



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.FOBAnighbors.org
Email: info@FOBAnighbors.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FOBA.Nighbors

2013 FOBA Officers:

Art McClish, President 321-6336
Brian Crowley, Treasurer
treasurer@FOBAnighbors.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 make contact with volunteer neighbors who can address the problem)
- Attorney to review contracts and other legal documents

Let us know if you can help:

info@FOBAnighbors.org

Pocket Park Dedication Ceremony

Not even a torrential downpour could dampen the spirits of those who attended the dedication ceremony for FOBA's new pocket park on September 21, 2013. Neighbors were joined by District 4 County Supervisor Warren Slocum and San Francisco Public



Utilities Commission (SFPUC) communications director Maureen Barry to formally open the park. A new sign acknowledges the many local businesses and citizens who donated time, money, and in-kind materials. Ms. Barry commented that the SFPUC is committed to promoting projects which create open space while also protecting the pipelines that carry our valuable drinking water. Supervisor Slocum

stated "this park represents the many things that are possible when corporations, communities and the County work together to improve neighborhoods and strengthen ties. It is my pleasure to present this ceremonial check for \$25,000 from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to FOBA for the creation and maintenance of this wonderful park."

Local landscape architect Mara Young who designed the park, and Janet Bell, the landscape contractor who developed the park, were honored for their many pro bono hours spent seeing the park to completion. Sandra Stafford Cecil, park chairperson, thanked the many neighbors and local businesses who gave donations large and small, stating "for many years we've said somebody should do something about that vacant lot and we're all standing here right now because a lot of somebodies did". As the skies cleared and the sun shone brightly, all enjoyed cake and coffee and the satisfaction of a job well done.





FOBA Fun Day at the Playground a Success



On Saturday, October 12, the weather was sunny and perfect. Volunteers came early to set up tables for food and face painting. A blue castle bouncy house took shape on the lawn near the pirate ship. Throughout the four-hour event, about a hundred parents and children came and went, enjoying hot dogs and cookies, apples and juice, conversation and a common cause. New neighbors met old neighbors. Moms talked about school options. There was even a visit from local firefighters and Engine No. 5. (See photos on Page 4)

Toward the end of the afternoon a raffle was held. Lucky ticket holders won swim lessons at La Petite Baleen, family sessions at UME, visits to SportsHouse, a Chimney Cricket chimney inspection from long-time resident (and virtual NFO historian) John Cline, and very local honey produced by our playground coordinator and beekeeper, Shannon Ciortea. Congratulations to the lucky winners!

The annual Fall FOBA Fun Day was also an auspicious start to FOBA’s yearly fundraising effort, raising nearly \$700 in donations, according to Laura Caplan, who has helped spearhead the event for several years to help keep the playground and park open. “We get most of our donations through the mail, and now we have the ability to take major credit cards and PayPal on our website too, so that makes it easier for a lot of folks,” Caplan said. “But the event is something fun that gets neighbors out to connect with one another and reminds us of the playground’s value to everyone who lives here.”

While the playground needs funds to survive, it also needs people, too. Ciortea says she agreed to coordinate that effort because she loves both the playground and the neighborhood. “It’s a place that fosters relationships and builds community, which is even more important in a time when such a high percentage of our interaction is virtual,” she says. “I am thrilled to have so many great neighbors, and that so many were able to come out and enjoy this event.”

Fundraising – It’s All You

FOBA is supported entirely by donations and the volunteer efforts of those in the neighborhood. With the addition of our beautiful new pocket park, it takes about \$9000 per year to keep FOBA going.

The playground and pocket park (see page 1) add a lot to the quality of our neighborhood, but we also pay the bills. As Laura Caplan, a local real estate agent, points out, “Even if we don’t have children or use the parks, our contributions are an investment in our homes and the quality of our neighborhood.”

 FOBA Financial Update	
Eight Months ending August 31, 2013:	
Income	\$ 21,492.86
Expenses	\$ <u>27,433.41</u>
Net Deficit	(\$5,940.56)



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

Calling All Volunteers: Get ready for a playground Spring cleanup day.

Another way to support our neighborhood playground is to join us on cleanup day. We pitch in to keep maintenance costs low. Volunteers are needed to help keep equipment clean and replenish sand and wood chips in play areas. Can you help?

Contact Shannon at shannonmarieciortea@gmail.com

A final date will be announced at a later time.



A Few Words from Warren Slocum...

The FOBA Pocket Park Dedication

The rain clouds parted and the sunshine streamed down on the crowd gathered to celebrate the new FOBA pocket park at 18th Ave. and Bay Road. Congratulations to Sandra Stafford-Cecil and the whole group for this two-year effort. You transformed a junky lot into a beautiful neighborhood entrance with hard work and determination. I had the privilege of presenting a \$25,000 check on behalf of San Mateo County to help defray the costs. Congratulations, Everyone!

Supervisorial District Lines

The Supervisorial District Lines Adjustment Committee (SDLAC) began holding public meetings months ago to reconsider the boundary lines for supervisorial districts. Boundaries are adjusted every 10 years after the release of the census numbers to equalize the population among districts. With the passage of Measure B (Nov. 2012), district voters will elect a supervisor from their district rather than at-large voting (countywide) as before. With this change, the board of supervisors embarked upon a review of the boundary lines to determine if there was a compelling, legal and/or common sense reason that warranted a change in the boundary lines.

At its last meeting, the SDLAC voted to forward three maps (out of more than 20 submitted) to the Board of Supervisors for consideration. By law, the Board is the legal entity charged with establishing the lines. The Board can accept, modify, reject or keep the current boundaries without change. A summary of public testimony revealed four things, a desire to:

- keep cities “whole” (46 comments).
- keep residents of the Highlands (unincorporated San Mateo) in District 1 (46 comments).
- adopt the “Precinct Clean-up Map” (which was not among the maps forwarded to the Board of Supervisors by the Committee), (44 comments) and
- keep Coastal communities in the same district. (18 comments)

As Vice-Chair of the Committee, I have heard the testimony, reviewed the maps, and understand the complexity of the task. We worked hard. Now it’s time for the Board of Supervisors to review and adopt a map at their Oct. 8 meeting. To see the alternatives, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/k5cbzj3> .

Open Checkbook

I urged the County to move toward a more open and transparent government and asked that we put our checkbook online. In August the County launched "Open Checkbook" which posts payments of \$5,000 or more issued for goods and services at any and all County-operated sites online. It is a companion database to San Mateo County’s Open Data Portal, <https://data.smcgov.org>. I’m very pleased.

Pocket Park Fundraising - A Huge Success

The fundraising for the pocket park was more successful than we could have imagined at the outset. The initial budget and fundraising for the pocket park was as follows:

- Park Budget \$ 37,905
- Fundraising for Park \$ 38,201
- Exceeded Goal \$ 296

We achieved our original goal! Then, when we received word that San Mateo County would also support the park, we authorized the purchase of both the turf and the park sign. Thus the final numbers, including the revised budget and county support, are as follows:

- Park Budget \$ 49,905
- Fundraising for Park \$ 63,201
- Maintenance Reserve \$ 13,296

We finished the project with a reserve of \$13,296 and will be able to have money to maintain the park for at least the first couple of years. The financial success of this project would not have been possible without the generous support of our corporate sponsors and the members of our leadership circle. Please support the companies that so generously supported our park.

Corporate Sponsors: Ewing Irrigation Lyngso Garden Materials Heavenly Greens Netafim USA
Horizon Irrigation Peninsula Building Materials

Leadership Circle: Arrillaga Foundation Chris Kummerer and Emilie Blasé Jon and Carolyn Mosby
Kyle Barriger David D. Bohannon Organization Kathleen and Michael Peregrin Sandra Stafford Cecil
Anonymous

In Memory: Steve and Shannon Planchon, in memory of Cliff and Elene Planchon
The Walker and Sampson Families, in memory of Lucy and Jack Walker

or current resident

Here is your Avenues newsletter!

Fair Oaks Beautification Association, Inc.
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Playground Fun Day Photos



Kids play; adults chat

Kelly Fisher paints faces for appreciative "customers"



A bouncy house for the kids on a beautiful day



Riding the tire swing