

Spring
2014

Avenues



The newsletter of the Fair Oaks Beautification Association, Inc., an all-volunteer, non-profit group

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

Contact us:

FOBA
P.O. Box 4001
Menlo Park, CA 94026-4001
Website:
www.FOBANeighbors.org
Email:
info@FOBANeighbors.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FOBANeighbors

2013 FOBA Officers:

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

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

VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

- Traffic device tree coordinator (receive reports of tree damage and contact volunteer neighbors to address the problem)
- Attorney to review contracts and other legal documents

Let us know if you can help:

info@FOBANeighbors.org

Parks and More in North Fair Oaks

First we created our FOBA playground and park, plus the triangle-park open space at Edison and Fair Oaks. Now the new pocket park at Bay and 18th. Our little parks have become a model in the larger unincorporated North Fair Oaks community for what can be accomplished elsewhere with neighborhood support.

The movement to create more parks and open space is getting a boost as the County and others step up to further the vision put forth in the NFO Plan that was approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in Fall 2011. Making certain the elements of that plan are implemented in ways that enhance our community is up to us.

To date, four workgroups have been formed to oversee key parts of the NFO plan. Those workgroups are Parks, Zoning, Parking, and Communication/Outreach. Recently the Parks workgroup hosted a vision meeting to gain input and generate ideas about the future for North Fair Oaks.

All residents are welcome to attend workgroup meetings and get involved in carrying out the plan for our area. For more information on these groups, see www.NFOForward.org, the new website and umbrella entity that has been created to facilitate outreach and coordination. (See notes from Supervisor Warren Slocum on NFO Forward and Friendship Park.)

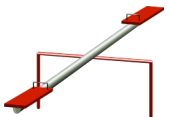
We are proud of what we have accomplished and maintained, and we continue to work together on improving our neighborhood treasures. (See notices about Playground Cleanup Day and the Easter Fundraiser event.) It's also great when we can work with the larger NFO community, such as in the revitalization of Friendship Park.

Ultimately we are all part of a community. The County and its representatives, as our local government, are making efforts to reach out to get residents involved in what our future will look like in NFO. We can do our part by staying connected, involved, and informed. With this newsletter FOBA is working to facilitate that by offering local updates as well as contacts and resources.



FOBA Playground Cleanup Day

It's Sunday, March 16th! -- Can You Help?



All hands on deck, shovels and wheelbarrows in hand for sand and wood chip day! Maybe even some pressure washing. Come at 10 am. Stay until we're done. We'll have coffee, juice, tea and snacks. Email: shannonmarieciorte@hotmail.com.

People Who Keep Playground a Great Place to Play

Our playground is a special place. Thanks to each and every one of you who has offered your time in keeping it so lovely. No effort goes unnoticed.

This month we are honoring Keith Rahder, Patrick Boyle and Craig Dyner. Keith not only helped build the playground, he has supervised and single-handedly maintained many of its prominent features for years, (drinking fountains, sprinklers., play equipment). Recently he hand-built a wood shed for our tools! Patrick and Craig have pitched in on as-needed tasks such as cleaning and maintaining equipment, and sweeping up sand and trash.



The tool shed that Keith built Do you help out at the playground? We appreciate it, but we may not know your name. Please let us know who else we can thank! Send email to shannonmarieciorte@hotmai.com.

Pocket Park Update

Our new park is a growing/glowing success! Despite some early frost damage and the unsightly addition of a new concrete riser (necessary to protect an exposed pipe valve, according to the SFPUC), the park has proven a wonderful spot for children's play, neighborly



gatherings, or to just visually enjoy in passing. In January the park even saw a local neighborhood party, complete with food truck.

Appreciation goes to all the monthly Adopt-a-Month volunteers for general maintenance and to Janet Bell Landscaping for professional management. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Sandy Stafford Cecil at sstaffordcecil@gmail.com to sign up. Duties include walking through the park every

New School in the Neighborhood?

German-American International School (GAIS) is a small multicultural, international school, hoping to relocate at 3477-3522 Edison in a portion of the technology park. For 20 years GAIS has leased a former school site in the residential Willows area of Menlo Park. But due to increasing enrollment, the Menlo Park School District has terminated GAIS' lease with plans to build a new public school at that site.

Because the proposed NFO location isn't zoned for a school, the GAIS started the process with a pre-application workshop, held February 6, to talk with residents here about their concerns and the school's plans to address them. At the top of the list were worries about traffic. GAIS representatives-- and local parents-- talked about the school's active traffic and parking management program, which has helped them maintain good relationship with their Willows resident neighbors. If their application is approved, GAIS would be looking at a conditional use permit, which could spell out and provide enforcement for specific plans to address the kinds of issues brought up by NFO neighbors. For more information on GAIS, go to www.gais.org. To learn more about the process for approving the move, contact Olivia Boo at oboo@smcgov.org 650-363-1818.

Recent Increase in Aircraft Noise

You may have noticed an increase in loud, low-flying turbo-prop aircraft during the last six months. Much of the noise is generated by a new, successful subscription-based airline. Surf Air now makes frequent flights to and from San Carlos Airport (“KSQL”). An early December town meeting in Atherton featured neighbor concerns as well as input from Surf Air and airport representatives. Some highlights:

- Surf Air operates 16 flights per day into or out of KSQL and looks to expand in the near future.
- The “Instrument Flight Rules” (IFR) path into KSQL, designated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), has been in place for many years. This path generally parallels Middlefield Road in the North Fair Oaks area. Using “Visual Flight Rules” (VFR), pilots could fly closer to Highway 101. They could also vary the path and not fly directly over the same houses multiple times a day. However, these suggestions elicited concern that changing flight paths would just shift the noise burden to other neighbors.
- Another possibility is to have planes fly higher on approach and descend at a steeper angle into KSQL.
- Although several residents complained of objectionably loud planes, residents were assured they are not flying lower than permitted over our neighborhood, and that Surf Air planes (Pilatus PC-12’s), although noisy, have a strong safety record. Nevertheless, safety was raised as an issue, as there are numerous schools directly under the IFR flight path on the peninsula.
- Discussions with the FAA are underway to find a solution, but residents were advised the process could take some time.

Since the meeting it seems Surf Air has varied the path for some flights. The result is that increased noise is now spread over a larger area. **If you experience objectionable airplane noise related to San Carlos Airport, you are encouraged to call their Noise Abatement Line at 650-573-2666** any time of day. They track the number and nature of calls.

More details on this and other issues, can be found on NextDoor, a private commercial, neighborhood social media site. (FOBA has no business relationship with NextDoor.)

A Few Words from Warren Slocum...

First, let me wish you a happy and healthy 2014! I want to personally invite you to these upcoming meetings, scheduled to give the community a chance to shape the future of North Fair Oaks. Put them on your calendar, tell a friend, and come if you can!

Upcoming Community Meetings (locations TBD)

- April 29, 6:30 – 8:30 pm Middlefield Road Redesign
- July 22, 6:30 – 8:30 pm Illegal Dumping
- Sept. 23, 6:30 – 8:30 pm Middlefield Road Final Design

www.NFOForward.org

We’ve launched a new website for North Fair Oaks – it’s a collaborative effort for all community partners, funded by the County. Check it out for local news, features, events and information. It’s a work in progress. I invite FOBA to contribute regularly!

Friendship Park

Led by Rotary and the Sheriff’s Activities League (SAL), assisted by KaBOOM, and sponsored by Shutterfly, Friendship Park (2914 Huntington Avenue between Curtis and Huntington in Redwood City) will be completely redesigned and reopened! You can help. Two Prep Days, March 19 and 20, will be followed by a Build Day on March 21. We need 200 volunteers! For information or to sign up, contact Lilia at: lilia@communityconsultants.com.

Noise in the Neighborhood

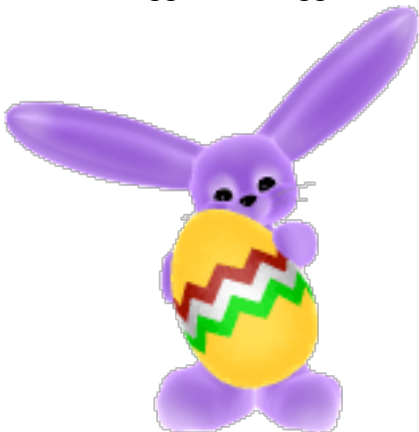
Is noise keeping you awake at night? Please call 650-363-4911 and let them know. The Sheriff’s Communication Unit, part of the effort to determine the mysterious source of the noise, will relay the message to the NFO Sheriff’s unit who will take a decibel reading outside your house (not disturb you) and create a data log to capture complaints, locations, and timeframes. Thanks for your help.

Best,
Warren

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Easter-time Egg Hunt Fundraising Event

On Sunday, April 13th, The Easter Bunny will hop on over to spend the day at our playground! A QuickeCam photo booth will be on-hand to capture and share the moment! There will be food, beverages and of course an egg hunt! Suggested donation for the event is \$10 per family.



Park and Playground Donations

...of any size are appreciated, are tax-deductible, and can be sent to: FOBA, P.O. Box 4001, Menlo Park, CA 94026-4001. FOBA is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. You can also pay by credit card or PayPal at our website: www.FOBAnighbors.org