



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

In this issue:

- Neighborhood Store Opens
- Solar Power in Our Neighborhood
- Road Improvement Update
- Playground Grant
- Playground Clean-up Day
- No Neighborhood-Wide Garage Sale

FOBA's Web Site: [www.foba.org](http://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  
[info@foba.org](mailto:info@foba.org)

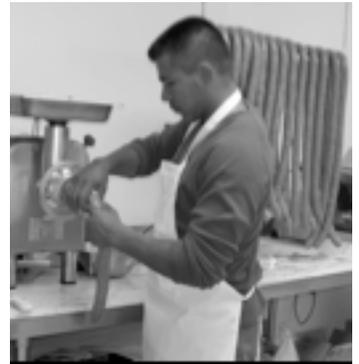
2005 FOBA Officers:  
Art McClish, President 321-6336  
Uri Sarid, Vice President  
Brian Crawley, Treasurer  
Brian Crawley, Secretary

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. We define our community 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.

## At Last! Our Neighborhood Store Opens

After months of anticipation on the part of neighbors, the Fair Oaks Market at the corner of Fair Oaks and San Benito opened in June. The store features an array of produce, meats—including fresh chorizo made on the premises, deli sandwiches, and other grocery products. Store owner Juvenal Santos says about half the items on the shelves are from Mexico and the other half are local.



Butcher Rafael Zoto makes fresh chorizo

The Fair Oaks Market is a family venture. Santos operates the store with help from his wife, Maria, his brother Adan, and his daughter, Maria. Santos, who for 20 years managed the Menlo Park restaurant, Brix (and its previous incarnations), says he will increase his offerings based on customer requests. "If there's something you'd like to see," he says, "let me know and I'll do my best to get it."



## Playground Awarded \$6,000



Great news! The Peninsula Community Foundation (PCF) recently awarded FOBA a \$6,000 grant to help cover the costs of the playground for another year. FOBA is deeply grateful to PCF for recognizing the importance of this park in our community.

As you may recall, our Fair Oaks Community Playground is supported and maintained entirely with funds raised by FOBA, either through fundraising events or donations (thanks again to those who've donated). The playground maintenance requires significant people-power and money; each year it costs approximately \$6,000 to keep the park open and safe for our community's children.

FOBA is currently redoubling its fundraising efforts in order to secure the long term health and viability of the playground. Our newest approach is to apply for grant funding. Do you understand grants? Would you be willing to spare a few hours for your community? Do you have other fundraising ideas? Brian Crowley, head of the FOBA Fundraising Committee, would love to hear from you. Brian can be reached by e-mail at [madera111@yahoo.com](mailto:madera111@yahoo.com).

Thanks to Douglas Printers on Edison Way.  
for the discounted printing rate for this  
newsletter. We appreciate the help.



# Solar Power in Our Neighborhood



If you happen to be near the North Fair Oaks Community Playground, check out the large solar panel array above the industrial buildings along Edison Way. This is the latest innovation of owner Ron Newdoll to reduce greenhouse gases and produce clean, cheap power from his buildings.

When the project is complete in September, Ron will be producing 400 kilowatts (kw) of clean electrical power from his 85,000 square foot property (four buildings). All this does not come cheap for Ron. The initial cost is \$9/watt or \$3.6 million. However, rebates and tax incentives will reduce this cost substantially. PG&E will give Ron a \$4.50/watt rebate cutting the cost in half. Tax incentives will reduce the cost by another half to bring it down to \$900,000.

Could Ron turn the meter backward and make money?. No. PG&E will not give Ron so much as a thank you if they receive more electricity from Ron then he is buying. So, his goal is to achieve 100% of E-net metering. E-net metering is producing the same amount of electricity as you consume over a period of a year. That would reduce his energy cost to zero.

Saving money is not only the reason to go solar. The solar panels will help reduce power grid brownouts during the hot summer when overall energy demand is high and the panels are maximizing their output. In addition, the power companies are polluting less because demand is less.



Ron expects the project to be finished in September with solar panels installed on all buildings. Currently, there are about 15,000 square of feet of panels in operation. The panels have a 30-year life expectancy and will provide 170 watts per panel. Ron wants to showcase his project to industry as an incentive for other industrial parks to follow his lead. Eventually, he wants to get into the business of selling solar energy installations.

Ron Newdoll has been a good Fair Oaks neighbor, granting over the land for our neighborhood playground and providing FOBA with storage space during the neighborhood garage sales. Thank you Ron!

## Jose Garcia Remodeling



- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Painting
- Tile • Brick
- Wood Fences



Free Estimates

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## Your Fair Oaks Real Estate Specialists



**Antonio Bolio**  
REALTOR  
650-224-1870  
*Hablo Espanol*



**Laura Caplan**  
REALTOR  
650-363-7900



*Nobody Knows Your Neighborhood Like Your Neighbor*

## Your ad could be here!

**Do you own a small business?**

**Do you have a service you'd like to advertise?**

Advertise in the FOBA newsletter.

- Around 1,000 families
- Targeted to Fair Oaks Area
- Help support our organization

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



## Road Improvement Update



Road work continues around our neighborhood. The following is an update from Neil Cullen, Director of Public Works in San Mateo County:

- The reconstruction of 12th Avenue is pending the completion of updated sanitary sewer facilities in the road.
- The installation of valley gutters on Fair Oaks Avenue will be done in conjunction with side street reconstruction in order to match street grades. Fair Oaks Avenue, from Edison Way to 12th Avenue, will be completed in conjunction with the reconstruction of 12th Avenue.
- 2nd Avenue is proposed to be reconstructed this summer/fall, as is 9th Avenue from Oak Drive to Edison Way.
- The unincorporated sections of Oak Drive and Placitas Avenue are proposed to be reconstructed in 2006.



If you have any questions, call Neil Cullen at 599-1421.





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**40 Scott Drive • Menlo Park, CA 94025 • 321-7900**  
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## Increased Law Enforcement Presence in Middlefield Business Area

According to Lieutenant Ken Jones, the San Mateo County Sheriff's office has recently added foot patrols in an effort to better connect with business owners and patrons on Middlefield Road. With increased contact, the goal is to improve awareness of regulations and reduce infractions. Meanwhile, if you spot a problem anywhere in our community, here are some numbers you can call:

- **Emergency Calls Only: 911**
- **Sheriff's Non-Emergency Line: 650-363-4911**
- **Graffiti Abatement Hotline: 650-599-3898**
- **Abandoned Vehicle Hotline: 650-599-7489**



## Volunteers make Playground Clean-Up a Success

Dear Neighborhood Volunteers,

Thank you for making the annual playground clean-up such a big success. We did a lot of work and we had some fun too! Here are just some of the tasks we accomplished:

- After the kids sifted the old sand, we brought in five tons of fresh sand. A BIG, BIG thanks to Lyngso for their generous donation of sand, playground bark, mulch and use of a truck.
- We replenished the bark under the swings and slide.
- We placed nearly two tons of mulch around the plants.
- We hand-washed and waxed the pirate ship and other equipment.
- A number of helpful people pulled giant weeds from the back triangle.
- After the work, we enjoyed hot dogs grilled by Dave Grason and watermelon donated by the Fair Oaks Market. Early arrivals had delicious coffee from Bettola in Palo Alto, located on Hamilton at Alma and delicious chocolate pastries donated by Jim Preston. Katie Grandy did a great job coordinating the food and drinks.



A special thanks to Wes Brinfield, Claude Godcharles, Keith Rahder for their ongoing work and dedication to the playground.

Your neighbor,

Jill Kinney-Andre

# Playground Clean-Up Day



A young volunteer wipes down the pirate ship.



Moving fresh sand to the sand box.



Grilling hot dogs.

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

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(FOBA)  
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## No Neighborhood-Wide Garage Sale this Year

As many of you know from the April issue of Avenues, from e-mails, and from signs at the playground, the subject of whether to have a community-wide garage sale this fall has been under discussion. Some neighbors like having this event while others are less enthusiastic.

One key issue was the significant level of volunteer effort required each year to coordinate the garage sale. The June FOBA meeting was selected as the deadline for making a go or no-go decision. A call was put out for volunteers, letting people know they needed to step forward if they wanted to continue this tradition. As of the June meeting, not enough volunteers had responded. Therefore, there will not be a community-wide garage sale this year.

For those who feel strongly about having a garage sale, there is always the possibility of putting one on in 2006 if enough neighbors come together to coordinate it. Remember, FOBA is an all-volunteer organization, and we depend on you to make things happen.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer for 2006 or would like to add your name to FOBA's neighborhood e-mail list, please contact Art McClish at 321-6336.