

# 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](http://www.FOBANeighbors.org)  
Email: [info@FOBANeighbors.org](mailto:info@FOBANeighbors.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FOBA.Neighbors](http://www.facebook.com/FOBA.Neighbors)

**2013 FOBA Officers:**

Art McClish, President 321-6336  
Brian Crowley, Treasurer  
[treasurer@FOBANeighbors.org](mailto:treasurer@FOBANeighbors.org)  
Sandra Stafford Cecil, Secretary

**FOBA purpose:** To bring people together.

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED:**

- Playground coordinator (organize quarterly playground cleanup and maintenance)
- Website coordinator (improve and expand the existing site)
- Traffic device tree coordinator (receive reports of tree damage and make contact with volunteer neighbors who can address the problem)
- Attorney to review contracts for our new parks

**Let us know if you can help:**

[info@FOBANeighbors.org](mailto:info@FOBANeighbors.org)

## FOBA Playground Needs You



Did you know our neighborhood playground at Fair Oaks and Edison used to be just a weed lot? Perhaps you've taken kids there to play on the swings. Maybe you have been part of FOBA sponsored playground events, or fundraising. Maybe you were one of the neighbors who participated in getting our playground built. This little patch of land is an important part of our neighborhood, and now it needs your help.

For the past few years, our neighbor Katie Grandy, served as park coordinator, making it possible for us all to contribute in small ways. Now Katie has moved, and we need a new playground coordinator. Katie has graciously written a summary of her efforts so that anyone taking on the job will have a good idea of what is involved:

*What does the park coordinator do? Well, it's not hard.*

*I estimate I spent a total of around 25 hours a year on this; not a big deal. The biggest part of the job is to help organize two annual events:*

- *Fun Day, which is also our main park fundraiser*
- *Clean-up Day, where we get together for some basic park maintenance. Neighbors gather to add sand and wood chips, wash equipment, prune and plant, etc.*

*During the rest of the year, the coordinator just keeps track of participants in the "Adopt-a-Month Program." You communicate with neighbors who offer to watch over the park for a month. (Often people have already indicated their willingness to volunteer on an event sign-up sheet.) Parents usually do this job while they are at the park anyway with their kids. For the adopted month, volunteers do simple things like help pick up trash and maybe some sweeping. They would also report any broken equipment or graffiti or anything that seems amiss.*

*FOBA is in serious need of one or two people (this position can be shared!) to step up as park coordinator and help keep the neighborhood park safe and in good working condition so the kids can continue to enjoy it, now and for years to come. It's a great way to meet neighbors while doing something positive for the community.*

Do you have a few spare hours a year? Do you already go to the playground with your family? Do you live nearby? You may be a perfect candidate. If you think you can do this or have questions, please contact Laura Caplan at [Laura@LauraCaplan.com](mailto:Laura@LauraCaplan.com) or 650-363-7900.

### CRAM/EXAM

Amateur Radio License Testing Reserve Your Space - Be a Ham!  
 One Day: saturday, April 20th, 2013, 8:00am - 5:00pm; Where: Los Altos Hills,  
 Fee: \$30.00 at the door Questions: Ross Peterson [wb6zbu@arrl.net](mailto:wb6zbu@arrl.net) or  
 650-349-5349. Sponsored by: Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication  
 System (SPECS) <http://specsnet.org/>  
 Register: Class size is limited; reservations are required. Address furnished upon  
 registration.

# Pocket Park Update

## It's Exciting – Have You Driven By?

January 14th was the ground breaking for the new FOBA pocket park at the corner of 18th and Bay avenues, with Phase 1 being completed in early February. Once the site was rototilled and leveled, there were new winding pathways cut in preparation for granite fill, which is included in the second phase. Mounds of fresh soil were delivered that will be used for future planting and the water company is preparing to install the water meter for the irrigation system.

Phase 2 will see the addition of numerous large boulders to the site, completion of the pathways and installation of the irrigation system needed on this 14,000 sq. ft. parcel. The final phase will be the planting of the trees and shrubs and those final touches to make it a welcoming entrance to the southern end of the FOBA neighborhood.

Planning and discussion continues to take place regarding the concrete “structures” owned and maintained by the SFPUC. And, you will be hearing more in the coming months about ways neighbors can get involved with supporting the pocket park. The 5-year permit for the park was approved and effective on November 1, 2012.

To have the park underway is very exciting for our community, but, unfortunately, the additional two phases are delayed until the needed amount of funds are raised to complete them individually. See fundraising detail on Page 4.

## North Fair Oaks (NFO) Community Plan New Workgroups Forming

The NFO Plan, which was passed in late 2011 by the San Mateo County (SMC) Board of Supervisors, will be implemented over time with the guidance and support of the SMC Planning and Building Department and participation of workgroups focused on specific tasks. The workgroups are looking for broad participation and communication with the community.

If you are interested in participating, contact Will Gibson Email [wgibson@smcgov.org](mailto:wgibson@smcgov.org) or Phone 650-363-1816

Initially, there will be four workgroups: Zoning, Parking, Parks, and Communications. It is anticipated these workgroups will meet 3-4 times per year. If you have an interest in one of these areas, consider getting involved. Even if you don't want to be a formal part of a workgroup, you can follow the progress of these groups as they make decisions that affect where we live. Below is a brief description of each of the current groups.

**Zoning Workgroup** – Create zoning amendments to update land use designations. A first step in enacting the NFO Plan is to bring the land use zoning into alignment with the plan. SMC Planning and Building is the regulatory agency that enforces zoning, and it will be guided by the input of area residents and other stakeholders. Led by Matt Seubert, SMC Planning and Building Department.

**Parking Workgroup** – Conduct a parking study and develop a strategy for managing parking in the area. As this requires specific technical expertise, SMC will work with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Led by Will Gibson, SMC Planning and Building Department.

**Communication Workgroup** – Communicate progress made on implementing the NFO Plan and engage residents and stakeholders in bringing about the change and supporting implementation. Led by Lilia Ledezma, Communications Coordinator.

**Parks Workgroup** – Identify and map appropriate parcels that may be usable for small-scale pocket parks or other park and open space uses. Explore options for public parks and open space on the Hetch Hetchy easement. Continue to expand partnerships with Redwood City, and other adjacent jurisdictions on joint use of park and recreational facilities. Explore options for funding parks and open space. Led by Trust for Public Land (TPL).

## A Few Words from Warren Slocum...

Thanks for inviting me to contribute to the FOBA newsletter. It's a privilege and an honor to represent and work with the residents in the 4<sup>th</sup> District. Here's a sampling of what I've been doing:

**Office hours:** I hold weekly office hours in Conference Room B at the Fair Oaks Community Center, 2600 Middlefield Road, on Wednesday evenings 5pm - 8pm. Each week, I've met people with nagging concerns, difficult issues and great ideas. In some cases, I'm happy to report, I've been able to help. Let me share a couple of examples.

**Noise Abatement:** Several times each week around 4:30 a.m. a constituent and his neighbors would wake up when the staff at BACE put out the garbage bins for pickup. I contacted Recology and asked if they could assess the situation and adjust the schedule. They did! They changed the bin size, the number of weekly pick-ups, and the pick-up time. A big thanks to Recology!

**Streetlights:** A constituent came in with a letter from the County dated June 2012 describing a street light installation that was planned for 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue (the only street in North Fair Oaks without streetlights) Nothing had happened. Fast forward. On April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Supervisors will consider (and likely approve) the proposed streetlight project; the lights should be up by mid-June.

**North Fair Oaks Community Council (NFOC):** Peninsula TV/Channel 26 began taping the meetings of the NFOC on March 28<sup>th</sup>. You can go to the NFOC website, [www.nfoc.org](http://www.nfoc.org) click on the meeting link and watch online. Issues that affect the daily lives of North Fair Oaks residents, including community clean-up days, proposed zoning changes, graffiti, and crime, are some of the topics discussed at the meetings. The Implementation Phase of the North Fair Oaks Community Plan will soon come before the Board of Supervisors, so it is vitally important to engage and inform the community. NFOC meetings will also air on Monday nights at 10 pm/Comcast Channel 26 or ATT Channel 99.

**The County's North Fair Oaks Working Group:** At my request, the County Manager's office has convened an inter-departmental response team for the resolution of North Fair Oaks issues.

**Measure A Funds:** Last November, voters approved a half-cent sales tax increase for the next 10 years which will generate about \$60M dollars per year. The Board of Supervisors has identified a number of priorities, held two public hearings and launched a website to gather public input. People have identified issues like support for parks, the arts, healthcare, the North Fair Oaks Community Plan, housing, libraries and more. See the results at [www.smcspeakout.com](http://www.smcspeakout.com). It's the first time our Board has solicited public input online for this purpose. The response has been encouraging, and the 24 x 7 access is far greater than what we can offer during a single board meeting.

**Redrawing Supervisorial District Lines:** San Mateo County voters approved Measure B to amend the County's charter to require that Supervisors be elected by-district rather than by an "at-large" vote of the entire County. The Board will reconsider the County's current district lines and may recommend boundary adjustments. Supervisor Tissier and I are co-chairing the Committee for this project.

**District 4 Newsletter:** I will soon launch my electronic newsletter...I hope you will subscribe. Simply go to <http://tinyurl.com/75scpgt>.and click the link to subscribe. Tell your friends and neighbors too!



### COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING (CERT)

CERT provides interactive and informative classes where you learn how to take better care of yourself, your family, your loved ones and neighbors when a disaster happens.

To register, contact: Carol Parker Menlo Park Fire District 650-688-8415 [carolp@menlofire.org](mailto:carolp@menlofire.org)  
Next CERT class: April 27 and May 4, from 9:00am - 5:00pm (usually out a bit before 4:00) at Menlo Park Fire Station 77, 1467 Chilco Street (off of Bayfront Expressway)

Fair Oaks Beautification Association, Inc.  
(FOBA)  
P. O. Box 4001  
Menlo Park, CA 94026-4001  
www.FOBAnighbors.org

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# Here is your Avenues newsletter!

or current resident

## Help Make the Pocket Park a Reality

As you know from our pocket park update (see page 2) we have completed the first phase of the pocket park. Here is a brief summary of the pocket park budget and fundraising to date:

- Pocket Park budget \$42,000
- Raised to date \$15,900
- Needed to complete park \$26,100

The construction of the pocket park is divided into three roughly equal phases. Janet Bell, our landscape contractor, has also secured generous donations of materials from a number of companies she regularly uses. The amount raised to date includes both cash contributions and in-kind donations. However, we still need another \$26,100 to complete the park.

Here's the good news! We have formed a leadership group that has already pledged \$8,000 towards a \$13,000 goal. These funds will be used to match your donations.

Every dollar you contribute will be matched by an equal amount from the leadership group.

- Leadership Group \$ 13,000
- Neighborhood Contributions \$ 13,100

Please contribute today. You can contribute using the enclosed envelope or on-line at [www.FOBAnighbors.org](http://www.FOBAnighbors.org) using Paypal.

