

AVENUES



Newsletter of the North 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

Current FOBA Officers & Board

Art McClish, President 321-6336
Sandra Stafford Cecil, Secretary
Brian Crowley, Treasurer
treasurer@fobaneighbors.org

Laura Caplan

Kyle Barriger

Jon Mosby

Newsletter Editor

Playground Coordinator:

Shannon Ciorte

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

Drought-Smart Planting



A few neighbors have questioned on the amount of water required to keep the lawn in our pocket park at 18th and Bay looking so lush and green. The good news is...the lawn requires no water at all as it is artificial turf! In fact, all of the plants in the pocket park were chosen with water conservation in mind by our landscape designer, Mara Young and our landscape contractor, Janet Bell. Working together with the Heavenly Greens Artificial Turf company, (who donated much of the cost of installation), they sought to create a low maintenance, drought-smart open space that we could all enjoy for years to come. Careful planning of plant selection, converting sprinklers to drip irrigation systems, and mulching to keep soil cool, (thanks again to Lyngso Company for donating the mulch material used in the pocket park), are just a few tips to water-wise gardening in drought prone climates. For more information, check out the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency web site at www.basca.org.

FOBA and YOU!

It's our community...

It is the efforts of many neighbors, physical and financial, that has made our neighborhood improvements possible. We all benefit from the beautification work that has been done and continues to be done in our neighborhood. To maintain and improve our neighborhood, your continued support is essential.

2015	
Spring Donations	\$4,205
Fall Goal	\$5,000
Estimated Income	9,205
Estimated Expenses	12,000
Shortfall	2,795

We need your financial support... We expect to spend over \$12,000 to maintain the playground and pocket park this year. Thanks to your generous support we raised over \$4,000 in our spring appeal! Our goal is to raise another \$5,000 from our fall appeal. We appreciate the generosity of all the neighbors who support FOBA. We would like to work on new projects but we need to be sure that we have the funding to maintain our existing facilities first. Your gifts are essential to supporting these parks and the on-going work to beautify our neighborhood.

The County has just approved a new mini-parks policy and is currently developing guidelines for organizations seeking funding under this policy. We are optimistic that this may become an on-going source of funding for FOBA. However, the County will want to know what support we have from the neighborhood. **Your gift, of any size, enables us to send a strong message of broad community support to the County and other potential funders.**

FOBA Sets Goals for 2015

At the February FOBA Board meeting the following goals were set for 2015.

1. **Create a sustainable financial model:** Since FOBA expenses exceeded income in 2014, the board wants to create a financial model that will create balanced budgets in the future. The primary focus will be on identifying additional fund raising sources that will provide FOBA with multi-year financial support.
2. **Increase communication with FOBA Neighbors:** We are a neighborhood group. The board wants to increase its presence in social media (NextDoor, Facebook, etc), keep the website relevant and current and increase outreach to the community.
3. **Produce semi-annual newsletter:** Two issues of the newsletter every year, one in April and the second in October.
4. **Triangle Space Project:** Design and begin fundraising to revitalize the triangle space (intersection of Edison, Ninth, and Fair Oaks).

2015 Election

The **Tuesday, November 3, 2015**, election will be conducted as an **all-mailed-ballot** election under special legislation. This means that on Election Day, we won't see you at the Fire House, but we may see you at the North Fair Oaks Community Center or elsewhere. Every eligible voter is mailed a ballot starting October 5. *If you haven't received it by October 17*, contact the Elections Office at 650-312-5222 or registrar@smcare.org.

Voted ballots can be returned by mail (free postage) or in person at any City Hall, Voting Center or Universal Polling Place.

This all-mailed ballot election is likely to increase odd-year election participation and reduce costs, and may serve as a model for the future of elections in California; however, state and federal elections will continue in the traditional format. See you back at the neighborhood polling place in 2016!

A Few Words from Warren Slocum...

Designing the Details!

This September marks the start of a series of community conversations to design the details of Middlefield Road.

I am hoping that some of you will be sign up to serve on the Steering Committee. It will mean attending more meetings. But Steering Committee members will consider the details, debate the merits of various options, think through the limitations, listen to the community, and ask questions of the consultants, staff and your neighbors. The Steering Committee will present designs and a recommendation to the NFO Community Council for consideration. It will be interesting work.

Designing the “character” of a street really means defining the streetscape. Things like: recommending widths for the sidewalks, bikelanes, and vehicle lanes, selecting benches or other seating options, trash and recycling receptacles, trees (height, leafy or not, etc.), lighting, pedestrian safety features like bulbouts, bus stops, and corner bollards. It also means deciding “where” to locate things. Sometimes there is consensus about the need for a feature, but no agreement as to where it should be located. That’s where diplomacy is required.

We won’t rehash the agreements made in last year’s community redesign process, we’ll build on those decisions. I want to make sure that the community is the co-designer. I’m counting on you to join the conversation.

wslocum@smcgov.org



— You Got Questions? —
We've Got Answers!

Come to a FOBA meeting! Second Monday of the month, 6:30-8:00pm at Riekes Center, 3455 Edison Way.

Marsh Manor Welcome

Marsh Manor is thrilled to have this opportunity to be a part of your community newsletter. Our center has been happily serving you and your neighbors for decades and we’re grateful for your support.

We would like to share some news with you in regards to some of the merchants at Marsh Manor.

We are super proud of Angel Heart Cakes, Queen Bee Ice Cream, and Freewheel Brewing Company. Readers of The Almanac selected each of them as being best in a featured category.

A new store is coming this fall! It’s called Earthwise Pet and they’ll feature organic pet food, pet supplies and dog grooming. They should be a nice addition to the center.

Delucchi’s Market, is well underway on its renovation campaign. The next phase will be starting soon with a remodeling of the building’s exterior as well as the parking area. You can see our vision in the picture.

This is just a taste of what’s happening at Marsh Manor these days. And it’s all dedicated to wonderful neighbors just like you. Thank you for continuing to support Marsh Manor.



Tree Light Trial

FOBA received a donation install and test solar LED lights in North Fair Oaks. In October, selected entrance chicanes to NFO will be illuminated with a technique called “tree wrapping.” Tree wrapping is seen on University Avenue in Palo Alto, where it create a warm and inviting atmosphere at night. Neighbors may share feedback on the lights and possible plans to extend tree wrapping to other chicanes on Fair Oaks Avenue. Please post your comments at info@fobaneighbors.org



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

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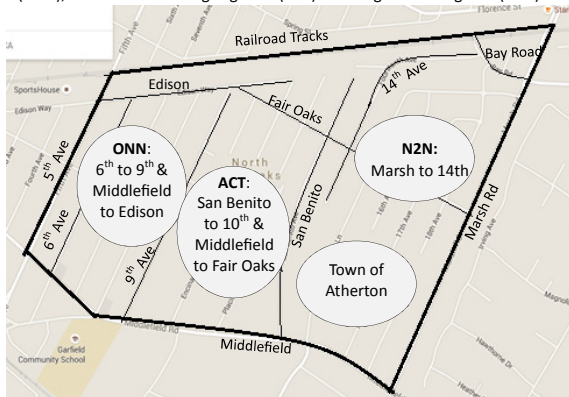
Here is your AVENUES Newsletter!

or current resident

*Who's Watching Out
 for Our Neighbors?
 We Are!*



Neighborhood Watch Groups in the FOBA area: Our Neighborhood Network (ONN), Avenues Connecting Together (ACT) and Neighbor 2 Neighbor (N2N)



We have 3 active Neighborhood Watch Groups all working closely with each other and the County Sheriff's Office to improve the security and safety in our neighborhood. Contact your Neighborhood Watch Group to join! Also, join NextDoor.com because that is our main method of communication for the entire community. Contacts: ONN- Mel meldubroff@prodigy.net ACT- Leslie nwsb210@gmail.com N2N-Kathi n2ngroup1@gmail.com.

