# Avenues



The newsletter of the Fair Oaks Beautification Association • an all-volunteer, non-profit organization

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## 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 2013 FOBA Officers & Board Art McClish, President 321-6336 Sandra Stafford Cecil, Secretary Brian Crowley, Treasurer treasurer@fobaneighbors.org Laura Caplan Shannon Ciortea Kyle Barriger

Newsletter Editor Jon Mosby

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

# **Pocket Park One Year Anniversary Celebration!**

It's hard to believe that it's been an entire year since we officially dedicated our beautiful Pocket Park at 18th Avenue and Bay Road. The plants have grown in wonderfully and thanks to the ongoing efforts of Janet Bell Landscaping and our faithful "Adopt-a-Month" volunteers, the park has become a well- maintained and well-loved addition to the neighborhood. On Saturday, September 20th, FOBA hosted an official anniversary celebration at the pocket park, complete with birthday cake and candle! Supervisor Warren Slocum and his wife Maria were in attendance, as well as Mara Young, landscape architect for the park, and Janet Bell, our landscape contractor. Supervisor Slocum and FOBA president, Art McClish both spoke of the community spirit and neighborhood pride that went in to the park's creation and the hope that continuing volunteerism and partnering with the County, will allow the park and other FOBA sponsored improvements to thrive for many years to come. Neighbors enjoyed the chance to reconnect and hear about new planned projects as well as basic emergency preparedness. And we raised over \$300.00 in donations!



Pocket Park Celebration



# FOBA Updates & News

It's our community...

New neighbors may not realize that our local pocket park, playground and the traffic-calming devices were the result of many hardworking neighbors getting together to create a more welcoming and family friendly community. Many of you worked hard to make these wonderful additions to our community a reality. We all benefit from the beautification work that has been done in our neighborhood over the last 20 years. It has mitigated traffic problems, raised our home values, offered places to play and, in general, improved the quality of life in our part of North Fair Oaks.



Pocket Park Celebration



Weeding Day Party

## **Neighborhood Opportunities**

#### Volunteer

The FOBA board is a group of dedicated volunteers who meet once a month to maintain what we have and make new plans for the future. All the meetings are open and you are welcome to come. The meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Riekes Center on Edison Ave. If you are not a "meeting person" but would like to volunteer your skills, we have lots of opportunities:

- Newsletter editing and production
- Web support
- Maintain our playground or pocket park through our "adopt-a-month" program (See more below)
- Professional skills legal, financial, insurance talents
- Event planning and organization
- Traffic device tree coordinator (receive reports of tree damage and contact volunteer neighbors to address the problem)

If you would like to volunteer, please email info@fobaneighbors.org or send a note to FOBA, PO Box 4001, Menlo Park, CA 94026-4001.

If you enjoy light gardening and are interested in becoming an "Adopt-a-Month" volunteer, please contact: Sandy Stafford Cecil, Pocket Park Coordinator: sstaffordcecil@gmail.com or

Shannon Ciortea, Playground Coordinator: shannonmarieciortea@gmail.com



### **FOBA Financials**

#### Financial Operating Costs

However, maintaining these parks takes money every year. It takes about \$10,900 annually to maintain the two parks we have today. The table shows where the money goes each year. We would like to work on new opportunities but we need to be sure that we have the funding to maintain our existing parks first. Your gifts are essential to supporting these parks and the on-going work to beautify our neighborhood.

#### We need your support...

Contributions can be made through PayPal on our website at fobaneighbors.org or using the enclosed contribution envelope.

Every gift counts - please support our parks. All contributions are tax deductible and you will receive a letter of confirmation for your gift.

Pocket Park	\$3,600
Playground	\$4,200
Insurance	\$2,200
Newsletter and Administration	\$ 900
Total Expenses	\$10,900

#### A Few Words from Warren Slocum

#### First Anniversary of the FOBA Pocket Park!

Whenever I drive down Bay Road past the FOBA Pocket Park I am struck by the transformation of an ugly, empty lot into a beautiful entrance to North Fair Oaks. What vision! Congrats again to Sandra Stafford-Cecil and the whole community for two years of hard work. The park is even more beautiful than the day it opened.

At the September 23<sup><u>rd</u></sup> Community meeting held to discuss the Middlefield Road Redesign, the NFO Council recommended the following elements be included:

- Bike Lanes
- Sidewalks wide enough to accommodate street amenities including:
  - Benches and other seating
  - Greenery
  - Street and pedestrian lighting
  - Trash and recycling receptacles
  - Street Art
  - Public Spaces
- Parallel Parking

The Council is also requesting that while the development of the draft design is underway, three additional reports be prepared:

- A signalization and traffic management plan for the project area
- Parking solutions
- A local business sustainability plan

The Council's recommendation will be heard by the Board of Supervisors on October 21. If approved, the plan will move forward.

For more information, go to:

www.smcgov.org

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# Here is your AVENUES Newsletter!

or current resident

#### FOBA kids Halloween event





On Sunday October 26th from 1-4pm the FOBA playground park will be turned into a spooky pumpkin patch for children and their families to enjoy some Halloween fun. We will have a jumpy house, face painting and Halloween themed craft tables among many other activities for the children. Costumes are encouraged. The German American International School is co-sponsoring the event with FOBA and other sponsorships are available. If interested please contact Aidan Yeaw at: atyeaw@gmail.com.



# Upcoming CERT training: Palo Alto CERT

Tuesdays and Thursdays (and one Saturday) - October 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30: 6:30-9:30 pm; Sat, Nov 01: 12-5 pm, 679 Pampas Lane, Stanford Sign up by email: paloaltocert@cityofpaloalto.org

or call OES at 650-617-3197. Menlo CERT

Sat, October 18, 9am - 5pm Station 77, 1467 Chilco Avenue, (off of Bayfront Expressway) Sign up at: https://sites.google.com/site/

menloparkcert/