

The Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Newsletter



The Oak Leaf



October 2008

ANNUAL MEETING

This year's annual meeting is planned for November 16 from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM. Do be sure to attend. The meeting will be held Laurel School's Multi Purpose Room, 95 Edge Road. It is the same building that is most MODA Resident's polling place. You may want to bring finger food to share with the group.

This annual event is a great way for new neighbors to get to know more about MODA, meet some of the Menlo Oaks residents and get information about our community. Please visit the MODA website to learn about our history <http://www.menlo-oaks.org/recent-history>.

New MODA Board members will be selected. We hope you will consider volunteering! It is not a difficult job -- about six or seven board meetings during the year that run about two hours in length, the November meeting, and the June picnic. You determine how much time you can devote to it. There is some article writing for the newsletter and, if you decide to do more, you may choose to attend some Menlo Park City Council meetings or make phone calls regarding neighborhood issues. The amount of time required is largely determined by the issues facing the neighborhood. School parking on Menlo Oaks streets is one of the issues being discussed currently.

Meeting Agenda Items:

- Laurel's Safe Routes to School
- Pick Up Emergency Info Packet
- Play Groups
- Treasurer's Report
- Vote for new board members

Remona Murray
MODA Treasurer

MP SR2LS FEDERAL GRANT DESIGN

MODA has posted the June 26, 2008 detailed Menlo Park Concept Plan (Vicinity Map) for Laurel Safe Routes to School (SR2LS) on it's website <http://www.menlo-oaks.org/Coleman/MPSR2LSFederalGrant.pdf>. Menlo Park, San Mateo County and Atherton recently received a Federal Grant of \$440,000 to design and construct improvements near Laurel School http://service.govdelivery.com/docs/CAMENLO/CAMENLO_1/CAMENLO_1_20081013_en.pdf

It is my understanding that the abutters with in 300 feet of the corner of Ringwood and Coleman were notified on September 9th that a crosswalk and two additional stop signs are being proposed at that intersection. Diana Shu, Road Operations Manager of the Department of Public Works-Road Services Division, 650-599-1414, dshu@co.sanmateo.ca.us requested the abutters give their input prior to Oct 15th.

The proposal includes narrowing RW from 11' lanes to 10' lanes; lighted crosswalk at both Colby/RW and Edge/RW; a new crosswalk at Coleman/RW at the proposed new three way stop; then new crosswalks RW/Bay, and Coleman/Willow. Biggest changes being proposed will be made to the corner abutters to improve the width and line of sight on the road, along with no parking signs. County side removal of parking being proposed, allows a 6' walkway on the shoulder on the Atherton side. Students would be encouraged to cross the street to walk on the walkway. The idea is to keep both parents and kids off the County side of the street where it is narrow.

Diana did let me know that her Department is postponing their proposal to the SMC Board of Supervisors as they still have some details to work out with the City.

Calendar 2008

Nov. 16	Annual Meeting
Nov. 7, 8-noon	MP-child safety check, Flood Park
Nov. 15, 9-3	Electronics Recycling
Nov. 21-23	No School MPCSD
Dec. 24-Jan 4	No School MPCSD

Giving people more time to respond to the proposed changes and offering to arrange a meeting with her Dept. and the City of MP so that concerns can be discussed in person.

Remona Murray
MODA Treasurer

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Neighborhood News

LAUREL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

As many of you may have noticed Laurel School has been going under a transformation. As the Community Representative for the Laurel Site Design Committee, I thought I would bring you up to date. The Menlo Park City School District (MPCSD) is using the \$91 million facilities bond money from Measure U, approved by over 70% District residents, to modernize, improve and construct new classrooms at all four of their schools. <http://www.mpcsd.k12.ca.us/facilities.html>

Laurel is currently a K-2 elementary school with just under 460 students in 22 classrooms. The new Pre-School/Occupational Therapy building, visible from the street and named "The Heritage Oak Children's Center", was added to the campus in December of 2007, opening in Jan. 2008 with 16 students and growing.

Laurel is in the process of being reconfigured into a primary K-3 school, projected to be completed for 2010-2011 school year, that will accommodate 440 students. The projected enrollment of 400 students that was anticipated in a 2006 survey and has grown substantially closer to this maximum capacity. Encinal School is being transformed to a K-5, to accommodate the projection of 690 students. Encinal, now with a K Spanish Immersion Program, hopes to draw students from Laurel and Oak Knoll to help reduce the current over enrollment now projected at these smaller campuses. The Menlo Oaks District still falls within the Laurel reconfiguration, but parents enrolling in Kindergarten are encouraged to enroll <http://www.mpcsd.k12.ca.us/Laurel/index.html> early.

Modernization of the existing Laurel K-2, Office, Library Buildings and permanent walkways are anticipated to be completed in July of 2009. The new construction will take place in the middle of the campus behind the existing Multipurpose Building. It consists of a 5 classroom Pod for 3rd Grade,

a building with the Art/Science, Music, Mini Multipurpose and an attached Lunch Shelter for 2nd-3rd Grades. New construction is scheduled to begin in June of 2009 be completed in August of 2010. http://www.mpcsd.k12.ca.us/Facilities/facilities_Laurel.html

Remona Murray MODA Treasurer

GETTING PERMITS FOR NON-STANDARD IMPROVEMENTS IN COUNTY ROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAY

November 16, 2007

Policy on Non-Standard Improvements

The Department of Public Works may permit or initiate construction of improvements that exceed area standards without separate approval by the Board of Supervisors when all of the following conditions apply:

1. The proposed project supports a County goal or program such as Water Pollution Prevention, Green Building, Recycling, Traffic Safety, Preventing Childhood Obesity, etc., as determined by the Director of Public Works.
2. The project does not cause any delay or cost to the Department of Public Works in pursuing completion of County sponsored improvement or maintenance projects on any County maintained street.
3. The project matches existing adjoining improvements (e.g. sidewalk may be extended from an existing return across frontage of a corner lot). The project does not result in "patchwork" appearance along the road, i.e. discontinuous street improvements will not be allowed.
4. Any improvements fronting other properties that are less than one block in length require approval by 100% of those property owners (typical of all permits).

5. Project sponsors for area-wide or entire block projects must demonstrate, through submittal of property owner petitions to the Department, a minimum 2/3 majority support of all property owners on the block on which improvements are proposed and a minimum 2/3 majority support along the same block by front footage of parcel.

6. Owner(s) of parcel(s) initiating the request shall execute a recorded agreement guaranteeing maintenance of permitted improvements by current and all future owners.

7. Sidewalk and curb intended for public use must comply with ADA standards.

If curb, gutter and sidewalk are proposed to be privately constructed in advance of Public Works' initiated improvements where area standards do not include curb, gutter and sidewalk, the road section fronting privately constructed improvements shall be excluded from the Departmental priority list for future road reconstruction.

Projects that do not achieve compliance with area standards will not be permitted in County-maintained roads.

All requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis. No blanket exceptions shall apply.

An inspection deposit is required for all non-standard improvements without exception. The applicant(s) shall pay the full cost of all inspections performed by the Department.

This policy will be reviewed and updated annually or more frequently, if needed.

See SMC Supervisor's Minutes for January 29, 2008, Exhibit A, 2nd Page of Public Works Dept. Resolution Request.

http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/bos.dir/BosAgendas/agendas2008/Agenda20080129/20080129_att1_43.pdf

Neighborhood Directory

Remona Murray-Collyer

A Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Directory will be published again in February 2009. Only MODA members who have requested to appear in the Directory will be included and will automatically receive a copy. If you were in the last Directory, you will be included in the next unless you drop a note to me at 441 Arlington Way requesting to be removed, treasurer@menlo-oaks.org.

Below are the street numbers of homes included in the last Directory. The requests I have received over the past year are also shown in this list. If your number is on the list and you want to be in the next Directory, you do not need to do anything. Please let me know if there are name, additional children, e-mail or phone number changes or errors to last years Directory.

If you're not on the list and want to be included in the next Directory, please fill out and return the Directory Form on the cover sheet of the newsletter to me at 441 Arlington Way. The envelope included with this newsletter may be used for both the directory form and your 2008-2009 dues.

Arlington Way

125 390
151 400
199 411
220 440
221 441
260 443
280 450
281 450
298 470
300 480
301 485
320 490
381

Berkeley Ave

500 710
501 720
510 754
520 760
524 766
528 770
544 799
560 800
561 803
570 815
581 821
600 855
600 880
620 886
622 901
624 902
626 903
630 920
640 930
660 940
662 950
680 951
680 985
700 995
701

Bay Road

414 542
422 546
518 626
530 632
538

Colby Ave

920 1040
930 1051
940 1060
950 1070
981 1095

Coleman Ave

870 1001
876 1021
890 1051
900 1070
951 1099

Entrada Way

511 521

Frederick Court

1 3
2 4

Peninsula Way

915 955
925 961
931 975
935 990
951

Ringwood Ave

200 572
220 660
250 670
300 680
400 780
410 788
420 790
440 890
540 894
550

Menlo Oaks Dr

210 573
220 590
221 591
240 601
241 611
281 621
298 631
299 660
300 670
301 698
330 699
360 701
361 750
398 751
399 800
400 807
451 830
461 855
462 875
481 885
500 900
507 901
510 910
520 931
530 935
531 940
549 941
550 960
551 990
560 999
570

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 2008-2009 dues of \$20.00 to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 16.

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

MODA BULLETIN BOARD

If you wish to subscribe to the list please contact the bulletin board's administrator, Jim Wampler at jwampler@employees.org. Provide him with your name and address so he can confirm you're in the neighborhood. He will then instruct you on how to get on to the bulletin board.

It is a great way to ask for help, suggestions, or communicate issues you have in the neighborhood (i.e. parking, traffic, break-ins, etc.)

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 childs 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 _____

Neighborhood News

RECENTLY MOVED HERE???

Welcome to Menlo Oaks, our great neighborhood, and now YOUR great neighborhood!

One great feature here is our diversity both in homes and in neighbors. It has made Menlo Oaks so very unique and a special place to find for yourself and your family. It also means that neighbors have different desires and expectations for their property from the rustic to the formal. We are not like neighboring Vintage Oaks or the new Lane Woods close by where "standards" prevail.

What are your expectations of living here? You are an important part of the changing and new Menlo Oaks Community. Let's get to know each other and support things that will keep this neighborhood as one of the best places to live on the Peninsula!

Any of the Board Members would be glad to hear from you. I would be glad to have you call or e-mail me for a start.

Elizabeth Gheleta, (regularly seen walking my aging Lhasa apso, and thank you for slowing down as you pass us by) 650-322-1355 or elizabethgheleta@aol.com.

COMMENTS FROM TWO OF OUR NEW NEIGHBORS:

This from Charles and Mary Ellen Mangana, at 785 Berkeley: "Moving to Menlo Park has been an interesting experience. We love the climate here. Coming from San Diego, the trees here are a big change. It has been difficult finding needed services such as dog groomer, doctors (very few in this area are accepting new patients), household services, etc. We had lived in our old neighborhood for nearly 28 years and felt connected. Here we're a little lost although we are close to our family now since our children and their families have moved up here, which is why we've made the move. We like the Menlo Oaks neighborhood, its diversity and spirit of independence. We

love downtown Menlo Park and try to support local businesses as much as we can. We would like to eventually become more involved in the community and intend to explore volunteer opportunities available in the area."

And from Brian, Jennifer, James and William Roberts at 776 Berkeley: "We moved from the Willows neighborhood of Menlo Park where we lived for nearly 8 years. We wanted to continue to live in this fantastic community of Menlo Park with access to the local school system - but with the addition of two boys, James (4) and William (2), we were in need of more space. We targeted the established tree-lined neighborhood of Menlo Oaks as it provided us the additional space and the continuation of our participation in the local community."

THANK YOU for sharing your experience, and WELCOME to Menlo Oaks !!!

Elizabeth Gheleta, MODA W.C.

THE ANNUAL PICNIC!

Our annual MODA picnic was held on Sunday, June 8, from 4 - 7 PM, at Peninsula School.

The salads and desserts were creative and tasty and improve with each passing year. The winners in

The kid's dessert category were:

1st. prize Surfing Mtn, Maya Jevans
2nd. Candy Sushi, Annabelle Baxter
3rd. Dinosaur Mtn, Marshall, Jonathon, David, Ben, Sophia & Marie

The kid's salad winners were:

1st. Summer Squash, Gigi Rutsky
2nd. Fruit Salad, Mayson Rutsky
3rd. Cookies, Jasper Wood

The adult dessert category winners were:

1st. Rum Cake, Mady Fell
2nd. Rhubarb Upside-Down, Susan Ellis
3rd. Blueberry Bars, Jennifer Fell

The adult salad winners were:

1st. Radish Peanut, Joel Rutsky
2nd. Sticky Rice, Elizabeth Gheleta
3rd. Paelle, Eva Jones

The jumpies kept the kids busy, while the adults enjoyed each-other's company.

The MODA board prepared the chicken and burgers along with all the fixings. The continued supply of Tied House beer disappeared and the wine selections were widely appreciated. Your annual dues provide for the food, drinks and the ever increasing insurance required to use the school's grounds.

Your MODA board looks forward to putting this picnic together every year. We hope that everyone will come and enjoy this afternoon of good food and good fun with our neighbors!

Richard Collyer, MODA NL Editor

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

On November 15th from 9am to 3 pm, there will be an electronics recycling drop off at Tyco Electronics located at 300 Constitution Drive.

They accept: Camcorders, cell phones, chips and components, computers, computer monitors, connectors/cables, DVD players, fax machines, household batteries, keyboards, lab equipment, fluorescent tubes/lamps, laptops, main frames, mice, optical drives, PC boards, PDAs, printed circuit boards, printers, radios, scanners, servers, stereos, storage discs, tape and zip drives, televisions, UPS power supply units, and VCRs.

For more info call 650-802-3500.

Neighborhood News

DIGITAL TV - FEB. '09

By law, full-power television stations nationwide must switch from traditional analog transmitting to digital television (DTV) on Feb. 17, 2009. DTV is an innovative new type of broadcasting technology that delivers movie-quality pictures and sound, more channels, and even high definition television (HDTV) to consumers with HD television sets. While the benefits of DTV are remarkable, millions of households risk losing television reception unless they take the easy steps to receive a digital signal. If you receive over-the-air television signals through antennas on television sets that are equipped with analog tuners – and if you do not subscribe to cable, satellite or a telephone company television service provider – you will be affected by the transition. Learn how to prepare for DTV by visiting www.DTVAnswers.com or by calling 1-888-DTV-2009. (This is an ABC e-mail on the subject.)

Editorial note: The image quality is clearly better; however, the signal is easily obscured by hills, tree, buildings, etc. - so pick your antenna location carefully. We happen to live in between (and line of sight) for the SF and SJ stations, so are in fairly good shape.

See the MODA web site for further details and references (and link to coupon).

Charles Riley

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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.

PROPERTY CRIMES IN MENLO PARK

Between Sept. 27 and Oct. 5 there have been 17 burglaries and 4 thefts reported in Menlo Park. The stolen items include construction materials and tool, computer, catalytic converters, bicycles and musical instruments.

The incidents have been in various parts of Menlo Park: Crane St., Roble Ave, Flood Triangle, Gilbert Ave, Sand Hill Rd, and Coleman Ave. Most of the events have taken place between 9 am and 5 pm and occur through unlocked windows or doors.

Be sure to report all thefts or burglaries to the SMC Sheriff's Dept. as it will increase patrols in our neighborhood.

Richard Collyer, MODA NL Editor

OUTDATED PHARMACEUTICAL DISPOSAL PROGRAM

The closest drop-off locations for MODA residents are:

Atherton Police Dept, 650.752.0500
83 Ashfield Road-Atherton
Seven days a week, 24 hours a day

SMC Sheriff's Office, 650.363.4915
400 County Center, 3rd Floor-RC
Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

AUTUMN IN MENLO OAKS

FALL TIME REMINDERS

Ah! the yellow-jackets! A sign of fall nearly as consistent for us as fall leaf color is in the mid-west and New England states. If you've been outside in a warm sunny spot in your yard or had a snack outside, you've seen loads of yellow jackets. Don'tcha love 'em?

If you'd like to lessen their numbers, watch to see where they go to ground. This is best at sunset because yellow jackets want to be in the nest over night. If you find a nest on your property, don't try to handle it yourself. The wasps will attack you if you disturb them. Call the San Mateo Mosquito Abatement office at 650-344-8592. This service is FREE!

Another fall 'treat' is Halloween. It's pretty much an accepted practice that if you want the ghosts and goblins to knock on your door, put on the porch light. Because we won't be 'falling back' until Nov.. 2, it should be fairly light until just past 6:30 pm. If your walk or driveway is relatively long and dark, put out some lights or luminaries for the kids.

Marge Draper

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