



AVENUES

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

Here is your AVENUES newsletter!

Updates on North Fair Oaks parks & trees

FOBA Neighbor
601 10th Ave
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Our Neighborhood Trees: We Need Your Input

Many of you tell us that what you most appreciate about our neighborhood is the magnificent trees and green surroundings.

In fact most of the mature trees we now enjoy were planted nearly 30 years ago by neighbors involved with FOBA.



Over time we have lost many trees to drought, age and development. We appreciate trees for a multitude of benefits: We enjoy their beauty. They enhance property value. Trees are now recognized for their effect on health and wellness. The presence of trees is calming. And trees contribute to clean air and lower temperatures, helping counteract climate change.

Would you like to see our neighborhood return to its tree-nurturing “roots?”

If we want to maintain our leafy canopy, we must undertake efforts to both care for existing trees and plant more for future generations.

We invite you to share your perspective on our future neighborhood tree canopy by filling out the short survey inside this newsletter.

You can cut it out and mail it to us in the attached envelope. Or:

Complete the survey on our website at www.FOBAnighbors.org/tree-survey

Beautification Project

Thanks to a handful of neighbors and local scouts doing community projects, corners and roundabouts along Fair Oaks have been transformed with artistic mini-landscaping and colorful flowers. The project has been spearheaded by Marlayna Nicol through FOBA. Take a look at the corners of Fair Oaks and 12th.

These bulb-out corners and roundabouts, along with road-narrowing bump-outs, are part of our network of chicanes. They were built with the County’s cooperation at the urging of early FOBA neighbors to calm traffic and ease the problem of speeding cars, while providing opportunities for attractive plantings.



Marlayna Nicol

Some of these areas are tended lovingly by those who live nearby. Eduardo, who lives on 10th Avenue, is taking great care of the new plants in the traffic circle across from the Playground. Other areas are a bit neglected.

If you live near a bare, weed-filled chicane and would like help re-beautifying, FOBA would like to work with you. We don’t have staff—only neighbor volunteers—but as in the past, we can work together and accomplish much.

Corner areas need to maintain line of sight to keep drivers and pedestrians safe. We can help with ideas for drought-tolerant shrubs or ground covers. We can also offer guidance on care and maintenance.

Playground Refresh

After a brief closure, our Playground recently got a refresh!

The large green trellis was repainted, along with the swing structures and the water fountain. New wood fiber was blown in, the sand play area got clean sand, and components were replaced across the playground, including a beautiful refinish of the spring rocker.

Thanks to the efforts of several neighbors who worked hard to repair equipment and otherwise keep things ship shape. Special thanks to Mark Reden, who worked long hours to get all the structures swinging and rocking and shining again.



Keith Rahder & Mark Reden

What’s Next?

You may have noticed the pirate ship is missing. Its aging supports were deemed no longer safe for young seafaring adventurers, so we said Ahoy and goodbye to the beloved structure.

If you are interested in helping to raise funds for a new play structure, please contact us!

Little Free Food Pantry

A student at the Riekes Center on Edison Way, for his Eagle Scout project, built a small food pantry using the concept of Little Free Libraries, but with food! The idea, as with books and LFLs, is one of community sharing.

The pantry, stocked with food by local donors, is located in front of the Riekes Center parking lot at 3455 Edison Way. Anyone who may need some help with food is encouraged to take what they need. If you have extra food you can share, please do that as well!

Food donations must be non-perishable, such as canned food, grains, pasta, energy bars, nuts and seeds.

The Riekes Center is a non-profit organization that works with adolescents and adults on goals and skills development in the context of creative arts, athletic fitness and nature study. Email Juan Pablo at jpreggiardo@riekes.org with any questions.



Who is FOBA?

- Fair Oaks Beautification Association (FOBA) is a group of neighbors who created and maintain our neighborhood Playground and the Pocket Park at 18th & Bay St. These are not city or county owned parks.
- We are all volunteers! We rely on your participation and contributions.
- FOBA is a non-profit 501(c)3, so your donations are tax deductible.

What Can You Do?

If you find you don't have time to volunteer, you can help with FOBA projects through monetary contributions. Our grant funding from the County is limited to our parks, so we continue to rely on financial support from you, our neighbors, for other initiatives and events. If you're looking for a worthy cause to donate to, look no further!

Donations of any size are appreciated, are tax-deductible, and can be sent to:

FOBA, POB 4001, Menlo Park, CA 94026-4001.

You can also use a credit card or PayPal at our website: www.FOBAnighbors.org

FOBA Meetings

2nd Monday of the month 7:30 - 9:00 pm
All are welcome! Meetings are currently virtual.

Email for Zoom invite
info@fobaneighbors.org

Contact Us

Mail FOBA
PO Box 4001
Menlo Park CA 94026-4001

Web www.fobaneighbors.org

Email info@fobaneighbors.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/FOBA.Neighbors

FOBA Board

Laura Caplan	Jon Mosby
Chris Edgette	Mark Reden
Aileen Lin	Tej Ravindra
Steve Loew	Hugo Vliegen
Art McClish	

Playground Coordinator

Open

Pocket Park Coordinator

Jon & Carolyn Mosby

Tree Coordinator

Tej Ravindra

Tree Survey

Please return in the attached envelope

- OR -

Complete survey online at www.fobaneighbors.org/tree-survey

1. Do you have an empty or unmaintained chicane* in front of your house?

Yes No Other

**Chicanes in our neighborhood are the traffic calming devices that protrude into the road to slow cars to safe speeds. Many of these bump-outs and roundabouts contain trees; others are empty or have other plantings.*

2. Are you in favor of planting a tree in an empty chicane on your street?

Yes No Other

If you answered "no" please state your reason (e.g., you would prefer other types of plants):

3. Would you be willing to pay a nominal dollar amount per year for the maintenance of trees in this neighborhood? Currently, FOBA does not have any budget for the care of trees.

\$0 \$50 \$75
 Other _____

If you provide contact information,* we will email you the results of this survey and any next steps.

**For FOBA use only; we will never sell your contact information or share it without your consent.*

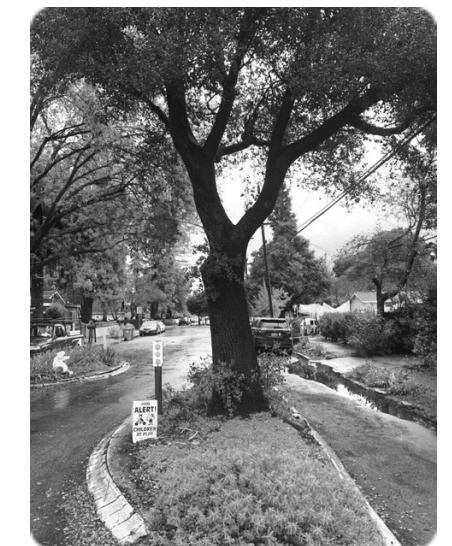
Name: _____

Street: _____

Email: _____



Bare chicanes



Planted chicanes