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FOBA's Web Site: www.foba.org

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 or
info@foba.org

2004 FOBA Officers:

Art McClish, President 321-6336
Uri Sarid, Vice President
Mike Penney, Treasurer
Brian Crowley, Secretary

FOBA Purpose:

To bring people together.

FOBA Mission:

Fair Oaks Beautification Association, Inc. is dedicated to the care, protection, enhancement, and improvement of our community, defined as the unincorporated portion of San Mateo County known as North Fair Oaks bounded by Sixth and Eighteenth Avenues. We practice cooperative action through education, volunteer service, and community events.

Road Improvement Update

The face--or surface--of the neighborhood is changing. Progress is being made in the road improvements for the Fair Oaks area. Here's what's happening:



- 2nd Avenue – 40-foot right of way will be redone with 18-foot concrete curb and gutter on both sides. Construction is planned for this summer.
- 9th Avenue – 18-foot right of way will be redone with 2-foot valley gutter on both sides from Oak Drive to Edison Way. Construction is planned this summer. 9th Avenue from Oak to Middlefield has been set aside for the moment because resurvey efforts did not yield conclusive results. This stretch of 9th Avenue will be officially resurveyed for the third time after construction is complete from Oak to Edison.
- 12th Avenue – 18-foot right of way will be redone with a 2-foot valley gutter on both sides from Fair Oaks Avenue south and a 3-foot valley gutter on both sides from Fair Oaks Avenue north. Construction will follow the reconstruction of the sanitary sewer main running the length of 12th Avenue planned for this summer.
- Fair Oaks Avenue – The right of-way has already been done. Valley gutters will be constructed on both sides from Edison Way to 12th Avenue. Construction is slated for this or next summer.
- Oak Drive and Placitas Avenue – This project is currently in design with construction to proceed in summer 2006. Oak Drive from 8th Ave. to Encina Ave. will have an 18-foot right of way redone with 2-foot valley gutters on both sides. Oak Drive from Encina to San Benito will be reconstructed 9 feet wide from the centerline of the road to the North side of the road, which will have a 2-foot valley gutter. The other half of this length of road is the responsibility of the City of Atherton. Placitas Avenue will be reconstructed 18 feet wide with a 6-inch concrete band on both sides.

Though many of these projects are intended to be under construction this summer as indicated, all are subject to budget and time constraints. If you have any questions, please contact the County of San Mateo Public Works Dept. at (650) 361-4100.

Garage Sale Planning Meeting

April 11th, 6:30 - *8:00 PM
Riekes Center, 3455 Edison Way

FOBA will begin planning for the 2005 neighborhood wide garage sale at our April 11th Board meeting. Everyone is encouraged to participate. We will discuss concerns raised by neighbors who called or took the time to answer the post-sale survey. Topics to be addressed include event date, traffic and noise, and the cost of participation.

Event Date

The garage sale is traditionally held in late Summer/early Fall. We'd like to have your input. We apologize to those who were inconvenienced by a date change last year when we realized the original date coincided with an important holiday.

Noise and Traffic

Buyers turned out in droves last year, which was great for the sellers. However some neighbors prefer peace and quiet. We think this once-a-year sale means fewer individual sales the rest of the year. What do you think?

Cost of Participation

FOBA charges a \$25 registration fee. We advertise in eight newspapers, as well as on radio and the Web. Our expenses add up to about 30% of the fees collected. The remaining 70% funds approximately one-quarter of the FOBA annual budget. Of course this doesn't factor in the hundreds of hours of volunteer time spent coordinating the event, soliciting donations, putting up posters, collecting donated goods, etc.

Everyone who participates in the Annual Garage Sale makes our neighborhood a nicer place to live. Not only does this event raise funds for other FOBA projects and activities, it helps us get to know one another and fosters good neighbors.

Thank You, Elizabeth Harris-Ouren!

Elizabeth Harris-Ouren, volunteer-extraordinaire, resigned from the FOBA board recently. Elizabeth made major contributions to the neighborhood during her 7+ years on the board, for which we all owe her thanks. Elizabeth was one of three people (with Heidi Hopper and Heather Woods) who led the charge in the development and construction of the Fair Oaks Community Playground --- a wonderful and significant asset to our community. She also worked to ensure the playground's ongoing upkeep, managed the annual Neighborhood Garage Sale for several years, played a lead role in educating the community regarding the new street standards, and generally worked hard to make our little corner of the planet a better place to live. Though Elizabeth and her family have moved out of the neighborhood, they still live close by. Thank you, Elizabeth, for all of your energy, effort and good cheer. You made a difference.

Remember December? A Look Back at Holiday Party 2004

Warm sunny days remind us that December is long gone. Still we want to report that the Fair Oaks holiday party on December 12 at the Riekes Center was a lively event at which lots of neighbors got to know one another. Adults shared conversation, fun, and culinary delights such as Lisette Zamora's home-cooked Salvadorian pupusas. The younger crowd enjoyed the inflatable jumping castle, a crafts table, visits with Santa, and rides on "Old Tom," Menlo Park Fire Department's antique fire truck. We donated toys to the Department's annual Toys-4-Tots program and food to the Second Harvest Food Bank. We gave away many wonderful raffle prizes, which were donated by local businesses and individuals. Thank you to all the neighbors who participated!



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For rates and more information, contact
 ads@foba.org

Free Workout and Tan at Playground Clean-Up Day

Skip the treadmill and exercise with a wheelbarrow instead. You'll feel better and the playground will look great. Join your neighbors at the annual playground clean-up day. Bring your shovels, rakes and work gloves. We'll provide refreshments and sunscreen. "I really worked up a sweat." said Bart Andre of last year's clean-up day.

Join us on Saturday May 21, 9AM-1PM. Contact: Jill Kinney-Andre 365-5691 or jillkin@mac.com or Mari Aldridge 327-5161

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40 Scott Drive • Menlo Park, CA 94025 • 321-7900
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Thanks to Douglas Printers on Edison Way for the discounted printing rate for this newsletter. We appreciate the help.



Trees

The trees planted in traffic devices keep growing and looking better. At this time, FOBA does not have an organized tree care program, so the trees are relying on volunteers. Thanks to all those who have helped trim oaks which had grown into the right of way on Fair Oaks. Firefighters of Menlo Fire Station 5 trimmed the oak at Fair Oaks and Eleventh in February.

FOBA can help provide volunteers with information about these trees, best-care practices, and tools for trimming. We can also refer you to professionals if you wish to arrange for expert trimming. Contact Brian Crowley at 364-3699.

Financial grants are available to FOBA for tree care, but we need a volunteer who can complete the grant applications on behalf of FOBA. Contact us if you have some time to devote to this very important project.

Thanks For The Memories And Friendship! Perspective of a former FOBA board member by Elizabeth Harris-Ouren

I had the privilege of serving on the FOBA board for the past five and a half years. One day back in 1999, after reading my newly arrived Avenues newsletter, I decided to go a meeting to check it out. I was hooked by the first meeting.

Over the years I've had the pleasure of working with some awesome people on several interesting and worthwhile neighborhood projects and events. I've had huge feelings of pride at what the neighborhood has been able to accomplish when folks work together on a common goal. Some examples:

- Creating a beautiful playground built out of an empty plot of land
- Planting many new trees to increase the beauty of the neighborhood
- Putting on fun events that allow neighbors to meet and enjoy each others' company
- Working with government agencies to prevent measures that threatened the charm of the neighborhood (Hetch-Hetchy right-of-way)

This past year the board lost several members when people moved out of the neighborhood (including me). My hope is that others will take their turn to contribute time and talents to the neighborhood through FOBA.

In case you didn't know, the FOBA board is totally comprised of volunteers who live in the Fair Oaks area (people who receive this newsletter) who meet once a month to plan events and discuss topics relevant to our neighborhood. It's really a great group of people! I encourage you to get involved, either as a board member or as a volunteer.

I will always cherish the friendships I have made as well as the memories of working together to help make our neighborhood such wonderful place to live! Keep up the great work! Thanks!

Playground Fundraising by Jill Kinney-Andre



Dear neighbors and friends of the playground, now that Elizabeth Harris-Ouren is no longer Playground coordinator, I find myself with rather large shoes to fill. Elizabeth did the job so gracefully. Now I must turn to you for help getting the word out about financial support for our little community playground.

Do Your Kids Play?

Out playground requires about \$4,000 a year for insurance, water, gardening, etc. The County does not provide funds for maintenance for any neighborhood parks. Our playground depends entirely on donations and volunteers. Any donation is welcome. Just two hours of volunteer time makes a difference. Contact: Jill Kinney-Andre 365-5691 or jillkin@mac.com

Get S.M.A.R.T.* at the Riekes Center!

(*Safe Motivated Aerobic Resistance Training)

- **S.M.A.R.T. = Health and Fitness Programs** for adults that make going to the gym fun, structured, unobtrusive, relaxing, and invigorating.
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3455 Edison Way
650.364.2509
www.riekes.org



Katy Saalfeld is a Registered Dietitian (RD) and Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS). She received both her Bachelors degree in Human Nutrition and Dietetics and Masters degree in Exercise Physiology from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Katy's extensive fitness background and abundantly caring personality contribute to her highly successful, effective and fun training programs designed to suit your individual needs and expectations.

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Nobody Knows Your Neighborhood Like Your Neighbor



WANTED Tile Installer

Anyone who has installed ceramic tiles, please lend a hand. We need to adhere about 120 6X6 tiles to the sandbox in the playground. Please contact Jill Kinney-Andre, 365-5691

**Here is your Avenues newsletter!
! Aquí esta su boletín Avenidas!**

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P. O. Box 4001
Menlo Park, CA 94026-4001
[Http://www.jobba.org](http://www.jobba.org)

GARAGE SALE DEBATE

The April 11th FOBA Board Meeting (see details on page 1) will be devoted to a discussion and decisions about this years neighborhood wide Garage Sale.

We have received feedback from the neighborhood ranging from “Great, this was the best ever,” to “Please don’t ever invite all those people to rampage through our neighborhood again,” to “It makes our neighborhood so messy for weeks with leftover junk.”

If you have an opinion about what you want, please join us at the Board Meeting on April 11th 6:30 pm. or email me your thoughts and wishes at art@via-soft.com, before Friday April 8th.

Volume 13 No. 1 published March 28, 2005. Avenues is published four times a year by the Fair Oaks Beautification Association in Menlo Park CA 94025 The newsletter is distributed at no charge to the entire neighborhood. This publication may be reproduced or reprinted in part or in whole with proper attribution.