
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

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2015 FOBA Officers & Board

Art McClish, President 321-6336

Sandra Stafford Cecil, Secretary

Brian Crowley, Treasurer

treasurer@fobaneighbors.org

Laura Caplan

Kyle Barriger

Playground Coordinator:

Shannon Ciortea

Newsletter Editor

Jon Mosby

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

Chain Link Project Update

The chain link fence beautification project FOBA was considering was a proposal to insert digitally printed plastic slats in to the existing chain link fences that borders the stretch of SFPUC land on 18th Avenue at Bay and 14th Avenue at Athlone Way. This would create the appearance of a mural and soften the industrial look of the chain link. SFPUC granted tentative approval of the project after discussion of maintenance responsibility including repair and graffiti abatement. A survey was sent to neighbors within the N2N boundaries and a description of the project was posted on NextDoor North Fair Oaks to gather opinions on the proposal. The collected data showed there was not resounding support either way, but there were many comments from neighbors who opposed the slats and felt they were artificial, cheap-looking, prone to graffiti, and generally detracted from the open space feeling of the neighborhood. After further discussion, an affirmative vote by the FOBA Board was taken to cancel the slat insertion project. There were suggestions to try painting the fence but professional fencing companies that were contacted stated paint needed to be applied as a powder coating during manufacture and attempts to paint after installation would be prone to immediate chipping. Suggestions were also received to plant wildflowers in the corridor, but as the land is owned by the SFPUC, this could be considered trespassing. Also the lack of irrigation and the annual process of hydro seeding will minimize the chances of any wildflower development. The fences cannot be removed per the SFPUC as they are necessary for security.

Triangle Mini-Park

The triangle space at 9th Avenue, Fair Oaks, and Edison Way is being discussed to restore the lot that declined during the Hetch Hetchy pipeline upgrade due to lack of water. Janet Bell, landscape contractor and NFO resident, is working on a design plan to take advantage of existing trees and shrubbery, while incorporating native plants and maintaining an open feel and line of sight for vehicles and pedestrians. Final designs will be voted on at an upcoming FOBA meeting.

Stay tuned!

FOBA and YOU!

It's our community...

As we said in our last newsletter, 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 in our neighborhood over the last 20 years. To maintain and continue to improve our neighborhood, your continued support is essential.

We need your support...

Financial

2014 Summary	
Playground	\$5,350
Pocket Park	\$4,395
Other Exp	\$2,861
Total Expenses	\$12,607
Income	6,000
Shortfall	6,607

Maintaining our park and playground takes money every year. (see sidebar) In 2014, we spent over \$12,000 to maintain the playground and pocket

park yet only raised \$6,000 in gifts. We appreciate the generosity of all the neighbors who supported 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.

We are continuing to explore other sources of funding to ensure that we can maintain and improve our neighborhood.

FOBA Updates & News

Heard of Neighborhood Watch? It's Here!

Who's Watching Out for Our Neighbors? We Are! Neighborhood Watch Alert

A recent batch of residential burglaries—and attempted burglaries—prompted neighbors to take action to make our area safer. At a meeting on February 24, over eighty people gathered to listen to the San Mateo Sheriff's Office representatives talk about the best ways to protect our homes. The key take-home message: Get to know your neighbors and report any suspicious activity to the Sheriff at the non-emergency number, 650-363-4911.

Volunteers are busy setting up neighborhood watch groups (see below). Plans include naming block captains and holding events to facilitate more neighbor connections. For now, you may also be able to get updates on NextDoor North Fair Oaks at www.northfairoaksmenlo.nextdoor.com.

Join a neighborhood watch group for your area

If you live between **Marsh and 14th Avenue, between the railroad tracks and Atherton**, you are eligible to be part of the already established and successful N2N group, which has created close ties and even thwarted would be criminals targeting homes. Send an **email** to **n2ngroup1@gmail.com** with your name, address, phone and email contact.

If you live in the unincorporated part of Menlo Park from **San Benito to 10th Avenue**, including Placitas, Encina and Oak, contact Leslie Walker at **nwsb210@google.com** or call 650-996-4126.

If you live from **9th Avenue to 6th Avenue**, in the Menlo Park, 94025 part of NFO, contact Melinda Dubroff at **meldubroff@prodigy.new**.

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



Virtual Fundraising for Playground

FOBA is excited to announce a new way to give funds and support our playground. We will soon be using signupgenius.com, a site for crowd-sourced fundraising. Whether it's an upgrade of play equipment or fresh sand for the sandbox area, you will be able to log in and see what we need and when we need it. Check updates on <https://northfairoaksmenlo.nextdoor.com> and FOBA's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/foba.neighbors. Remember, FOBA's NFO Community playground is by the community for the community. Without your contributions we can't keep it open. Please spread the word. Thank you!

Watch for FOBA on

<https://northfairoaksmenlo.nextdoor.com>

Pocket Park in Use

It's not only the kids playing ball, the dogs running through the vegetation, but it is also a spot for quiet reflection and coming up with lesson plans. Aidan Young and Chloe Zilliac, both music teachers at Riekes Center, were caught practicing or rehearsing one morning. Hopefully they will return often to serenade the neighborhood with their beautiful harmony.



A Few Words from Warren Slocum

Parks Make Healthy Communities

I'm pleased to report that the County's 91-year tradition of maintaining large-scale regional parks and trails may be about to change! Supervisor Don Horsley and I represent districts with communities that want and need smaller neighborhood parks and green spaces to promote health and well-being. We asked the Parks Department and the Parks Commission to see what policy change would be feasible for the County.

A proposed new Mini-Parks Policy for the unincorporated areas will, if adopted by the Board of Supervisors, authorize the Parks Department to partner with organizations such as FOBA to create and maintain mini-parks in the unincorporated areas of the county. It will support the County's strategic goal of building "Healthy Communities" as well. And, mini-parks like the FOBA Pocket Park and Friendship Park in North Fair Oaks and Quarry Park, Moss Beach Park and Clipper Ridge Community Park on the coast would gain partial support and a legitimate "home" in our family of parks, fitting within the Parks Department's mission.

Kudos to the Parks Commission Subcommittee who drafted this policy including Park and Recreation Commissioners Neil Merrilees and Meda Okelo, Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council member Nic Erridge, Midcoast Community Council Member Chris Johnson, North Fair Oaks Community Council members Linda Lopez and Laura Caplan (also of FOBA), along with North Fair Oaks Forward Outreach consultant Patricia Brown and your neighbor Margy Kahn. Special thanks to our amazing Parks Director, Marlene Finley, who worked with the Parks Commission Subcommittee to develop this policy for consideration!

Here is your AVENUES Newsletter!

or current resident

Fall Event Remembered

Even though it seems sooo long ago, there was a Halloween event on October 26 at the playground (after our last Avenues newsletter). We had a great turnout with an estimated 150 people in attendance.

Everyone enjoyed spectacular weather. Among other fun activities, kids got faces painted, picked pumpkins from an impromptu pumpkin patch, and learned about bees. A raffle was held with all donations coming from local merchants. Refreshments were provided by DeLucchi's Market, Angel Heart Cakes and families from the German American



Dirk Wenzel

International School (GAIS). The event was also generously supported by other nearby businesses and schools such as: Kidaptive, YuMe, Synapse school, Edison Technology Park, Sports House and Queen Bee Ice Cream. Thanks to everyone who played a part!

Ohlone Educational Plaque

A new educational plaque has been installed at our playground to honor and tell us about the Ohlone families who once lived in this area.

