



The Oak Leaf



November 2009
COLEMAN AVE

ANNUAL MEETING

MODA will be hosting our Annual Meeting on Sunday, Dec. 13 from 3-5 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of Laurel School. This meeting like the picnic is an opportunity for you to meet the MODA Board and your neighbors. The meeting will begin promptly due to time constraints of our guest speaker.

This year the speaker will be San Mateo County Supervisor Richard Gordon. He would like to discuss with residents their opinions on the safety concerns on that roadway.

Providing feedback & having a discussion is paramount to determine the direction of the County's participation in further changes to Coleman. See "Coleman Ave" article. A District wide Survey of Residents may be forthcoming if deemed warranted following the discussions at this meeting.

The Treasurer's Report will be given and a copy distributed. Questions will also be answered regarding where your dues are spent.

Two positions on the MODA Board have opened up and we are looking for members to join us for about 9 meetings a year. The responsibilities include writing articles and processing the newsletter, providing help with the Annual Meeting, Picnic and communicating information to neighborhood when important issues arise.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Holly Still our neighbor and friend for the countless hours she has spent over the last several years attending MODA, County, City Council and Committee meetings representing our best interest in the Menlo Oaks Neighborhood.

Meeting Agenda Items:

- Safer Route on Coleman Discussion
- Treasurer's Report
- Vote for new board members
- Pick Up Emergency Info Packet

Recently, Coleman Ave residents, were invited to meet with Supervisor Richard Gordon to discuss the support for a proposal to make improvements to Coleman in order to make it a safer route. As context for this meeting & as background for new residents, the following is a very brief summary of previous discussions around Coleman.

The City of Menlo Park created a Steering Committee requesting that the members include San Mateo County, Menlo Park CSD, Sequoia Union H.S., MODA, & the Cities of Atherton & Menlo Park. Their wish was to combine efforts in developing a Safe Routes to School plan for Laurel Elementary. The Steering Committee had three public meetings at Laurel to get feedback on their plan. An application for a State grant that would provide the funds for improvements outlined in the plan & encourage biking to school. Part of their proposed plan, included changes for Coleman Ave.

Multiple proposals were presented by the Steering Committee, some included sidewalks & bike lanes on both sides of Coleman, a sidewalk & bike lanes on only one side, & making the road a one-way street. Initial plans involved cutting down some trees, bushes, moving telephone poles, & fences, other proposals included just bushes. Serious concerns were raised within the meetings about all the plans presented. After much discussion, the Committee decided to separate Coleman from the rest of the Laurel Safe Routes to School project & revisit Coleman at a later date.

The City of Menlo Park was able to get the State Grant for its final Plan, excluding Coleman Ave. Since then a Transportation Committee was formed of elected officials from all the agencies surrounding our schools. Those officials would like to revisit & close out the issues surrounding Coleman. The meeting called for Coleman residents by Menlo Oaks resident Supervisor Gordon, was the first communication of the newest proposal. The goals were outlined as the following:

Calendar 2009

Dec. 13 Annual Meeting

Minimum Impact on the M. O. neighborhood & Individual property owners Improved safety for Residents & School-children traveling along Coleman Gain closure on project to ensure that future efforts to alter Coleman are unnecessary

The new proposal does not include a bike lane & doesn't address safe biking to school. It attempts to improve safety along Coleman for walkers only. The Concept of the proposal as outlined in Supervisor's presentation is the following:

- Minimal 4' path running the length of unincorporated Coleman on the north
- A raised separator, rubberized or asphalt, to delineate the roadway edge & provide feedback to drivers
- Some restricted parking during school hours or at all times along north side of Coleman
- All changes would only impact 4' from existing pavement in the easement

Supervisor Gordon will be at the MODA Annual Meeting & will hold several small group meetings, if required. He hopes to ensure ample opportunity for participation in this discussion for M.O. Residents.

The neighborhood meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 13th. We encourage everyone to participate & make your voice heard. This is an opportunity to ask questions & get clarification in advance of a survey that will be distributed by Supervisors office.

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Neighborhood Directory

Remona Murray-Collyer

A Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Directory will be published again in February 2010. 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 2009-2010 dues.

Arlington Way

125 383
151 390
199 411
220 440
221 441
260 443
280 450
281 450
298 470
300 480
320 490
381

Berkeley Ave

500 740
501 754
510 760
520 766
524 770
528 785
544 799
560 800
561 815
570 821
581 855
600 870
620 880
622 886
624 890
626 901
630 902
640 903
660 920
662 930
680 940
700 950
701 951
710 985
720 995

Bay Road

414 538
422 546
518 626
530 632

Colby Ave

920 981
930 1051
935 1060
940 1070
950 1095

Coleman Ave

870 1001
876 1021
890 1051
900 1070
951 1099

Entrada Way

511
521

Frederick Court

1 2
3 4

Menlo Oaks Dr

210 573
220 591
221 601
240 611
241 621
281 631
298 660
299 670
300 698
301 699
330 701
360 750
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
530 941
531 960
549 990
550 999

Peninsula Way

915 955
935 961
941 990
951

Ringwood Ave

200 572
220 660
250 670
300 680
400 780
410 788
440 790
540 800
550 890
570 894

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 2009-2010 dues of \$20.00 to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 13.

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.)

Neighborhood News

MA FIELD LIGHTS

Dear Menlo Oaks Neighbors,

Plans are under discussion to install permanent lights around the Menlo Atherton Football field. A fairly large and determined group of parents has been advocating for lights for more than five years. This year, for the MA/Sacred Heart High School game on October 30, 2009, MA parents & the Bear Booters paid for portable lighting to be brought in and the movement has really taken hold. I have met with the parents organizing this effort and am most impressed with the attention, thoughtfulness and consideration given to those of us who live near the high school and will be impacted by permanent lights.

Specifically, they are examining the following issues in preparation for a presentation to the Sequoia District Board of Trustees on November 18, 2009:

1. Traffic exiting the school after the game
Every attempt will be made to make sure students do not cut through Menlo Oaks streets when entering or exiting the game, and security officers can be utilized if necessary. I did not observe this to be a problem on October 30th.
2. Parking
There was heavy parking on Ringwood on October 30, and I know of one resident

who did complain. This was caused in part because of the Big Band Dance that was scheduled on the same evening. The inner parking area was closed until half time in order to ensure adequate parking spaces for people attending the Dance, thus fewer spaces were available than usual. There were a number of empty spaces in the lot in front of the school, however. In the future it is not likely that two big events will be scheduled on the same night.

3. Noise
One of the parents did take readings on a noise meter from various locations around the school. I do not have these results yet. However, there were no complaints that I know of from anyone about noise.
4. Student behavior before, during and after the game
The high school had a full complement of staff and administrators supervising the game and I did not see or hear of one incident on the 30th.
5. Cost of installation
The Menlo Atherton community was a driving force behind the last two bond measures that were successfully passed and resulted in the beautiful new buildings and landscaping we have all witnessed. It is hoped that funds can be tapped from this source as field improvements were in the 2005 bond proposal. Again, more information will be known on November 18th.

The committee is hosting a meeting on November 12th at the MA library, 7pm. to hear comments from the community about this proposal. This is only the first of what will most likely be three public meetings, not counting the School Board meeting, for residents and the community to comment. This past weekend you all should have received a letter from the Principal inviting you to the public meeting on November 12, 2009 to discuss this possibility.

In case you are wondering, I was very impressed with the October 30th night game. I saw many families, alumni and people from the community at large, as well as MA and Sacred Heart students and parents completely enjoying themselves. It was festive, VERY well attended, and the school tripled the revenue taken in at the Snack Shack. The weather was perfect and the crowd very well behaved. I am of the opinion that this will be a good thing for the school, the students, the community and the local economy.

Please do feel free to let me or the MODA board know how you feel about this proposal, as I know our neighborhood will be very interested in what happens.

Olivia Martinez
Trustee, Sequoia UHSD
oliviamar1@sbcglobal.net

EDITOR IN CHIEF:

Richard Collyer

CONTRIBUTORS:

Remona, Gloria, Elizabeth,
Janet & Olivia Martinez

LAYOUT:

Richard 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.

Menlo Oaks District Association 2009-2010 Board

-president@menlo-oaks.org
-vicepresident@menlo-oaks.org
- Remona Murray-Collyer**treasurer@menlo-oaks.org
- Elizabeth Gheleta** welcomingcommittee@menlo-oaks.org
- Rich Collyer**editor@menlo-oaks.org
- Charles Riley**..... ma-liaison@menlo-oaks.org
- Dave Jevans** webmaster@menlo-oaks.org

Janet Bernadicou Gloria Gavin