

Summer  
2012

FOBA is back!

# Avenues

FOBA is back!



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  
info@FOBAneighbors.org  
www.facebook.com/FOBA.Neighbors

**2012 FOBA Officers:**

Art McClish, President 321-6336  
Brian Crawley, Treasurer  
treasurer@FOBAneighbors.org

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

**FOBA HELP WANTED:**

- 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)
- Playground coordinator (organize quarterly playground cleanup and maintenance)
- Attorney who will volunteer time to review contracts for our new parks

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

info@FOBAneighbors.org

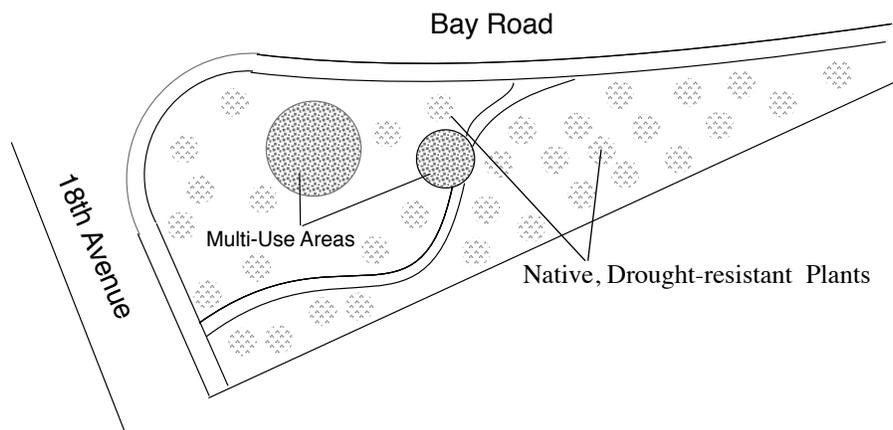
## A New Park Is Coming to the Neighborhood!

FOBA has begun a new project, the design and construction of a pocket park on the Hetch Hetchy right-of-way parcel at the corner of Bay Road and 18th Avenue. The land is owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), which has recently completed an upgrade of its Hetch Hetchy water supply pipeline in our area.

We plan a more welcoming Marsh/Bay road entrance to the neighborhood with a simple, low-maintenance landscape plan filled with native, drought-resistant plants. A local certified landscape architect has created an understated natural design (see below) and a certified landscape contractor will manage the installation.

This parcel has been a weed-filled lot for years, but through the efforts of a committed group of neighbors we hope to have the project completed this fall. The park steering committee, chaired by Sandy Stafford Cecil (14th Avenue) has been working through the permit process with SFPUC. The group has begun fundraising by contacting local businesses for support. **Your support can help make this park a reality. Please use the enclosed envelope for donations, which are tax-deductible under our 501(c)3 non-profit status.** Your donations will help fund and maintain the new park and the children’s playground at the other end of the FOBA neighborhood.

**Our parks are not supported or maintained by any government entity.**



**Pocket Park Plan**

## **Groups of Interest to FOBA Neighbors**

Several pockets within the neighborhood have formed groups that facilitate communication about a variety of issues. There are two neighborhood watch groups, one in the northern section and one in the southern. In addition, an online Yahoo group was started so that neighbors have a forum for communicating about a wide variety of issues within the FOBA boundaries. For additional information about each group and how to get involved, please contact them through their information provided below.

### **Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N)**

A neighborhood watch started in late 2009 after a rash of burglaries, N2N covers Marsh Road to 14th Avenue and from the railroad tracks up the avenues across Fair Oaks to the Atherton border. There are currently 225 member homes. If you live within this area and would like to become a member of N2N send your name, address, email and telephone number to N2NGroup1@gmail.com. Members also have access to the N2N Google group, the main avenue for sharing information, in particular relating to criminal activity.

### **Neighborhood Watch – 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and part of Oak Drive**

Started in 2011 by interested neighbors on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and part of Oak Drive, this watch group also focuses its efforts on addressing criminal activity on their streets. If you live in this area and want to get involved, contact: Sylvi R. at 650-862-4097 or Ron Garbez at rongarbez@sbcglobal.net.

Note: If you live on a street that is currently not covered by a neighborhood watch program but are interested in being part of one, please send an email to [info@FOBAneighbors.org](mailto:info@FOBAneighbors.org) and put “neighborhood watch” in the subject line. Let us know your address. If we get several people from an area, we will send out an email with information to help organize a new group.

### **Yahoo Internet Forum**

To help our neighborhood/community of unincorporated Menlo Park stay connected and in communication on important issues, a Yahoo Groups neighborhood email was formed several months ago and has been growing. We discuss matters having to do with North Fair Oaks. Here is the link for the home page where you can read the postings and where you can also sign on and be part of these discussions: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NFOcommunity/>. To receive emails of postings and to be able to post messages yourself, click on the button "Join this group."

## **Bay Area Catering Company to Relocate Catering Operation**

### **Owners Plan to Open Local Café**

The bright green trucks have become a fixture in our neighborhood in recent months, but soon we may see fewer of them. And the once matching green building has already been painted a neutral beige. Once Redwood City issues the expected permits, the main operations for Bay Area Catering and Events (BACE) will move to a new location. For some of our neighbors this will be a welcome change.

Shortly after BACE moved into what was once a corner grocery store at San Benito and Fair Oaks, the County received complaints about parking, late night deliveries, food odors wafting to nearby homes, and a constant hum from the industrial cooking fan. In June, a community meeting was held with neighbors, BACE owners Sandra and Javier Pereznegron, and the building owner Jaime González. Sandra and Javier listened to suggestions and agreed to seek solutions for reducing the noise and parking problems. They also announced their planned move to Redwood City. By early 2013, they intend to turn the Fair Oaks location into a café or delicatessen-type place where neighbors can drop by for a cup of coffee, a meal, or even pick up take-out for dinner. Some of us can hardly wait. For updates on this story, check FOBA's Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/FOBA.Neighbors>



## North Fair Oaks Gets its Playground Back



When we built our playground and park on the SFPUC right-of-way, we knew someday there would be a need to upgrade the pipeline system. But nobody knew exactly when. The long-anticipated improvement project finally happened. SFPUC installed a large new pipe to carry drinking water from Hetch Hetchy near Yosemite to Bay Area residents. Disruption started in our neighborhood in 2010. After many delays, restoration is finally complete.

We are happy to report that the playground has now reopened. Now, we can have a party! This will be a playground celebration and fundraising event, much like those we've had in the past. Our playground and park **are not** supported or maintained by the SFPUC or by any government entity. **We, the area residents, are the ones who take care of our park.**

Please join us for our Playground Fun Day and Fundraiser on Sunday October 7, 11 am to 3 pm, at the playground, Fair Oaks at 10th and Edison. There will be food, drinks, and fun. Can you help with this event? Call Laura Caplan at 650-363-7900 or email [laura@lauracaplan.com](mailto:laura@lauracaplan.com)

We have missed our playground. You will see some changes. The first thing many will notice is that the tile entry walls, which used to frame the entrance to the park, have been moved. The sandbox was also rotated and relocated slightly. The tiles throughout the park were handmade by families who participated in building and maintaining our park. But the tile entry walls and the sandbox were right on top of where the new pipeline needed to be installed. They had to be moved. SFPUC, doubtful they would withstand the move without being destroyed, had a photographer take pictures of every individual tile in case they were damaged. The good news is that the construction crews were able to preserve nearly all the tiles.



Playground during Pipeline Installation



Playground Today

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

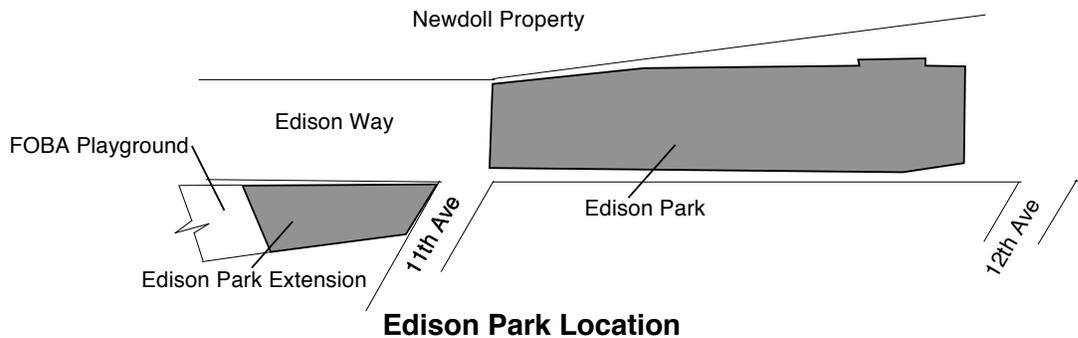
NON PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
FAIR OAKS  
BEAUTIFICATION  
ASSOCIATION

## Here is your Avenues newsletter!

or current resident

### Generous Neighbor Will Improve Open Space

Ron Newdollar, owner of Edison Technology Park, is planning to add a park area for walking and relaxing. This park will start where the FOBA playground ends, south on Edison Way to 12th Avenue in the area of the recently completed water pipeline installation in the Hetch Hetchy right-of-way. This new park area will include landscaping, benches and pathways. Edison Technology Park is partnering with FOBA which will be sponsoring this new park area under its permit. Edison Technology Park will make the improvements to the area and maintain the area. In the past the right-of-way has been used as a dumping ground for unwanted household items and trash. Edison Technology Park will keep the area clean for the benefit of the entire neighborhood. The insurance and the plans are in place; the permit has been applied for, and now all we are waiting for is the go-ahead from the SFPUC to break ground.



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