

AVENUES



Newsletter of the Fair Oaks Beautification Association -
an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)3 organization

In this issue:

- Fall FunDay Recap
- Words from Warren Slocum
- Traffic Devices — A Primer
- Financial Summary
- FOBA and Local Issues

FOBA Meetings:

2nd Monday of the month
6:30-8:00pm,
Riekes Center, 3455 Edison
Way
All are welcome to attend.

Contact us:

FOBA
PO Box 4001
Menlo Park CA 94026-4001

Website:

www.fobaneighbors.org

email: info@fobaneighbors.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/foba.neighbors

FOBA Board:

Laura Caplan
Steve Loew
Art McClish
Jon Mosby
Marlayna Reden

Playground Coordinator:

Laura Caplan

Pocket Park Coordinator:

Jon & Carolyn Mosby

FOBA purpose: *To bring
people together and enhance
our neighborhood*



Fall FunDay Rocks the House

The neighborhood celebrated a beautiful Fall day at the Playground with another FOBA-organized community Funday on October 19. Lots of tots, many in creative Halloween costumes, friends and families enjoyed a day of frivolity and catching up.

The children enjoyed a bouncy house and building fairy houses with Marlayna. Everyone got refreshments. Delucchi's Market donated tasty croissant sandwiches, we had a tub of cold drinks, and there were fruit as well as candy options for the treat season.

Would you like to attend a future event? Do you have ideas for activities or decoration?

Get on the list to help plan or volunteer. Send email to info@FOBAnighbors.org. We all enjoy neighborhood events, and they can't happen without you!

Traffic Devices — Why Do We Have Them & Who's Responsible?

One of FOBA's first activities in the early 1990s was finding ways to slow down traffic speeding through our neighborhood. If you've lived here more than 20 years, you may recall when roundabouts and road-narrowing chicanes were installed. They were effective immediately; instances of cars driving dangerously, though not eliminated, are much rarer now than before the devices were installed.

The stately and mature Oak trees in the Fair Oaks Avenue traffic circles are a treasure at the core of our neighborhood. On other streets, the design and plantings are varied. Some of the smaller trees have died or been damaged over the years. Many neighbors have stepped up to "adopt" the devices near their homes, caring for trees, weeding, and adding attractive plants.

FOBA - the Fair Oaks Beautification Association - was named as this project flowered. FOBA welcomes neighbors' assistance and cooperation in keeping our streets looking good and our trees healthy. As neighbors have contacted us to see how we can work together, here is some information:

- If a tree in a chicane area near you needs replacing, FOBA can consult with you on an appropriate tree, procure the necessary permit, and supply the tree. You would need to care for it, at least until growth is established, or coordinate neighbors doing so.
- If you'd like to "adopt" a chicane next to your property to plant flowers or low shrubs, please check with FOBA to be ensure compatibility with any nearby trees. FOBA can suggest some drought-tolerant options.



A Few Words from County Supervisor, Warren Slocum...

As many people in the North Fair Oaks community are aware, the project to improve Middlefield Road is a much-needed upgrade and beautification project that will improve both the sensory aspects, as well as the safety and utility of the road. The dream for Middlefield Road includes wide sidewalks for families to walk side-by-side or steer strollers, bike lanes that are safe for commuters, trees and other forms of greenery, public artwork, benches and beautiful clean streets. This dream will become a reality.

At a recent meeting, the Board of Supervisors allocated additional funding to extend the undergrounding of power lines northwest of 5th Avenue. As a result, the project will officially break ground in Fall of 2020. In the interim, the Public Works department will be hard at work designing Middlefield Road to be the "smartest" road on the west coast. Proposed improvements include trash cans that alert waste management when they are near full and sensors that would help traffic move smoothly.

I am looking forward to these improvements on one of the most traveled roads in North Fair Oaks. For questions regarding the Middlefield Road Redesign, please contact the Office of Community Affairs at CommunityAffairs@smcgov.org or 650-363-1800.

Traffic Devices (cont'd):

- Please do NOT plant under an Oak. Too much water harms Oak trees; if one of these trees dies, it affects all of us.
- If you notice that a tree is diseased or needs pruning to prevent problems, contact FOBA. The County does some tree trimming to accommodate roads, but through FOBA, we do our best to keep trees in good health.
- Plantings in corner traffic devices need to adhere to "line of sight" safety rules for driver visibility.

Local Issues: Think Globally, Act FOBA-ly

If you feel strongly about local issues that affect our neighborhood, such as the Dumbarton Spur Rail Corridor, street paving, or community gardens, consider channeling (and amplifying) your efforts through FOBA. FOBA was born out of local-issue activism.

As mentioned on page 2, addressing speeding cut-through traffic was the impetus for FOBA's formation back in 1992. That year, some nearby non-County streets were unilaterally blocked off, without notice, to reduce cut-through traffic. The speeding traffic was immediately shunted into our neighborhood. People got pretty animated. Enough so that 10-20 very busy people decided to dedicate precious time to making lemonade from this big lemon harvest.

Those few pioneers put in a lot of work and sweat to find an area-wide win-win solution to speeding cut-through cars. The most visible result of their work is the collection of traffic devices that we wiggle through and around every day. A less visible result is FOBA.



Before 1992, our neighborhood didn't have a vehicle to pull together on issues that affected it. The cut-through traffic "crisis" in 1992 brought people together. After their initial success, FOBA considered other issues that affected the neighborhood such as schools, industrial development on Edison Ave, the proliferation of liquor licenses in nearby establishments, the repaving of our streets, community gardens, etc. There were some successes, but other issues, like improving schools, proved formidable.

Still, during those initial years, FOBA established itself as a credible, constructive organization that could get stuff done. FOBA developed excellent working relationships with San Mateo County, both with staff and the Board of Supervisors. Eventually, the Board of Supervisors created the North Fair Oaks Council to formalize input from the greater NFO area (up to 2nd Avenue). But FOBA was, and still is, viewed as a group...
(Cont'd in adjacent column)

Fundraising – Please Donate!

Our costs have more than doubled in the last six years. For 2019, the cost to maintain our Playground and Pocket Park will come to almost \$29,000. As you can see from the table below, we will have a substantial shortfall in funding this year.

We need your support. Contributions can be made through PayPal on our website at www.fobaneighbors.org or by sending the enclosed contribution envelope to FOBA, P.O. Box 4001, Menlo Park, CA 94026-4001. Every gift counts – please support our parks. All contributions are tax deductible and you will receive a letter of confirmation for your gift. Donations of any size are appreciated.

2019 Budget	
Income	
Projected Donations from Neighbors	11,683*
County Grant	10,000
<i>Total Projected Income</i>	<i>\$21,683</i>
Expenses	
Pocket Park	10,830
Playground	11,575
Water	1,400
Insurance	2,500
Newsletters/Outreach	2,476
<i>Total Projected Expenses</i>	<i>\$28,781</i>

* \$7,068 still needed

(Cont'd from adjacent column):

...that can speak, to some degree, for the residents in the NFO-Menlo area.

The point of all this: If you are concerned about a current issue that affects our neighborhood and want to take action, consider getting involved with FOBA. FOBA's handful of board members won't necessarily lead the charge but, if appropriate, they can provide guidance and support for using FOBA's contacts and good standing with the County to help advance issues that are important to us all.

Fair Oaks Beautification Association
(FOBA)
PO Box 4001
Menlo Park CA 94026-4001

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FunDay at the Playground!

