



AVENUES

NEWSLETTER OF THE FAIR OAKS BEAUTIFICATION ASSOCIATION (FOBA)
AN ALL-VOLUNTEER, NON-PROFIT 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION

Neighbors Step Up!

The November 2020 edition of *Avenues* (available at www.fobaneighbors.org) laid out a concerning picture for the prospective future of the Pocket Park, the Playground, and FOBA itself.

A plea went out to neighbors: Without a significant change in its financial and people-power prospects, FOBA and its two parks might have to shut down.



The response was as amazing as it was heartening. People showed up at FOBA meetings to help fill all ten board member slots. Committees were formed for three key topics: communications, trees, and the Playground.

Financially, neighbors contributed enough to ensure FOBA's viability as it pushes for basic financial support from San Mateo County. In a true it-takes-a-village spirit, much has already been accomplished as detailed elsewhere in this newsletter.

It was a close call in November.

The response from neighbors indicates that most residents appreciate the things that make our little corner of the Bay Area special — our trees, our two public spaces, and the cohesiveness of community that makes all of that possible.

Nice going, neighbors!

And of course, we continue to welcome volunteers.

Email info@fobaneighbors.org to join the fun!



Fundraising Update

Donations accelerated dramatically in response to last fall's *Avenues* newsletter.

One generous neighbor offered a \$10,000 matching donation challenge that took place in December.

The neighborhood more than met this challenge, raising over \$27,000!

These funds:

1. allowed for reopening of the Playground;
2. enabled long-deferred landscaping at both parks;
3. gave FOBA the means to continue operating.

To put the fundraising figure in perspective: It takes \$18k - \$30k per year to run FOBA and the two parks.

While this is great news for keeping our parks open this year, we hope that renewed awareness of FOBA's funding situation will prompt more neighbors to turn their donations into a regular tradition.

In the meantime, FOBA is redoubling efforts to secure long term funding from San Mateo County for basic operational costs of our two parks.

We'll have more information in future newsletters.

FOBA Meetings

2nd Monday of the month 7:30 - 9:00 pm

All are welcome! Meetings are currently virtual.

Email for Zoom invite

info@fobaneighbors.org

Contact Us

Mail FOBA
PO Box 4001
Menlo Park CA 94026-4001

Web www.fobaneighbors.org

Email info@fobaneighbors.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/FOBA.Neighbors

FOBA Board

- Laura Caplan
- Chris Edgette
- Aileen Lin
- Steve Loew
- Art McClish
- Jon Mosby
- Mark Reden
- Marlayna Reden
- Tej Ravindra
- Elena Tovar

Playground Coordinator

Aileen Lin

Pocket Park Coordinator

Jon & Carolyn Mosby

Tree Coordinator

Tej Ravindra



Who is FOBA?

- Fair Oaks Beautification Association (FOBA) is a group of neighbors who created and maintain our neighborhood playground and the Pocket Park at 18th & Bay St. These are not city or county owned parks.
- We are all volunteers! We rely on your participation and contributions.
- FOBA is a non-profit 501c3 so your donations are tax deductible.

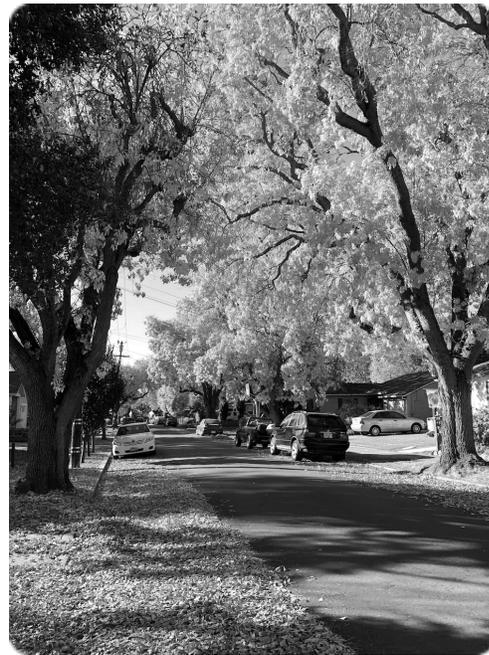
Fall Tree Planting

Did you know that in its early days, FOBA planted, or led the planting of, over 400 trees in the neighborhood?

Our tree-canopied streets are one reason people love living here.

With the recent surge of new volunteers, FOBA has formed a tree committee to focus on our neighborhood's woody friends.

Our first major planned undertaking is to replant trees in



some of FOBA's empty traffic devices, specifically the ten empty chicanes on 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10 Ave (at Fair Oaks).

Outreach will begin soon to those living nearby to answer questions, specify tree types, and discuss care needs for the new trees.

Volunteers will be needed in the fall, so plan to come out for a fun day growing our neighborhood forest.

If you'd like to help with the replanting project or would like to be a general "tree ambassador" for the neighborhood, send an email with subject line "TREES" to info@FOBaneighbors.org.

Landscaping Restored

Because of your support, two long delayed landscape restoration projects are now underway.

In the Pocket Park, new plantings are growing happily in the street-side area on 18th Avenue that had been covered in plastic for the last two years.



At the Playground, new turf has been installed in the main grass area (replacing weeds that invaded the area during the shutdown) and new bark mulch covers the surrounding area behind the play structures. Lookin' good!



Organizing an Event?

Having a gathering larger than ten people at the Playground or Pocket Park?

Please talk to us about scheduling and making an appropriate donation: info@fobaneighbors.org



Dumbarton Rail Corridor Project

The San Mateo County Transit District, which has purchased the rail corridor bordering our neighborhood to the North, held another community update meeting February 23.

Attendees were informed that Facebook has backed out of its funding commitment for the cross-bay rail project.

Facebook will complete the pre-environmental project study it had started and will deliver a report some time this year.

Several alternative styles of transport are still being studied. Actual project funding has not been determined and a timeline will not be available until

after the pre-environmental project study is completed. There has been discussion of building a new “transit center” near the intersection of Bay and Marsh Roads (near Starbucks).



This project will likely have a significant effect on the neighborhood.

On one hand, it may provide increased mass transit options for residents. On the other, it may increase noise and road traffic levels as the now rarely-used Dumbarton Corridor tracks see a dramatic increase in train traffic.

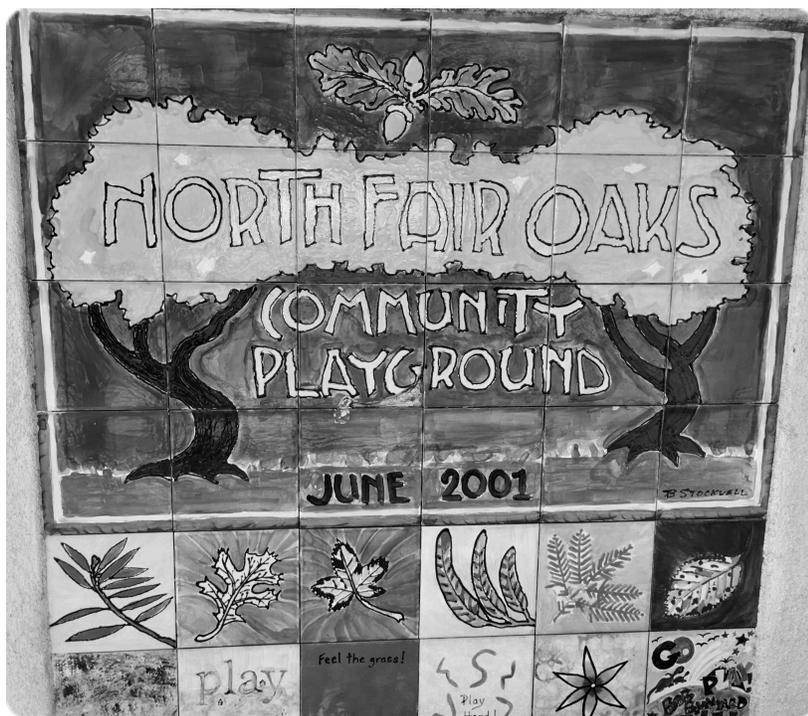
If you'd like to help FOBA track this project, send an email with subject line “DUMBARTON” to info@fobaneighbors.org.

Maps and other project details can be obtained from SamTrans at: www.samtrans.com/dumbarton.

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Here is your AVENUES newsletter!



Neighbors Rock!

Your response enables
Playground reopening!

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