

The Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Newsletter



The Oak Leaf



May 2009

2008 ANNUAL
MEETING MINUTES

Calendar 2009

Jun. 7

Annual Picnic

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! MENLO OAKS '09 NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC

Sunday, June 7
4pm - 7pm
Peninsula School

The Annual MODA Picnic will take place Sunday, June 7th, at Peninsula School. Bring your family, lawn chairs, blankets and contest entries and join the fun. The food will be great as usual: chicken, burgers, and hot dogs - BBQ'd on site. Soft drinks, water, wine and beer will be provided. Don't forget to bring a salad or dessert to share.

Enter your salad or dessert in the Annual MODA Salad/Dessert Contest. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prizes will be award in both Adult and Children's categories. Please have your entry at the picnic by 4:30pm if you wish to have it judged. Also include your name and the name of your entry with your dish.

We will have jumpy houses for the kids again this year!

Don't forget, your annual dues pay for the picnic, so come eat, drink and catch up with neighbors. If you haven't paid your annual dues, you can do so at the picnic.

By Holly Still

CHANGES TO PICNIC DATE?

Some of the residents have suggested "why don't we have the Picnics on the 4th of July, like other communities do?" Historically, the board has always avoided this date because people may have other plans for that date. The Board decided to let the attendees vote on this idea at the Picnic this year, or call 327-2806 in or email your vote to Remona treasurer@menlo-oaks.org if you wish. Any comments are welcome.

THE MODA Annual meeting was held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, November 16th at Laurel School within reach of our neighborhood. We appreciate Laurel graciously hosting the site of our meeting (thanks to Remona's contacts and arrangement). In the absence of President Holly Still, Remona Murray, Treasurer, presided.

Remona gave the Treasurer Report for MODA 07' - 08'. The balance for the year was \$1,371.68 with 131 residents paying the \$20 dues. A copy of the MODA expenses is available upon request via phone 327-2806 or treasurer@menlo-oaks.org.

Approximately 30 Menlo Oaks neighbors attended the meeting. Following introductions and welcome to new residents and the few old timers, the focus centered on traffic issues around Laurel School - The proposed possible changes involving Coleman Avenue as it intersects our neighborhood, changes proposed affecting Ringwood neighbors, and the concerns over bicycle safety of young children riding to school. There were questions about unsubstantiated numbers of children riding bicycles projected to use the Coleman/Ringwood connection to Laurel. Also at issue, are the changes to the parking area and pick-up process at the school. Holly, Remona and Marge Draper have been meeting with City of Menlo Park and the County representing our neighborhood's views.

Elizabeth Gheleta, reporting

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.

Make a check for \$20.00 payable to Menlo Oaks District Association. If you have any questions about dues, expenditures, etc., contact Remona Murray-Collyer, MODA Treasurer, at 327-2806, treasurer@menlo-oaks.org.

If this newsletter contains an addressed envelope I have not yet received your dues of \$20.00 for 2008-2009. If you received your newsletter via the email please check your records or contact me and I will check mine. If you have not received the MODA Directory for Feb 2009 than you most likely own dues.

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Neighborhood Directory

ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERS COLEMAN AVE.

As I reported in the May 08 Newsletter SMC Supervisor Richard Gordon gathered elected officials from the various cities and school boards to form a committee dedicated to look at both the long and short term changes regarding transportation in the areas around the schools.

Due to the lack of residents support, it is most likely that the committee has tabled the idea of a 1st Class bike lane on Coleman. There have been continuing discussions however in their meetings on improving the current easement to make it safer for walkers.

In the past many of the people involved in the discussion on this issue were very polarized, do nothing or take all the residence easement. The committee has been tasked to find middle ground while keeping true to their guidelines.

Using the following 5 guidelines:

1. Address Safety for Pedestrians, Bicyclists and Vehicles
2. Alleviate Congestion and Promote Traffic Reduction
3. Respect the Desires of the Neighborhoods
4. Improve Air Quality
5. Promote a Healthy Lifestyle

I look forward to learning and reporting more to you on this issue after the May 18th meeting of this Steering Committee.

By Remona Murray

TRAFFIC SAFETY PANEL DISCUSSION

On Jan. 28th, the Laurel PTO hosted a panel discussion about traffic safety. The panel was made up of members of the Atherton & MP Transportation Dept., CHP, Atherton & MP Police Dept. & SMC Sheriff Office.

The focus was on the rules of the road for cars, bicycles, and pedestrians. There was also time spent on the current status of the Safe Routes to schools program. It finished with question by the audience for the panel.

Some of the more interesting comments that were made by the panel include:

- Pedestrians do not have the right to step out in front of traffic, they must wait for a break in traffic - apparently, if a pedestrian does so and there is an accident as a result, the pedestrian can be held liable.

- Bicyclists must follow the same rules as automobile drivers.
- Bicycles must ride single file with the youngest in the front .

(Some bicyclists disagreed with the police on many of these points)

- Do not allow passengers in the front seat to ride with feet up on dash - an accident could push them through the windshield or break ankles and feet. (passenger side air bag deployment can also cause a great deal of harm if the passenger is not seated properly).
- ZERO TOLERANCE for cell phone use while driving. If under 18, no cell phone use at all while driving - even hands free.
- Only allowed to use ONE ear plug while driving or biking (also recommended for pedestrians).

Q&A:

- Can bike be ridden on school campus - NO
- Can bikes be ridden across crosswalks - NO
- Where are bicyclists expected to ride when the bike lane is filled with carpool vehicles - in the road with cars, follow the same rules of the road as the cars.

A copy of the minutes from this panel can be found at the MODA web site (<http://www.menlo-oaks.org/Coleman/TrafficSafetyPanelNotes.pdf>)

By Rich Collyer

LAUREL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL UPDATE

I have continued to following the City of Menlo Park progress on the Safe Routes to School Project. Prior to being awarded the State Grant the City of Menlo Park they had not yet gained the approval to finalize their proposed plans with the San Mateo Board of Supervisors or Transportation Dept.

Approved changes to Coleman only included the City installing a new crosswalk on the Westside at Willow Rd.

The unapproved plan calls for the County to provide a 3-Way Stop at Ringwood and Coleman Ave., additions of Crosswalks at Ringwood/Coleman, Lighted Crosswalk at Ringwood/Edge and narrowing of Ringwood from 11' to 10' from Coleman to Colby. No final decision has been made by the County to date.

By Remona Murray

Neighborhood News

RETIRED FROM THE MODA BOARD

I would like to thank:

ROBBIE FANNING for her service to the board not only for this past term, but as she was a returning MODA Board member from years past her level of commitment to our neighborhood is to be commended.

MARGE DRAPER for her service to MODA and our Board for the past 7 years. She has therefore spent countless hours working to help our neighborhood thru attending meetings, writing articles, setting up for the Annual Meeting and the Picnic. Marge has been both an ear and voice for MODA residents at both our board meetings and at the City of Menlo Park. Her experience and knowledge of our community and the school districts have been a wonderful resource. (I still have your number Marge!)

By Remona Murray

MEET ONE OF YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

JANET BERNADICOU - My husband, Michael, moved into 470 Arlington Way in 1996. I joined him in 2005. We have two sons; Andrew 3 1/2 and Thomas 2 1/2. The four of us, along with our dog Barra, returned to the new and improved 470 Arlington Way in March 2008. Often, there is a game of volleyball going on in our front yard so please stop by and say 'hello'.

I am a Bay Area native. I was born and raised in Palo Alto and attended the same Palo Alto schools as my Mother.

Most of my volunteering experience is with my college alumnae association. I have held several positions including president, treasurer, and newsletter editor. I am currently the mail parent for the Parent's Group of Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

I look forward to working with the MODA Board and to meeting more MODA neighbors.

By Janet Bernadicou

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.

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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.

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