

THE PARK

In this Newsletter:

- President's message and update
- First Block Party!
- City Updates - Historic Preservation , leaf blowers
- Trees & Islands: Renewal Sparks Get-Together!
- Turkey Trot - Thanksgiving, Nov 27, 9am
- Annual General Meeting will be held in February

HELLO, NEIGHBOR!

As the leaves turn and the evenings take on that crisp October feel, I'm delighted to send a warm hello from your San Mateo Park Neighborhood Association (SMPNA). Thank you for your support and engagement—through thoughtful dialogue, volunteer hours, and generous donations. You are what makes San Mateo Park such a special place to call home.

We kicked off summer with a **neighborhood-wide Block Party** that truly felt like the Park at its best. Families from across the neighborhood gathered by the San Mateo Park School field—kids played kickball and raced through an obstacle course, while neighbors enjoyed free ice cream and easy conversation. Many of us met new neighbors for the first time and reconnected with old friends. Our heartfelt thanks to San Mateo

Park School, the San Mateo Police, and the San Mateo City Council for their support and collaboration. A very special thank you to our board members Bob Baumann and Brittney Aitken for organizing the day. We're also grateful to everyone who brought donations—those items went directly to the Park School. Thank you for coming, enjoying, and contributing!

The SMPNA is dedicated to preserving the beauty, character and heritage of the San Mateo Park neighborhood while fostering a thriving and connected community.

Beyond celebrations, we've made tangible progress **caring for our shared landscape**. This summer, neighbors initiated—and SMPNA funded and organized—an island restoration at Warren & Dorchester. Working with the San Mateo City Parks Department, we cleared invasive ivy and refreshed the island with wood-chip ground cover, resulting in a safer, cleaner, and more beautiful space. Local neighbors then celebrated with a block party of their own. Projects like this prove that when neighbors and SMPNA partner together, great things happen.

We continue to invest in the Park's legacy street trees and islands. Thanks to your generous donations, SMPNA is funding supplemental watering and ongoing maintenance to preserve the character that makes

our neighborhood unique. Thank you to everyone who reports issues, waters young trees, and treats our green spaces with care.

We've also **modernized how we communicate**. Thanks to board members Michael Coulson and Alicia Woodfall-Jones, the SMPNA website and donation process have

...cont'd on page 2



President's message cont'd...

been overhauled. At sanmateopark.org, you'll find guidance on how to engage with SMPNA, who to contact at the City for maintenance requests, and a new channel to help you track City Council topics that may affect our neighborhood—such as the City's historic preservation RFP process, proposed cell-tower locations, and wildfire preparedness information. It's never been easier to stay informed and get involved.

Looking ahead, our focus remains clear: **build community and keep San Mateo Park a great place to live**. In the months to come, we'll continue neighborhood beautification and tree care, share timely updates on City matters, and plan opportunities to gather—large and small—so neighbors can keep meeting, talking, and pitching in together.

How you can help:

- Stay informed: Visit the updated website and sign up for email updates using the QR code at right
- Volunteer: From island care to events, there's a role for every schedule. We'd love to hear from you!
- Support: Donations—of time or funds—directly power tree care, communication tools, and community events.



NOTE: Our Annual General Meeting, normally held in Q4, is being moved to February 11, from 6:30-8pm.

Here's to a wonderful fall season in the Park—I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood.

With gratitude,
Chris Kusber, SMPNA President
ckusber@sanmateopark.org

board@sanmateopark.org



CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

KEY ISSUES FACING SAN MATEO RESIDENTS

San Mateo City and County officials are currently grappling with several major infrastructure, funding, and quality-of-life concerns. These issues range from regional funding shortfalls and local redevelopment projects to neighborhood-level debates on noise and preservation.

County Funding and City Redevelopment

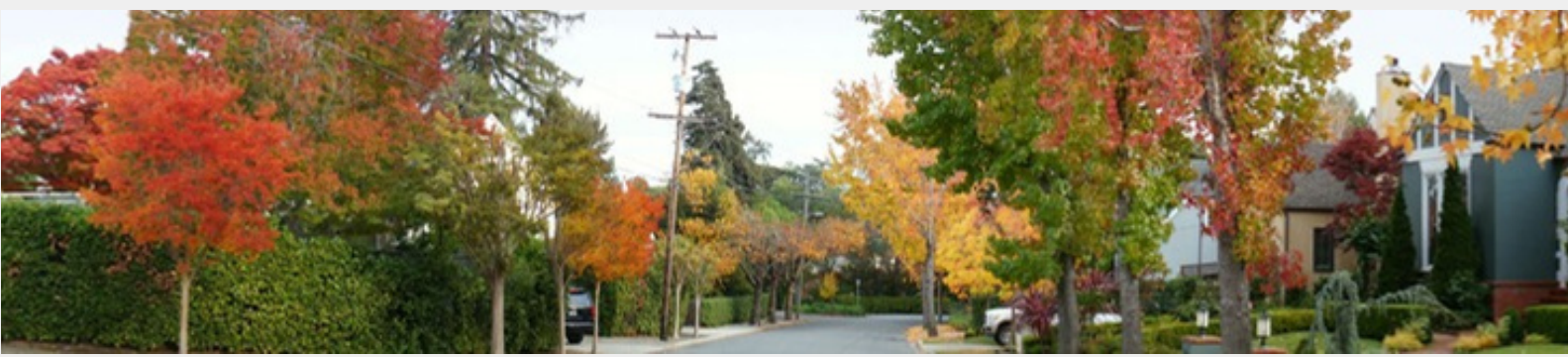
San Mateo County has filed a lawsuit regarding an alleged \$38 million shortfall in funds owed by the State of California, tied to the Vehicle License Fee Adjustment Amount (VLFAA). Local leaders warn this deficit could risk core services such as public safety, health care, and affordable housing.

Concurrently, the City of San Mateo is seeing proposals to convert underused commercial properties into housing due to rising office vacancy rates. Recent examples include plans for approximately 225 residential units at GoPro's former Clearview Business Park, and a proposal for about 847 units converting a strip mall. These shifts prompt discussions concerning traffic, infrastructure, school capacity, and neighborhood character.

Historic Preservation: Defining San Mateo's Future

One of the most debated topics is the City's plan to advance historic preservation efforts. The City has hired Rincon Consultants to conduct outreach and education session with residents and several webinars have been held. The effort seeks to develop a new historic preservation ordinance, prepare a citywide historic context statement, and identify new historic districts. Since our historic San Mateo Park community could be affected by the results of this work, we have reached out to the City and offered to host an information session in our community to discuss this topic further. We will keep you posted on this and encourage all to learn more about this key issue.

www.sanmateopark.org



City Council Updates cont'd...

For updates on Historic Preservation, please check our website sanmateopark.org, as well as the City's webpage: <https://cityofsanmateo.org/4877/Historic-Policy-Update-Effort>

Leaf Blowers: Noise and Sustainability

During their October 6th meeting, the San Mateo City Council officially backed a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers, joining nearby cities of Menlo Park and Burlingame. Until the ordinance is finalized, older gas models are still allowed. The city offers rebates to encourage a switch to electric blowers – with around 100 rebates issued since 2021, averaging \$3,276 a year.

Leaf blower use continues to be restricted to 8am – 5pm on weekdays and 9am–5pm on Saturdays, with no Sunday use in all residential areas. Most councilmembers supported extending these hours citywide, though some exceptions may apply. Councilmember Danielle Cwirko-Godycki favors uniform hours everywhere, calling it “cleaner and simpler.”

If adopted early next year as expected, enforcement would begin within nine months, starting with warnings before fines of \$100–\$500. Both landscapers and property owners could be cited for violations if gas blowers are used, or if any used during restricted times. A final draft ordinance will return to the council in the coming months for final approval.

Addressing Local Traffic Concerns

The Cities of San Mateo and Burlingame recently held a joint public meeting to discuss resident concerns regarding speeding on Barroilhet Avenue. This road serves as a shared border between the cities. During the

meeting, there was strong support for installing speed cushions west of Occidental Avenue, and residents requested consideration of traffic calming measures extending east toward El Camino Real. Staff committed to collecting additional speed data east of Occidental as both cities coordinate next steps.

How to Follow Up

Residents are encouraged to stay informed and provide input on these critical topics.

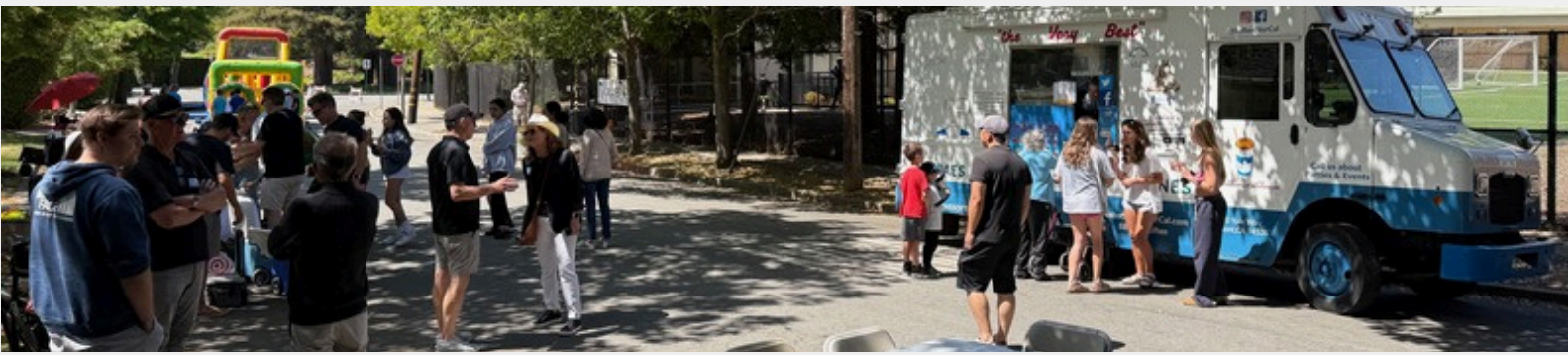
- **Public Meetings:** Agendas and meeting documents for the City Council and commissions are posted on the city's Public Meeting Portal.
- **Historic Preservation:** Residents can let City Council members know how they feel via email or by attending the information sessions and possibly one in our neighborhood.
- **Share Perspectives:** Residents can submit public comment or letters ahead of City Council meetings on issues like leaf blower regulations, especially concerning impacts on landscaping businesses or renters.

Time to Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet

Older adults are likely to have accumulated prescription and over-the-counter drugs that have expired or are no longer used. Leaving these drugs in drawers or boxes around the house is not a safe practice.

Once a year, the U.S. Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) sponsors a **National Take Back Day**. You can find a participating site which will take your unneeded drugs at <https://www.dea.gov/takebackday> or you can take your drugs to the Elks Lodge at 229 West 20th Ave in San Mateo between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm on October 25.

(This information is brought to you by the San Mateo Age-Friendly Coalition. Contact agefriendlysanmateo@gmail.com to learn more)



SUMMER BLOCK PARTY

Our first annual block party was a huge hit! The street came alive with music from the DJ, free Mister Softee cones, and a bounce house that was bouncing nonstop. The kids showed off their energy in a spirited game of kickball that lasted hours while adults mingled, laughed, and got to know new neighbors. In true community spirit, an unsponsored keg even rolled in—because nothing says “togetherness” like the surprise delivery of beer!

Attendance was even better than we dreamed, and the perfect weather made it all the more enjoyable. Thanks to everyone who joined in to make it such a memorable day.



We are already looking forward to next year! If you have ideas about what you would like to see at our block party, send us an email! (board@sanmateopark.org)





TREES & ISLANDS

ISLAND MAKEOVER INSPIRES NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING

Earlier this year, several residents approached your SMPNA about improving one of our historic island medians, where ivy had become overgrown and was attracting rodents (see image below for the “before” shot, and all the ivy). With their input and enthusiasm, SMPNA partnered with the City of San Mateo to remove the ivy and install clean, low-maintenance wood chip ground cover (see image at right).



We're pleased to share that the project is now complete—and it looks fantastic! Even more inspiring was what followed: to celebrate the improved space, **neighbors organized a potluck gathering right on the island**. A city permit was obtained, tables were set, and nearly every household on the block participated. It was a warm and welcoming event that reminded us how shared spaces can bring people together.

This project was made possible by contributions from residents like you. Your donations to SMPNA fund projects that enhance our neighborhood's beauty, safety, and sense of community. We're grateful for your support.

We encourage neighbors to continue thinking creatively about to we improve our beautiful community—and we would love to help. If you want to see this kind of work continue, have ideas for improvements, or want to get involved, join SMPNA today and be a part of what makes San Mateo Park so special.

John Adams, Welcome Committee Chair
jadams@sanmateopark.org





BOARD UPDATES

This year we are pushing our Annual General Meeting from Q4 to February. Please register your email online at sanmateopark.org and watch out for the announcement.

TREASURER’S UPDATE

I’m pleased to report that you can now donate via Zelle using your phone to scan the QR code at right (you will have to choose your bank and then sign-in). Zelle eliminates payment fees, so SMPNA benefits from the entire donation.



Also:

- Our corporate matching program has taken off and is already responsible for nearly \$1000 in matched donations. We have now registered with Benevity and Cybergrants. Please check to see if your employer will help before you donate!
- The percentage of donations coming in via the website / PayPal continues to rise - now 41%. We are continually improving the website and our donation platform and encourage you to use it!

Alicia Woodfall-Jones, Treasurer
awoodfalljones@sanmateopark.org

ANNUAL SAN MATEO PARK TURKEY TROT

When: Thanksgiving Day, 9am
Where: Warren and Occidental

Please register below and kindly bring canned food items that will be donated to the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry.

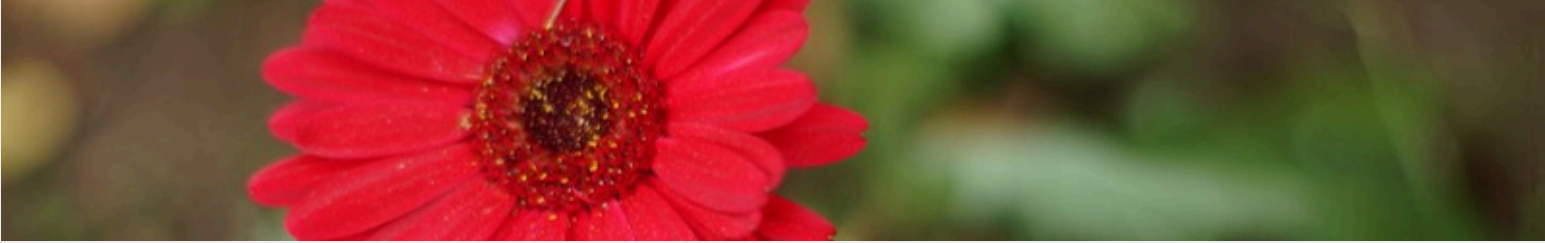
Medals will be given to first place adult and first place child in each age group!

Bring your kids and join your neighbors on our second annual Turkey Trot around San Mateo Park. We will leave at 9am on Thanksgiving Day. Scan the QR code below to sign up and let us know you’re coming.

YOUR SAN MATEO PARK BOARD

President:	Chris Kusber
Secretary:	Emily Gonsenheim
Treasurer:	Alicia Woodfall-Jones
Communications:	Michael Coulson
Social Committee Chair:	Bob Baumann
Welcome Committee Chair:	John Adams
Neighborhood Outreach Chair:	Brittney Aitken
Civic Liaison Chair:	David Long
Trees & Islands Committee Chair:	Erin Calihan





THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

(CURRENT TO END AUG 2025)

PARK CONSERVATORS / TREE FUND

\$1000+

Bryant, Laura
Feakins, Jeffie
French, Glendon/Gayle
Gupta, Ved
Isaacs-Mailliard, James/Page
Matt/Chen, Joe/Hillary
McCook/McWilliams, Michael/Vicki
Wen/Li, Chih-Po
Zucker, Todd/Linda

PARK PATRONS

\$200+

Adams, John/Melinda	McDonald, Rachel
Baumann, Bob/Alison	McGinty, Scott
Bland, Ronald and Elaina	McMorrow, Timothy
Blumberg, Bruce	McNutt, Lee
Brooks, Marilee	Mendez, John/Amalia
Chapman, Paul/Janet	O'Connor, Thomas/Elizabeth
Cohen, Carol/Michael	Op den Kamp, Frans
Cole, Carole	Orphanopoulous, Jennie
Colker, David/Alexis	Poms, Lane
Coulson, Adrienne/Michael	Shult, Douglas/Lee Gardner
De Grosz, Kurt/Julia	Stanghellini, Cathy/Jack
Feakins, Jeffie	Stock, Al/Irene
Fischbach, Robert/Angela	Stodgel, Tom/Joanne
French, Glendon/Gayle	Tapadia, Pavan
Gonsenheim, Eric/Emily	Thibaut, Mary
Greenough, Mark/Martha	Tompkins, Tamara
Jaremko, Mark	Tuthill, Gordon B
Jones/Woodfall-Jones, Stephen/Alicia	Wen/Li, Chih-Po
Kusber, Christopher	Willard/Gaffney, David/Laura
Machado, Vincent	Yang, William
Matt/Chen, Joe/Hillary	
Mayer, Patty	
McCook/McWilliams, Michael/Vicki	

MCLAREN MEMBERS

\$100

Adam, Horst/Mary	Marcus, Yosef/Esther
Agorio, Inger	Maury, Andrew/Courtney
Balestrieri, David/Mary	McLaughlin, Jean
Berube, Colleen	McMorrow, Timothy
Bottoms, Kimberly	Melvin, Greg/Heather
Carboni, Victor/Gayle	O'Keefe, James/Linda
Carella/Larsen, Paul/Anne	Posch, Roger/Rosemary
Carlson, Thomas/Brenda	Prezeau, Rodney/Vicky
Catlin, Timothy/Karen	Pritchard, David
Dannels, Bruce/Carla	Regan, Frank/Christine
Engler, Barbara	Reinertson, Ray/Cynthia
Figueroa, Amy/Enrique	Siegfried, Luke
Fleming, Michael/Sumita	Stayner/Cross, Tony/Beth
Frappier, Michael	Steele, Michael/Regina
Gillen, Alexandra	Tatemichi, Kim
Gotelli, Linda	Tighe, Craig
Howarth, Kenneth/Patricia	Tong, Gordon
Jordan, Joanne/Richard	Weeks, Robert/LeeAnn
Li, Yi	White, William/Barbara
Lin/Levan, Lance/Jared	Winters, Megan

PARK SUPPORTERS

\$50

Fitzpatrick, Tom/Madalyn
Inglesias, Luis/Kathi
James, Jacqueline
Mc Cubbin, A/Miek
Vierra, Sara



San Mateo Park
Neighborhood Assn.



DONATE NOW

SAN MATEO PARK 2025 DONATIONS

Go to sanmateopark.org/donate to use Zelle, or scan the QR code at right for all other methods.

Prefer a check? Mail this form with a check payable to San Mateo Park Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 1271, San Mateo CA 94401. **We now support corporate matching through Benevity & Cybergrants - check with your employer!**



DONATE ONLINE

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

SELECT DONATION LEVEL

☐ **\$1000+ PARK CONSERVATORS**
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE "TREE FUND"

☐ **\$200 MCLAREN PATRON**

☐ **\$100 MCLAREN MEMBER**

☐ **\$50 PARK SUPPORTER**

OTHER AMOUNT \$ _____

Donations are voluntary, and not a condition of membership in the organization. Donations are tax deductible, Fed EIN 56-2631949.

THANK YOUR FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF SAN MATEO PARK!

SMPNA board members and
2025 Block Party organizers
Bob Baumann & Brittney Aitken



2nd Annual Turkey Trot
9am Thanksgiving Day
Warren & Occidental

Annual General Meeting
6:30-8pm February 11
Park School

SAVE THE DATES

