

# The Oak Leaf

October 2014

## Annual Meeting

On Nov. 16th at 4 pm in the Peninsula School Auditorium, the MODA Board will welcome Megan Caldwell from San Mateo Co. Mosquito & Vector Control District and Zachary Smith from Smith's Gopher Trappin to speak about critter management.

A discussion on the MODA Bulletin Board about raccoons led to surprising facts about the animals we share our yards with:

San Mateo Co. Mosquito & Vector Control District  
[http://www.smcmad.org/raccoon\\_roundworm.htm](http://www.smcmad.org/raccoon_roundworm.htm)

CA Dept. Of Public Health  
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/diseasesandConditions/Documents/RaccoonRoundworms.pdf>

In addition our agenda includes:  
MODA Treasurer's Report  
SamTrans Bus Resolution  
MODA Bulletin Board transition  
Board Member Nominations

Currently there are five open positions for additional board members. Please consider joining the board to help host the picnic, annual meetings, learn more about neighbors and your neighborhood.

## SAVE WATER TOP 5 ACTIONS

<http://www.h2ouse.org/action/top5.cfm>

To help you capture the water savings around your home. Click on the "Learn more" to find out additional information for each action. Remember, every drop counts!

1. Stop Those Leaks!  
Check your indoor water using appliances and devices for leaks. Check out [Leak De-](#)

[tection](#) and Repair.

Many silent leaks allow water and your money to go down the drain. To help detect unseen leaks go to Read Your Meter. Studies have shown homes can waste more than 10% due to leaking, which costs both you and the environment.

Another large water waster can be leaks in your irrigation system. Fix irrigation system leaks quickly and check for water in the gutters or mud puddles. Inspect your sprinklers and drip sprayers regularly for leaks during the daytime since the optimal time to water is in the nighttime hours when you cannot observe leaks. If you have an older irrigation system, over 50% and even more than 75% of the water can be lost to leaks. Learn more about irrigation systems.

2. Replace your old Toilet, the largest water user inside your home.

If your home was built before 1992 and the toilet has never been replaced, then it is very likely that you do not have a water efficient 1.6 gallon per flush toilet. You can check the date stamp inside the toilet by lifting the lid and looking at the back of the toilet at the manufacturer's imprint of the make, model and date of manufacture. Learn more about toilets.

3. Replace your Clothes Washer, the second largest water user in your home.

Energy Star™ rated washers that also have a Water Factor at or lower than 9.5, use 35-50% less water and 50% less energy per load. This saves you money on both your water and energy bills. There is a current [qualifying products listing of water efficient clothes washer models maintained by the Consortium for Energy Efficiency](#). Learn more about clothes washers.

4. Plant the Right Plants with Proper Landscape Design & Irrigation

Whether you are putting in a new landscape or slowly changing the current landscaping at your home, select plants that are appropriate for your local climate conditions. Having yard with 100% lawn turf area in a dry desert climate uses sig-

## Calendar

Annual Meeting      Nov 16

nificant amounts of water. Also consider the trend towards Xeriscape™ and a more natural landscape or wildscape. Learn more about landscaping.

5. Water Only What Your Plants Need  
Most water is wasted in your garden by watering when your plants do not need the water or by not maintaining the irrigation system. Be attentive if you are manual watering by setting your oven timer or some other reminder to move the water promptly. Make sure your irrigation controller has a rain shutoff device and that it's appropriately scheduled. Most water is wasted in months prior to or just after the rainy season when intermittent rains occur. You can also consider installing a weather adjusting ET irrigation controller (see description in glossary) that automatically saves water by not watering when the plants don't need the water, check with your local water provider to inquire if ET controllers work in your area. Learn more about using the features that you have in your garage for efficient watering like your hose and irrigation controller timer...

Be sure to call your local water provider for more information and potential incentives.

## In This Issue

Annual Meeting	1
Saving Water	1
Spare the Air	2
Halloween	2

# Neighborhood News

## Winter Spare the Air program

From November 1 through the end of February, under the Air District's wood-burning regulation, when a Winter Spare the Air Alert has been called, burning wood, fire logs, pellets, or any other solid fuels in your fireplace, wood stove, or other wood-burning device is illegal.

When wood burning is allowed, residents who do burn in a fireplace or outdoor fire pit must still burn cleanly using dry, seasoned firewood, and not burn garbage, leaves or other material that would cause excessive smoke. Residents who exceed the excess visible smoke provision in the wood-burning rule could still be subject to a ticket.

Follow these links for more information on the Air District's wood-burning regulation, and instructions on how to comply. You can also file a wood smoke complaint online.

## Winter Spare the Air Alert Notifications

Residents and businesses can call 1-877-4NO-BURN (1-877-466-2876) to check the Winter Spare the Air Alert status and to report wood smoke concerns in their area.

Residents can sign up to receive automatic phone alerts by calling 1-800-430-1515.

**EDITOR & LAYOUT:**  
Richard Collyer

**CONTRIBUTORS:**  
Remona Murray-Collyer

**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.

Once you sign up, you will remain on the roster for subsequent Winter Spare the Air seasons.

Residents can also sign up for EnviroFlash AirAlerts to receive e-mail notification when Winter Spare the Air Alerts are issued. Once you sign up, you will remain on the roster for subsequent Winter Spare the Air seasons.

<http://www.sparetheair.org/Make-a-Difference/Get-the-Facts.aspx>

## Menlo Oaks Halloween

**Get Involved!**  
Halloween has become Menlo Oaks' signature holiday and thanks to our wonderful neighbors, last year we had 12 Pit Stops offering yummy drinks, delicious crepes, and all sorts of goodies. And who could forget the incredible photo booth and the spooky Haunted House.

This year, with Halloween on a Friday, it promises to be an even better community event. Join us and find a fun way to get involved:

- Host a Pit Stop – Offer a child or adult beverage and/or special treat.
- Host a Haunted House
- Get creative and tell us how we can help with your ideas

We'll provide the signage for your stop and a map listing all stops for Halloween Day.

Questions or ideas for a Pit Stop? Email us [menloakshalloween@gmail.com](mailto:menloakshalloween@gmail.com).

Follow us on Twitter @mohalloween leading up to Halloween & on the day to hear about special treats.

Confirmed Pit Stops:

**HAUNTED HOUSES:**  
880 Coleman and 591 Menlo Oaks

**PHOTO BOOTH:**  
701 Menlo Oaks

**AMERICAN IDOL:**  
528 Berkeley

**PIT STOPS:**  
Menlo Oaks: 240, 420/441, 500, 631, 807  
Arlington Way: 470/480 and 298  
Coleman: 951

### Menlo Oaks (www.menlo-oaks.org)

**District Association**

**2013-2014**

**MODA\_Board@menlo-oaks.org**

- Marge Draper** .....[president@menlo-oaks.org](mailto:president@menlo-oaks.org)
- TBD** .....[vicepresident@menlo-oaks.org](mailto:vicepresident@menlo-oaks.org)
- Remona Murray**.....[treasurer@menlo-oaks.org](mailto:treasurer@menlo-oaks.org)
- Elizabeth Gheleta** .....[welcomingcommittee@menlo-oaks.org](mailto:welcomingcommittee@menlo-oaks.org)
- Rich Collyer** .....[editor@menlo-oaks.org](mailto:editor@menlo-oaks.org)
- TBD** .....[ma-liaison@menlo-oaks.org](mailto:ma-liaison@menlo-oaks.org)
- TBD** .....[secretary@menlo-oaks.org](mailto:secretary@menlo-oaks.org)

**Marie Mathevon**

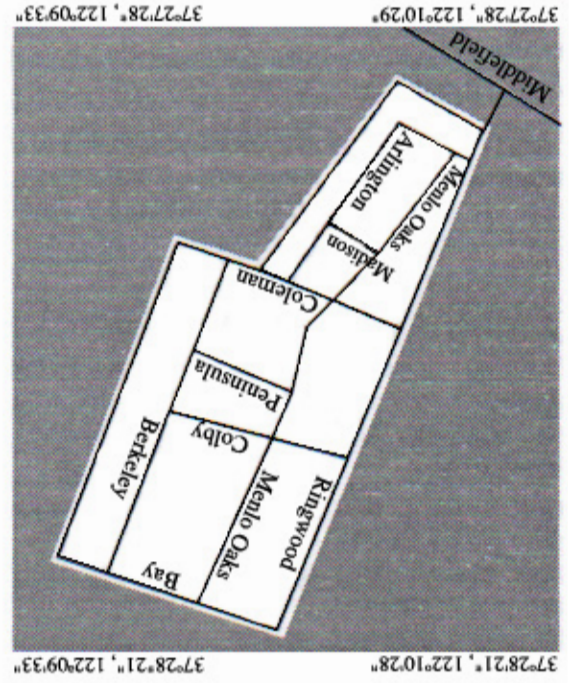
## MODA DUES

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 flyer's.

Thanks to everyone who supported MODA with their dues last year. An addressed envelope is attached to this newsletter if you prefer to pay by mail, or bring your 2014-2015 dues of \$20.00 to the Annual Meeting.

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

If you have any questions about dues, expenditures, etc., Contact Remona Murray, MODA Treasurer, at 327-2806 or [treasurer@menlo-oaks.org](mailto:treasurer@menlo-oaks.org).



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

The Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Newsletter



# The Oak Leaf



October 2014

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

[www.menlo-oaks.org](http://www.menlo-oaks.org)

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

**ANNUAL  
Meeting  
\* Sunday \*  
Nov 16, 3-5 PM**

**PENINSULA  
SCHOOL**