

The Oak Leaf

February 2017

Willow/101 Interchange Project

Some concerns are being shared about this \$64.4 million project which will add lanes to the ramps connecting Highway 101 and Willow. Right now, all of the ramps but one have a single lane and the interchange is a major bottleneck in the mid-Peninsula, with cars often backing up more than a mile on northbound 101 as they try to get onto Willow during the afternoon commute.

With the change to a "partial cloverleaf", with ramps expanded to two lanes, similar to the Marsh Rd./101 interchange, which was revamped in a similar fashion in 2001, that worsened the bottleneck at Marsh Road and led to more accidents.

Most affected are those going west off of 101 as they come home to our neighborhood in the evening with having to get around the traffic queued up to go east across the Dumbarton Bridge.

Preliminary construction on the Willow/101 interchange is expected to begin later this month. PG&E will start moving utility lines along Bay, Van Buren and Pierce roads and that work will continue until about May. Caltrans is slated to begin construction the interchange itself in April or May and it is expected to take two years to complete.

- Elizabeth Gheleta

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/02/02/menlo-park-city-has-questions-about-willow101-project/>

Annual Meeting Sun. Feb 26th, 3-5 PM

The MODA Board members invite all the neighbors, both new and old to join us at the Peninsula School Auditorium for the MODA Annual meeting.

We will be electing one or two new members to our Board. If you are interest in being on the MODA Board or would like to nominate someone and cannot make the meeting, please contact Remona Murray-Collyer (327-2806 or treasurer@menlo-oaks.org) or any other Board member.

This is the time to bring up any issues you think the Board should consider or to comment on our neighborhood. We have invited the VA Palo Alto Health Care System Construction Workgroup to join us to answer any question about on going and future work along the shared fence-line of our Berkeley neighbors. See agenda below.

Refreshments will be beverages and hors d' oeuvres. Please bring wine, beer, soda, cheese, crackers, cookies and such to share.

Meeting Agenda Items:

- Vote for new board members
- Update on MAHS Construction
- Parents for Safe Routes <http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/01/19/menlo-park-parent-launches-school-safety-group/>
- Treasurer Report

MODA successes for 2016

- Limited hour parking on Coleman Avenue
- Temporary Not A Through Street during Marsh Road construction
- Increased County Planning Department's Awareness to Code Violations regarding Heritage trees

- Remona Murray

Calendar

Feb 26	Annual Meeting
Jun 4	Annual Picnic

Treasurer's Report

Due to the collection of \$2,805 in dues from 128 of the 285 residences over the 2015-2016 MODA year, the Board members decided to decrease its budget for the annual picnic and not hire entertainment, organizing a three legged and spoon/egg races instead. The balance remaining on October 1, 2016 after a bank deposit error and outstanding checks is \$557.36.

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Neighborhood News

Buffered Bike Lanes

Buffered Bike Lanes on Oak Grove Ave. & University Dr. have been approved by the City of Menlo Park with 94 parking spaces being removed east of El Camino Real, a total of 64 spaces downtown and 25 on Oak Grove Ave's westside of ECR. See details at <http://www.menlopark.org/document-center/view/12457>

Weather-pending, construction on the project would start in March 2017 and lanes will be operational by May, in time for Bike Month events, like Bike to Work Day. Once implemented, the bike improvements will be evaluated over a one-year period analyzing criteria such as bike ridership, travel times, vehicle speeds, and overall comfort of the corridor.

The section of Oak Grove Avenue to the east of Laurel Street experiences parking demand from students from the Menlo-Atherton High School (MAHS) Campus that regularly intrudes into the neighborhood along Marcussen Drive. City Staff has engaged school staff to encourage students to use the parking lot on campus.

MODA residents should anticipate more student parking on Menlo Oaks Dr. and Arlington Way during the upcoming Spring as students look for non-permitted parking spaces outside of campus. MODA Board member Remona Murray and Kay Hitch continue to engage the MAHS administration regarding their Transportation Demand Plan and student's parking in our neighborhood. Feel free to contact me if you have an questions treasurer@menlo-oaks.org

- Remona Murray

MODA Picnic

Thank you MODA Board members and neighbors who help to make the annual picnic a success this year. This event gives the entire family a chance to connect and meet our neighbors, new and old every year.

We would also like to thank Peninsula School for generously allowing the use of their grounds for this event. Once again the volunteer judges had a tough job of choosing between the wonderful assortment of flavors you brought for our enjoy, thank you judges.

Finally, thanks to our board president and cook Richard Collyer, and the other volunteers who step in to man the barbecue.

As usual, the salad and dessert judges had a great time determining this year's best of the categories. The winners were:

Children's Salad:

1st Geneva Wood, "Fantastic 7-yr old's

Salad

2nd Jonathan Blecherman, Jello Brain

Children's Desserts

1st Cookies Cream Parfait

Adult Desserts

1st Lemon Bunt Cake

2nd Cream Puff

3rd Rakowsky's, Oatmeal Cream Pie

Adult Salads

1st Tomato & Watermelon

2nd Cucumber Avacado

3rd Tabuli

- Remona Murray

VA Palo Alto Health Care

System Community

Update

Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed your holiday season and are getting a great start to the new year. As you may have noticed, we are full steam ahead for another year of bringing excellent care to our Veterans and building state-of-the-art infrastructure to do so.

While no new projects have begun, we want to keep you updated on the status of projects near your community:

Parking Lot Upgrade

- Opening of Phase 1 (parking and loop road) – anticipated Spring 2017

Community Living Center (CLC) Pharmacy

- This project has finally begun! The 3,000 gross-square-foot pharmacy will provide both outpatient and inpatient pharmaceutical services to the VA Menlo Park campus.
- As mentioned at the previous meeting, only one oak tree was removed for this project.

Recreation Field House

- This project is anticipated to be completed by Spring 2017.

Please feel free share this email to ensure we reach as many neighbors as possible. This will help us to address any questions or complaints all at one time.

Respectfully,

VA Palo Alto Health Care System Construction Workgroup

Contact us at V21PALConstruction@va.gov

For the latest on construction, visit the VAPAHCS Construction website http://www.paloalto.va.gov/construction_menlo-park.asp

Join mailing list at <http://eepurl.com/b3-5qD>.

Neighborhood News

Our Trees Survived The Drought... But Need Even More Help To Survive In Suburbia

Our long-awaited wet winter weather has been a blessing for skiers and environmentalist alike. Most major reservoirs are at or above normal levels, and it's a big improvement compared to a year ago. Even though old-growth oaks in Menlo Oaks are naturally suited to withstand drought conditions, they have benefited from recent thorough and deep, natural soakings. But, they need continued care to make sure they stay healthy.

Some Helpful Tips & Information

- Mature oaks don't require much pruning, but if you have an oak that has suffered during the drought and has dead or broken branches, the cold winter months are the best time to have an arborist inspect the tree. Pruning in winter when the sap production is slow reduces the risk of insects or disease entering and damaging the tree. Mature trees shouldn't be topped or trimmed aggressively because it damages them. Be sure to file for a permit from the County before the start of any significant work, and please remind your arborist that no work is allowed on Saturdays and Sundays in respect for the neighbors' quality of life.
- Make sure you have adequate drainage around oak trees to avoid drowning, crown rot or fungal growth. Don't use rocks directly around the base of your oaks. Clear out leaves and other debris from around the base of the oaks. If you're grading, installing artificial turf, or trenching on your property, be sure not to disturb or build up the soil around the roots or trunk of any tree, and don't plant or install sprinkler systems directly under the canopy.
- If you use a little extra care to take care of the admired old native trees on your property, they will return the favor!

Menlo Oaks Tree Advocacy (MOTA) Accomplishments

Since June of 2014, we have worked with neighbors and developers to protect some of the Heritage Oaks and other Significant Trees in the neighborhood. While we have objected to some tree removal permits filed by developers and home owners to remove Heritage Oaks in Menlo Oaks, we have not objected to others. Objections were filed because cursory and insufficient arborist reports did not make the case that these old-growth trees were sick and should be removed.

In other instances, we have had to call the Sheriff to stop a home owner from cutting down a Heritage Oak because no permit had been filed or posted—because a neighbor contacted us.

Working With Others In The County

MOTA continues to work with Canopy and Committee For Green Foothills, to learn from them. Based on our experience and continued conservation efforts here in Menlo Oaks, MOTA has been contacted by neighbors around the VA Hospital, and in other unincorporated communities such as West Menlo Park and Palomar Park to advise them in how to work with the County and other government agencies to save Heritage Oaks and Significant Trees.

Over the past several years, MOTA has developed a working partnership with the San Mateo County Planning & Building Department advocating for a long overdue update to Heritage and Significant Tree Ordinances. This resulted in a County Working Group made up of private citizens, arborists, county environmental and recreational agencies, non-governmental agency representatives, and others appointed to provide ideas for how these trees should be managed throughout the County—in rural areas, coastal areas, and urban areas. Judy Horst, a volunteer and founding member of MOTA, represents MOTA's interests and concerns as a member of that committee.

Developing Interim Protection

While permanent changes are underway, MOTA also helped the County Planning Department draft interim protection for Heritage Oaks and significant trees. It was approved by the County Board of Supervisors.

As a result of those changes, a subdivision and ongoing development on Berkeley Avenue is now proceeding with the oversight of a project arborist after the developer of the property illegally removed and damaged several Heritage Oaks and Significant Trees. The developer must now submit regular monthly arborist reports to the County with information about each tree's health and the status of tree protection erected around the remaining Heritage and Significant trees—throughout the entire development and landscaping phases.

Preserving The Uniqueness Of Our Neighborhood

Over the past years Menlo Oaks has become a highly desirable place to live. Many large old-growth trees have been killed because they were in the way of new homes or expansions of existing homes. Now's the time to value and care for these great trees—the ones that survived the drought. We do not need to lose more of the valuable tree canopy that gives Menlo Oaks its name.

If a house nearby yours goes on the market, if you're concerned about trees being endangered or cut down, if you see a permit to remove a tree, please alert us by using the form on the MOTA website: <http://menloaks-mota.org/contact/>

Menlo Oaks Tree Advocacy (MOTA)
Supporting The Natural Value Of Our Neighborhood

- Judy Horst

Neighborhood News

Interim Significant and Heritage Tree Regulations Amendments

Regulations Amendments

On October 18, 2016, the Board of Supervisors adopted amendments to the County's Significant and Heritage Tree Protection regulations. These amendments address tree protection requirements and increased penalties for unauthorized tree removal. These changes take effect 30 days from the adoption of the amendments (November 18, 2016). Once in effect, the County will require:

1. Tree Plans and Analysis of the Impact of Development on Trees

Submittal of a separate tree plan as part of any Planning or Building permit application that proposes development that may impact Significant or Heritage Trees. This plan must clearly show the location, species and size of all trees (both trunk and canopy), the footprint of any existing or proposed structures, and the alignment of any proposed underground utilities. The plan must be prepared by a licensed surveyor or registered civil engineer in order to ensure spatial accuracy. An arborist's report is required if development could potentially damage any trees not proposed for removal and must assess the potential impact of new development on affected trees and measures to avoid and remediate any impact that does occur. A pre-construction site inspection is required to verify that all

required tree protection and erosion control measures are in place prior to issuance of permits for demolition, grading or construction.

2. Increased Penalty Fees and Mitigation Requirements

Violation of the revised regulations will result in the issuance of a Stop Work Notice which will restrict all construction activity on the subject parcel until a mitigation plan is submitted, approved, and implemented, as well as penalties and After-the-Fact Tree Removal Permit fees collected. After-the-Fact Tree Removal Application fees shall be up to 10 times the normal permit fee, as currently allowed by the Planning Department's fee schedule. In addition, the ordinance now includes the following new penalty fees for unauthorized tree removal:

- First Heritage Tree - \$5,000**
- Second Heritage Tree - \$7,500**
- Each Additional Heritage Tree - \$10,000**

- First Significant Tree - \$2,500**
- Second Significant Tree - \$3,750**
- Each Additional Significant Tree - \$5,000**

These new penalty fees are intended to deter the un-permitted removal of trees, account for the increased time and administrative costs associated with the processing of violations and After-the-Fact Tree Removal Permits, and reflect the significant community and environmental benefits that Heritage and Significant Trees provide.

For more information, see Tree Ordinances

Update Project

<http://planning.smcgov.org/press-release/interim-significant-and-heritage-tree-regulations-amendments#>

- From the San Mateo County Web Site

Free Little Library

Has opened in the easement of 931 Menlo Oaks, it looks like a large birdhouse, but is really a little bookhouse.

Thank you neighbors John & Janet Simonson for adding to our unique neighborhood yet another treasurer! They welcomes anyone to come by and pick or drop off a book or two.

EDITOR & LAYOUT:
Richard Collyer

CONTRIBUTORS:
Remona Murray-Collyer
Elizabeth Gheleta
Judy Horst

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
2016-2017
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
 Janet Benson, Judy Colwell, Penny Gallo, Celine Sanie

MODA DUES

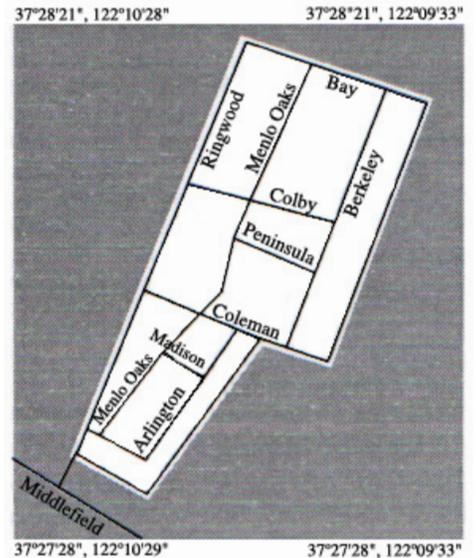
Annual MODA dues are collected each year starting the first of October. Dues are \$20.00 per household and are used to publish newsletters and the neighborhood directory, for the annual picnic and annual meeting, as well as occasional incidental neighborhood related expenses and flyers.

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 2016-2017 dues of \$20.00 to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 26th.

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

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



The Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Newsletter



The Oak Leaf



February 2017

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

www.menlo-oaks.org

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

**ANNUAL
Meeting
* Sunday *
Feb 26, 3-5 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

Address

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

E-mail Address

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

Year residents since
