graduation
Jun 15th	MPCSD Last Day
Jun 16th	CERT Class #2
Jul 21st	CERT Class #3

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 flyers.

Thanks to everyone who supported MODA with their dues last year. If you have any questions about dues, expenditures, etc., contact Remona Murray-Collyer, MODA Treasurer, at 327-2806, treasurer@menlo-oaks.org.

An addressed envelope is attached to this newsletter if you prefer to pay by mail, or bring your 2017-2018 dues of \$20.00 to the Annual Picnic, June 3th.

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

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Neighborhood News

Annual Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2017 Peninsula School Auditorium, 920 Peninsula Way

Judy Horst kicked off the meeting at 3:10 pm by introducing MODA Board member in attendance: Richard Collyer, Remona Murray, Elizabeth Gheleta, Celine Sanie, and Penny Gallo. Honorable guests Supervisor Don Horsley and Ms. Lauren Koo arrived at 3:40 pm.

Parking Restriction Update: The owners at 200-591 Menlo Oaks signed the application to restrict parking from 7:30-9:30 am and 2 pm-4 pm Mon-Fri. This is part of an effort to create a safer environment for walkers and bikers in the area during school hours. Madison Way will have parking restrictions from 9 am - 5 pm, similar to the 100 block of Arlington Way. Unfortunate events like disrespecting homeowners and their property, speeding, vehicle theft, fighting, dealing, and harassment of other students have been reported to MODA, Menlo Atherton High School staff, and the San Mateo County Sheriff. The high school follows up on reports if given descriptions of students or pictures and other details of bad behavior during school hours. Contact Dr. Brenda Bachechi, M-AHS Vice Principal 650-322-5311, ext. 50123, bbachechi@seq.org.

Arlington Way has not yet gained the agreement of all residents and owners to create a no parking zone (NPZ) any further than to the corner at 200 Arlington Way. Neighbors wishing to learn more about how to apply for a NPZ can contact Remona Murray, treasurer@menlo-oaks.org.

Fire on Arlington Way Update: The Fire Marshall has not determined the exact cause, but most likely the fire was ignited by spontaneous combustion of a buildup of leaf litter and other debris in a pile of wood outside the shed on the backside of the property. The flames spread to the fence line where four properties meet and engulfed a tree leading to a canopy fire that was quickly extinguished by the Menlo Fire Protection District after it was reported by a 16 year-old neighboring resident. The MODA Board and Supervisor Don Horsley presented Lauren Koo with a certificate of appreciation to recognize her efforts in calling 911 and alerting neighbors by going door to door at 1 AM.

Fire Marshall Recommends the Following:

- Remove Ladder Fuels on Property:
 - Ignition Sources => Spread Potentials
 - Canopy Fires cannot exist if you remove the ability of the fires to climb.
 - Remove debris beneath trees/shrubs/plants
 - Keep shrubs and trees limbed up, free of dry/dead branches.
- Annual Housekeeping - Seasonal (August/Early Fall)
 - Clearance -10 feet or greater around homes and other buildings
- Roofing
 - Replace wood shingles
 - Remove leaves from roofs and gutters
- Smoke Alarm System (Ceiling) & Carbon Monoxide Alarms (Low on Wall)
 - Replace every 10 years (diode inside expires)
 - Check every six months at Spring & Fall Solstice
- Sprinkler Head Systems older than 10 years
 - Check with manufacturer for maintenance and replacement schedule
- Sign-up for SMCAAlert
 - <http://hsd.smcsheriff.com/smcalert>

Some other informative and helpful sources can be found in links below:

- https://www.nifc.gov/prevEdu/comm_guide/appendix/9SAMPLEARTICLE_NAPSHIZEnglish2003.pdf
- <http://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA/The-ember-threat-and-the-home-ignition-zone>

Neighborhood News

Annual Meeting Minutes (cont.)

CERT Emergency Assembly Points: Remona Murray, coordinator of the Menlo Oaks Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), said the Board is still looking for “neighborhood meet up” areas, at least three or four areas that neighbors could congregate and share information about the status of households should fire, earthquake or other disasters affect communications and travel in Menlo Oaks and nearby communities. Once safe locations (away from overhead power lines and gas transmission lines) are identified in an easement, those areas will be marked with signs as a physical reminder to residents as to where to assemble. Please note during an emergency our public and private schools will not allow for nonstudent families to congregate on campuses.

Zoning/Ordinance Update: Supervisor Don Horsley joined the meeting to discuss changes to Zoning, Subdivision and Tree Ordinances for San Mateo County. Because of housing shortages throughout the Bay Area, the State of California has forced local governments to make exceptions in their zoning regulations to allow second dwellings on some properties. In response to this “ministerial” process, the County can no longer stop a second dwelling if it meets the new, less stringent zoning requirements. Supervisor Horsley urged homeowners to consider the impact of a second home on neighbors and to get involved to prevent changes in subdivision ordinances, similar to what the Menlo Oaks Tree Advocacy (MOTA) does with Heritage Oak and Significant Tree ordinances.

John Danforth asked about the County’s position and legal authority to manage larger homes and second buildings on properties to exclude “hacker rooming houses” from Menlo Oaks. Will the County require potential homeowners to disclose occupancy as a condition to building permits? This question is the result of plans submitted for a lot on Menlo Oaks, which shows a 7-bedroom home/8-bath & 2 half-baths/2 kitchens home of 8500 square feet and a second accessory 1470 square foot dwelling with 3 bedrooms/3.5 baths/1 kitchen on the same property. It is too small to subdivide but can be built under the “ministerial” process. The Supervisor said that the County staff will monitor this and follow up with John Danforth and the MODA board.

Police Protection: Supervisor Horsley said the CHP, San Mateo Sheriff, Atherton Police and Menlo Park Police work jointly to enforce traffic laws close to all local schools. However, they can’t always be as responsive to Menlo Oaks problems as they might like to be with 16 unincorporated areas that the Sheriff Department covers and spread throughout San Mateo County from North Burlingame Hills, all of the coast to southern most Menlo Oaks. The Supervisor indicated that if Menlo Oaks wants better protection, it should consider becoming part of the City of Menlo Park. The County would support such a move, but this process is difficult with obstacles from both sides.

Becoming Part of Menlo Park: Supervisor Horsley suggested the process is long and might not be something the City can do right now. It must go through a budget review by the City. Becoming part of Menlo Park could amount to slightly higher taxes for Menlo Oaks homeowners, too. Still, he thought that the City could be more responsive to Menlo Oaks needs and might be interested if the costs were not that great, particularly if sidewalks might not be required and streets might not need to be repaired. If these were things Menlo Oaks residents wanted, then taxes might need to be raised to do this. Several in attendance volunteered to meet with the Menlo Park City Manager.

Lowering Speed Limits & School Signs: Several in attendance asked if speed limits could be lowered to 15-20 mph, particularly on Berkeley and Menlo Oaks and specifically around schools. Some traffic signs close to Peninsula School appear to be missing, so a task force will be set up to look into whether traffic regulations can be changed and how that can be done.

MODA Bulletin Board Update: The transition of the private MODA-l Bulletin Board/List Serve has been completed. Make sure you add moda-l@menlo-oaks.org email address to your contacts list as your email provider may filter out emails from this private url in an effort to reduce spam. Please sign up at http://menlo-oaks.org/mailman/listinfo/moda-l_menlo-oaks.org to receive posts from neighbors. It’s a great way to ask for help and make suggestions or communicate issues you have in the neighborhood (i.e. parking, traffic, break-ins, etc.). This is a private list serve where your information and comments are not shared outside of the group.

Treasurer Report: Remona Murray said that as of 09/30/17 balances in Savings = \$612.39 and in Checking = \$923.24 with one outstanding check for \$593.25. Total collected Dues = \$3,380 and Expenses = \$2,995.50, the increase of \$484.06 over last year’s expenses resulted from the postage for the postcard mailed for picnic campaign, office supplies and food expenses. Remona requested that \$500 of the leftover funds be allocated to pay the band, Serenaders, for a return performance at the annual picnic. A motion was made and passed.

Neighborhood News

Willows/101 Interchange

As anyone who uses the 101/Willow Rd. interchange is aware of, this intersection is undergoing a major reconfiguration. Many of our neighbors have felt that to date our ability to safely exit 101 Northbound to Willow Road West has deteriorated to the point of becoming unsafe if not impossible at many times of day.

On January 16, 2018 the Menlo Park City Council heard a presentation by Gary Lauder (Gary@LauderPartner.Com) who represented the concerns of many private citizens.

You may see his presentation by accessing this link to the video of the council meeting: http://menlopark.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=6&clip_id=1731 Mr Lauder speaks from about minute 18 to about minute 34 followed by Nikki Nagaya, assistant Public Works Director, from about minute 34 to minute 39. Later in the meeting this topic was re-addressed when it was opened up for public comments on this issue from about minute 3:04:33 to about minute 3:51

At the end of the presentations and comments several of the council members agreed that something should be done to separate the Willow West exit lane from the Willow East exit lane so that “hoggers” heading east can’t block the westbound exit lane. It was recommended that this topic be placed on the council agenda

some time in February. This did not happen and a call to the Dept. of Transportation reveals that this discussion has been deferred until May.

In addition to concerns about the new design for the 101 Interchange, on January 16 the council heard an update on the temporary traffic calming modifications to the Willows neighborhood due to construction impacts of the Willow Road/U.S. 101 interchange (Staff Report #18-009-CC) <https://www.menlopark.org/agendacenter>.

Information on the construction plans can be obtained by Googling Willow 101 Interchange. The City of Menlo Park has been providing updates on this issue (the latest through Jan 3, 2018) <https://www.menlo-park.org/1127/Willow-RoadUS-101-Interchange>.

Citizens Program - WAZE

The City of Menlo Park announced a data-sharing partnership with Waze, the free, real-time crowdsourced traffic and navigation app. Waze will provide the City of Menlo Park with real-time, anonymous, Waze-generated incident and slow-down information. In exchange, the City worked with Waze to report the recent installation of new turn restrictions near the Willow Road/US 101 interchange to better guide drivers through the area. The City will also provide Waze with real-time government-reported roadway configuration changes, construction, crash and road closure data.

CERT Classes

Sign up for a three-day Community Emergency Response Team class to get to know your neighborhood, fire district and fellow responders. Classes will be held from 8AM to 5PM on Saturdays over the next three months at the Menlo Fire Station 77 located at 1467 Chilco Street in Menlo Park. You must attend all three classes on 5/19/18, 6/16/18 and 7/21/18.

The program will cover personal disaster preparedness, utility control, fire suppression, light search and rescue, disaster psychology, basic first aid and triage, extrication and more.

To register for this event, visit the Menlo Fire District Community Crisis Management event registration page: <http://cerv.is/m?0093g6mp9sT>

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ABOUT THE OAK LEAF:
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