



The Oak Leaf



May 2013

ANNUAL 2013 PICNIC

HALLOWEEN

Calling all neighbors! For over 50 years the Menlo Oaks District Association has provided its residents and opportunity to gather before the summer is in full swing.

Please join your MODA board in enjoying this long-term traditional event.

Where?

Peninsula School, 920 Peninsula Way

When?

Sunday, June 9th 4pm - 7pm

What can you expect?

MODA provides:

- Beverages
- Chicken Breasts
- Hamburgers with all the fix'ins
- Veggie Burgers
- Jumpy Houses
- Entertainment
- Food Judging Contest w/Prizes

What you bring?

Your Favorite:

- Adult Salad
- Adult Dessert
- Child Salad
- Child Dessert
- Picnic Blanket
- Folding Chairs

Remember to:

- Label Dishes; include Your Name
- Encourage New Neighbors Attendance
- Pay your \$20 dues

The Neighborhood voted and the results are in:

Best Costume:

Alicia Gaeta -- the Stanford Tree
(Check out the photo at <http://smu.gs/R935rf> or <http://www.bigtent.com/group/photo>)

Best Pit Stop:

The Photo Booth (Kathi Lutton 1051 Coleman) that not only hosted an incredible photo shoot with take home photo but also had delicious treats including Rum Punch.

Runner Up:

500 Menlo Oaks (Michael Johnston & Alessandra Costa) Homemade Crepes.

Best Decorations:

462 Menlo Oaks (The Herz's)

Best Treat:

300 Menlo Oaks (The Marianacci's) -Comic Books

Best Treat Runner Up:

450 Arlington Way (The Larkins) - candy-filled flashlights

Best Haunted House:

880 Coleman (Ken Bozzuto and family)

Runner Up:

1070 Coleman (The Congresses)

Most Spirited Street:

COLEMAN with 5 Pit Stops, 2 Haunted Houses and 1 Photo Booth!

Runner Up:

ARLINGTON WAY

Prizes to come very soon.

Thank you all for participating.
The Halloween Committee

Calendar 2013-14

Jun 9

Picnic

PICNIC 2012 WINNERS

Kids Desserts

- 1st: Brownies - Elana & Jaces
- 2nd: Cal. Earthquake Cookies - Jasper
- 3rd: Chocolate Chip Cookies - no name

Kids Salad

No Entries

Adult Desserts

- 1st: Blueberry Pie - Andrea Jevans
- 2nd: Yummie Pie - No Name
- 3rd: Brownies - No Name

Adult Salads

- 1st: Raspberry & Walnut Salads - Georgia
- 2nd: Walnut & Feta - Shafer
- 3rd: Rice Salad - Gheleta

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FLOOD PARK

I got an update from Julia Bott, Executive Director of the San Mateo County Parks Foundation. Right now things at Flood Park are looking great! The park has been reinstated in this year's budget and the Board of Supervisors are committed to do the best that they can to keep it going. Keep in mind, that this is still a budget issue year to year.

The County Supervisor in whose jurisdiction Flood Park falls is Rose Jacobs Gibson. Our neighborhood, Menlo Oaks, is in Don Horsley's jurisdiction and he has been most supportive and responsive to keep Flood Park in the county budget.

My comments, not Julia's specifically, are that the efforts of the Friends of Flood Park (based in the Suburban Park neighborhood) as well as the support from neighboring communities, such as Menlo Oaks and the Willows have been a tremendous aid and have given community visibility in assuring that this local resource is not lost.

Julia invites all of us to come and see the good work Park Rangers and volunteers have done to get Flood Park looking well maintained, safe and inviting. Work continues on some of the children's activity and sport fields. In terms of volunteers, the Menlo Park Kiwanis Club have taken on an active role in some hands-on work. Any MODA residents wanting to join the efforts can feel free to call Ranger Greg Escoto at 650-363-4022, or Ms. Bott at 650-321-5812 to offer their assistance.

Elizabeth Gheleta

CONTROLLING MOLES IN THE GARDEN AND LAWN

Moles are frequent visitors to many bay area homes, much to the chagrin of the avid gardener or anyone who has a dry laid stone patio.

The most common mole damage is seen as new piles of soil in the landscape that seemed to pop up overnight. These piles often show up in the lawn or between the segments of a flagstone patio. These soil piles are similar to a gopher's piles, but lack the fan shape and soil plug that is indicative of that dreaded garden animal. With moles we also often see raised ridges in the lawn and along walkways that run on for many feet. These soil piles and ridges are created as the mole is tunneling to create passage through your garden or to seek out food.

Moles are carnivorous mammals that feed primarily on worms, grubs and other soil insects and arthropods that occur in the healthy garden setting. Moles do not eat plants, though they can cause a lot of plant damage. Their "bull in a china shop" style of foraging can dislodge annuals, undermine roses, cave in walkways and retaining walls, and make a big mess of the lawn. It is for these reasons that people often choose to control their local mole population. Mole damage can be costly to repair.

Moles can be controlled by a variety of methods. Most common are poison and trapping. Mole bait is typically a poison impregnated "gummy-worm" that is slipped into a mole's tunnel. If all works well the mole will find it as it passes through, and eat it thinking it is a real worm. Because of the soil environment and a mole's behavior, there are problems with this method. First, many people crush mole runs when they find them, effectively putting a piece of bait out of reach of a mole (he'll dig a new tunnel and pass the poison) and second, the poison is placed very shallow typically and can be unearthed by pets and wildlife. Though accidental poisoning by mole bait is not likely, many homeowners still feel uneasy about it.

Trapping moles is an effective method of control, though often labor intensive. As with the worm-bait, the trapper must locate a tunnel, and set up traps so that the mole is killed when he passes through. Mole traps come in many forms, and some are more elaborate and bulky than others. Two pop-

ular mole traps are the Victor Out-o-Sight trap and the Trapline Products Gophinator mole trap (made in Menlo Park by the way). Traps are better than poisons for a couple reasons. First, if a mole misses the trap, you can reuse it, unlike the poison which is likely lost for good. Second, the traps are safe for people and pets, and their use can ease the common concern about using poisons where we live and play.

Though moles can be a costly nuisance to some folks, they may be no bother at all to others. A single mole may utilize the land under several properties, passing quietly under fences and through yards, sometimes causing no damage at all. But when they do go into heavy digging mode, many folks get frustrated that they "keep coming back!" As if the moles are raising from the dead, many gardeners pay to remove mole after mole year-round, never stemming the flow of new animals. These new moles are coming from breeding populations living in neighboring yards and parks, and their young are utilizing old tunnels to find their way back into the gardens that their forebearers haunted.

The best fix for this recurring issue is to have a neighborhood-wide mole control program in place. Keeping pressure on these animals by trapping at several homes at once can reduce the occurrence of moles dramatically. Though there may be no obvious benefit for some people to have a mole trapped in their yard, it is definitely beneficial to the neighborhood as a whole. With diligent and wide reaching efforts, it is possible to reduce mole damage significantly, if not eliminate it all together.

The easiest time to find and trap moles is now when the soil is damp and soft and moles' activity is greatest and most noticeable. I have found a mole trapping expert and I know that a few neighbors (myself included) have been using this method with great success. If you are interested in this service you can find them at www.smiths-animal-removal.com (408) 871-6988

Michael Johnston

Neighborhood Directory

A Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Directory will be published again in February 2013. 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 newsletter mailing list & directory additions/deletions & changes form inserted in the newsletter. The envelope included with this newsletter may be used for both the MODA information form and your 2012-2013 dues.

| Arlington Way | | Berkeley Avenue | |
|---------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| 125 | 381 | 500 | 766 |
| 151 | 383 | 501 | 770 |
| 220 | 390 | 510 | 776 |
| 221 | 411 | 520 | 785 |
| 260 | 440 | 524 | 799 |
| 280 | 441 | 528 | 800 |
| 281 | 443 | 544 | 803 |
| 298 | 450 | 560 | 815 |
| 300 | 450 | 561 | 821 |
| 301 | 470 | 570 | 855 |
| 320 | 480 | 581 | 880 |
| 380 | 490 | 600 | 886 |
| | | 620 | 890 |
| | | 622 | 891 |
| | | 626 | 901 |
| | | 630 | 902 |
| | | 660 | 903 |
| | | 662 | 909 |
| | | 680 | 920 |
| | | 700 | 930 |
| | | 701 | 940 |
| | | 710 | 950 |
| | | 720 | 951 |
| | | 740 | 961 |
| | | 754 | 985 |
| | | 760 | 995 |

| Bay Road | |
|----------|-----|
| 414 | 542 |
| 422 | 546 |
| 518 | 626 |
| 530 | 632 |
| 538 | |

| Colby Avenue | |
|--------------|------|
| 920 | 981 |
| 930 | 1051 |
| 935 | 1060 |
| 940 | 1070 |
| 950 | 1095 |
| 960 | |

| Coleman Avenue | |
|----------------|------|
| 870 | 1001 |
| 876 | 1021 |
| 890 | 1051 |
| 900 | 1070 |
| 951 | 1099 |

| Entrada Way | |
|-------------|--|
| 511 | |
| 521 | |

| Frederick Court | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |

| Menlo Oaks Drive | |
|------------------|-----|
| 220 | 573 |
| 221 | 591 |
| 240 | 601 |
| 241 | 611 |
| 281 | 621 |
| 298 | 631 |
| 299 | 660 |
| 300 | 670 |
| 301 | 698 |
| 330 | 699 |
| 331 | 701 |
| 360 | 740 |
| 361 | 751 |
| 398 | 800 |
| 399 | 807 |
| 400 | 830 |
| 420 | 855 |
| 451 | 865 |
| 461 | 875 |
| 462 | 885 |
| 481 | 900 |
| 500 | 901 |
| 501 | 910 |
| 507 | 931 |
| 510 | 935 |
| 520 | 940 |
| 531 | 941 |
| 549 | 956 |
| 550 | 960 |
| 551 | 995 |
| 560 | 999 |
| 570 | |

| Peninsula Way | |
|---------------|--|
| 915 | |
| 925 | |
| 935 | |
| 941 | |
| 945 | |
| 951 | |
| 955 | |
| 961 | |
| 990 | |

| Ringwood Avenue | |
|-----------------|--|
| 200 | |
| 220 | |
| 250 | |
| 320 | |
| 400 | |
| 410 | |
| 420 | |
| 440 | |
| 540 | |
| 550 | |
| 570 | |
| 572 | |
| 590 | |
| 660 | |
| 680 | |
| 780 | |
| 788 | |
| 790 | |
| 800 | |
| 890 | |
| 894 | |
| 964 | |

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 or treasurer@menlo-oaks.org.

An addressed envelope is included to this newsletter if you prefer to pay by mail, or bring your 2012-2013 dues of \$20.00 to the Annual Meeting.

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

Neighborhood News

INTERESTED IN FORMING A BOOK CLUB?

Following up on an interest in having a neighborhood book club which was expressed by a new neighbor, I'm happy to share my experience and support the concept for others interested.

Book Clubs come in many variable styles and so, should one be formed, it is up to the participants to determine what they want in their group. The one I belong to will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year, although I was invited to join just 3 years ago. We keep our number to 12, all women, so that our meetings are around a dinner table, with members taking turns hosting. We meet once a month, on a set date (first Monday of the month, but with some exceptions granted). 10 of the 12 are professional employed women so our meetings are dinner meetings, with the hostess setting the food theme, often to complement the book we have just read, and getting an invite out and everyone bringing food and drink.

The books selected for each month are determined by group discussion at the start of the year. Our style is casual and open, with limited structure and is based on spending an enjoyable evening sharing perspectives

on the topic within the book, as well as everything else. Result: a fun evening to look forward to and enjoy!

So, while I cannot invite you to this book club, as we are fully subscribed, forming one within Menlo Oaks (and our neighboring areas) has great potential for an enjoyable social outlet and getting to know neighbors. If YOU are interested, get the word out on MODA's network or Big Tent site, and see where it goes!

Cheers,

Elizabeth Gheleta
liznowathome@gmail.com

120 + PICNICKERS

Please join me in thanking the MODA board members for volunteering their time and effort in bringing us this annual event. Mr. Horsefeathers returned to entertain, kids caught air in the jumpies, neighbors enjoyed each other's dishes, grilled meats were served and the day was grand. For over 55 years now residents have gathered for MODA's picnic.

Our annual event this year has once again attracted both new and long term residents. The picnic continues to be a successful way for neighbors to gather and get to know one another. In my case with our three generation household, of which members have been attending the picnic over the past 55 years, we look forward to see the neighbors we do not have a chance come across on a day to day basis. It was wonderful to meet and greet those neighbors who were new and to see those I have had the pleasure of getting to know over the years, in which I have been a resident of this fabulous neighborhood.

I hope to see those of you who could not squeeze the picnic into your busy schedules in June of 2012 and those who were able to attend, either at the upcoming 2013 MODA annual meeting or June picnic.

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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)

District Association

2013-2014

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