



MONTA LOMA NEWS

Monta Loma Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting and Board Election

Thursday, June 5, 7:00 p.m.
Monta Loma School Multipurpose Room

- Chat with and vote on the MLNA Board candidates.
- Hear garden designer (and neighbor) Astrid Gaiser talk about replacing our lawns and using drought-tolerant plantings.
- Learn about Google's plans for the Mayfield (formerly HP) property.



7:00 p.m.	Doors open for setup, sign-in, and refreshments. Chat with the board candidates, both new and continuing.
7:15 p.m.	President's update
7:30 p.m.	Presentation of candidates and voting
7:45 p.m.	Program

MLNA Board Election

Please participate in the election on June 5 to vote on your board members. If you like what we're doing, come and vote for us. If not, replace any or all of us. The current board members (listed on page 2) have agreed to continue to serve if reelected, but all positions are open so do feel free to volunteer to run. The officers' positions are described on the Monta Loma website, www.montaloma.org, under MLNA.

We also welcome hearing from anyone interested in joining the Board as an at-large member. If you appreciate and enjoy living in our neighborhood, this is a good way to give back.

Nominations may be made from the floor at the election (with the consent of the nominee), but to place your name on the printed ballot, contact Alice Carter at albee1956@gmail.com or 625-1813 **by 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28.**

If you need an absentee ballot, contact Alice **by 6 p.m. on Friday, May 30.**

MLNA board candidate

At press time, there was only one candidate, Danielle Parish. She says, "We have lived on Victory Avenue for the past ten years, and I would love to volunteer for the board. Previously, I served for five years on the Parks and Recreation Commission for the City of Millbrae and very much enjoyed being involved in my local community."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW:

June 5: MLNA Annual Meeting and Election (p. 1)

June 14: CERT Second Saturday (p. 2)

August 24: MLNA Ice Cream Social (p. 3)

October 2: City/Neighborhood meeting (p. 2)



Landscape conversion rebates have increased to \$2 per square foot for converting high water-using landscape to qualifying low water-using landscape. The increase is temporary, through September 30, and restrictions apply.

Visit <http://www.valleywater.org/programs/waterconservation.aspx> or call the Water Conservation Hotline at 408-630-2554.

MLNA Board Members

President

Estuardo Montufar
president@montaloma.org

First Vice President

Bill Cranston
mountshadow1@comcast.net

Second Vice President

Jennifer Coogan
coogan@gmail.com

Treasurer

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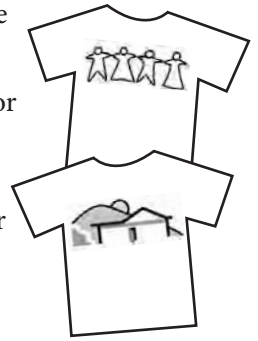
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Monta Loma Tee Shirts

Show your pride in Monta Loma by wearing a Monta Loma tee shirt. You can order shirts with the new house-and-hill logo at the annual meeting or until late July. The once-a-year order will be submitted in early August so we'll have them in time for the Ice Cream Social. We will order some shirts for sale at the ICS, but the only way to ensure having a shirt in your size and preferred style and color is to order it in advance. Ordering instructions will be posted on www.montaloma.org in June, or contact Marilyn at marilyn@gildea.com or 940-1606.

The few remaining shirts with the dancing-people logo will be for sale at clearance prices at the annual meeting on June 5. Once they're gone, they are a collector's item.



CERT Saturday Session Saturday, June 7

You can check out Monta Loma's CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) at any of our Saturday Sessions on the second Saturday of the month, between 9 and 11 a.m. at the trailer next to Monta Loma School. The next session is on **Saturday, June 7**. The next ones are on July 12 and August 9. Questions? Contact Tim Slattery at tim_slattery@usa.net or 964-6389.

One never knows when having some emergency training will come in handy. We encourage you to take the city's free CERT course, whether or not you join our neighborhood group. The next series begins on June 12, and the fall course on September 17. A link to info is on the CERT page at www.montaloma.org, under MLNA.

Conserve water outdoors

Though young trees need a deep watering (10 gallons) near the trunk at least every two weeks during their first five years, our lawns need much less water — and less often — than many are getting. Deep watering once a week or every ten days is probably sufficient. Setting your sprinkler timer for the predawn hours greatly reduces evaporation from sun and wind, so more water soaks in.

There has been much interest shown on the mln email list in converting lawns to drought-resistant landscaping. Visit www.valleywater.org for information about lawn-conversion rebates, and attend the MLNA annual meeting on June 5 to hear garden designer Astrid Gaiser present ideas on drought-tolerant plants and landscaping.

Leadership Mountain View taking applications

"Leadership Mountain View is where good people become great leaders," agree the graduates of this course on how the city works. If you contemplate becoming more involved in the community, consider taking the course this year. It begins in September but spaces fill months earlier. Contact Alicia Crank at alicia@chambermv.org or visit www.chambermv.org/leadership.

City boards and commissions

Having served on one or more city boards or commissions is considered by some to be a prerequisite for city council candidates. Or perhaps you just want to help make Mountain View better. These groups provide advice in their areas of expertise to the City Council. Being part of one gives you a first-hand look at matters that usually come before the Council, but at the point where (sometimes substantial) changes can be made.

It's wise to attend some meetings of the board that interests you before applying when a vacancy occurs. Applicants who don't do this are rarely selected to serve. Go to www.mountainview.gov/city_council/bcc/ and use the list on the left for descriptions.

City plans neighborhood meeting on October 2

Every other year three city council members plus staff members from most of the city departments (including police and planning) come to update us on their plans and respond to our questions. This year's meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening, October 2. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

Prevent warm-weather burglaries

By Tom Purcell, Monta Loma Neighborhood Watch Captain

There were several attempted burglaries in the neighborhood last summer. Unfortunately, some attempts were successful, usually enabled by an unlocked door or window, so keep these — and your gate, police advise — locked. Adjustable window locks are available at OSH, or ask the staff to cut wooden dowels to the lengths you need. To determine the lengths, open the windows or doors five inches and measure the distance from the back of the sliding pane to the frame.

The police want you to call if you see anything that seems suspicious. For emergencies and in-progress incidents, call 911. For non-emergencies, suspicious circumstances, or crimes that have already occurred, call 903-6395. The MVPD recommends putting this number in your cell phone, on speed dial or in favorites. See the Neighborhood Watch page at www.montaloma.org (under MLNA) for more information, or email me at MontaLomaNBC@gmail.com.

Middlefield crosswalk project approved

By Bill Cranston, MLNA Board

On March 25 the City Council gave final approval to improve the dangerous crossing at West Middlefield/Thaddeus/Independence. The project includes “Installation of In-Roadway Warning Lights, LED-enhanced warning signs, pedestrian push-buttons, improved signage and striping, modifications to median islands for pedestrian refuge, and ADA curb ramps.”

This approval is the culmination of years of appeals by residents of both Monta Loma and the Rock Street area. The project is being funded by a Transportation Development Act (TDA) grant of \$180,000. TDA funds are yearly allocations the City receives from the State to fund projects to improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Early last year the Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) recommended that the 2013/2014 funds be held and combined with the 2014/2015 funds to support a more substantial project.

The tactic worked: After reviews and approval of the project by BPAC and the Council Transportation Committee, and an extended discussion by the entire City Council, city staff selected this project as the highest priority and the final approval passed unanimously. Thanks go to Monta Loma residents and to our nearby neighbors, especially Rock Street resident and BPAC member Greg Unangst, for their persistence and support.

To view a schematic of the improvements go to <http://laserfiche.mountainview.gov/Weblink/0/doc/68945/Page1.aspx> and scroll down to page 4. We expect to see construction underway later this year. Unfortunately, this intersection does not meet the criteria for the traffic light or four-way stop that many asked for.

Editor's note: The warning lights should improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, but crossing from Independence will remain dangerous, so I don't drive home that way.

Ice Cream Social; volunteer now

The MLNA Ice Cream Social, our biggest event of the year, is scheduled for Sunday, August 24, 3 to 5 p.m. It will feature the usual free ice cream and toppings, plus entertainment for the kids and displays of neighborhood information. It's all designed to entice you to Monta Loma Park to meet your neighbors, which is its real purpose. The school board and city council candidates will be invited, too.

We always gets great neighborhood response for help for the day of the event, but we need help in advance. We also welcome volunteers for activities. Do you juggle? Perform magic tricks? Please sign up at the June 5 MLNA election meeting or email eventcoordinator@montaloma.org.

Neighborhood Resources

Community Emergency Response Team

(CERT) Tim Slattery
tim_slattery@usa.net

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

Tom Purcell
MontaLomaNBC@gmail.com

Activities Committee

Alice Carter
albee1956@gmail.com

Parents' Network and Babysitting Co-op

Verity Chase

MLN Neighborhood Email List

mln@yahoo.com
List owner: Peggy Manor
mamm@pobox.com
To get only official announcements, subscribe at www.montaloma.org.

MLNA Websites

www.montaloma.org
Referrals:
mlna.wikispot.org
Webmaster: Jeff Leonard
webmaster@montaloma.org

Thanks to Our Volunteers!

Thanks to those who delivered the March newsletter: John Canata, Henry Chace, Vannina Champenois, Donna Clarke, Jim & Alice Cochran, Martha Elderon, Harry Gordon, Grant & Birgit Grundler, Maria Harnoto, Cookie & Chuck Henderson, Isabella Hill, Paul Kostka, Vickie Lee, Joan MacDonald, Vania Mendonca, Leane Reelfs, Melba Reiling, and Pat Young.

We welcome more volunteers, even those who can help only occasionally. It's a good way to get to know your neighborhood and get an hour's exercise. Contact the editor to learn more.

Keep in touch with law enforcement

By Tom Purcell, Monta Loma Neighborhood Watch Captain

The recent mountain-lion incident in Rengstorff Park reminds us that Nixle and the other social websites mentioned on the Neighborhood Watch page at www.montaloma.org are the best ways to stay informed about public safety information in our area.

CERT participates in city-sponsored class

by Tim Slattery, Monta Loma CERT leader

Monta Loma's CERT was one of the three teams invited to explain how their command post is set up and run at a city-sponsored refresher class in March. The purpose was to describe the differences in how these CERTs operate, and why they have chosen their methods. We brought some of our materials for demonstration, and also simulated setting up our command post. The class had over 50 attendees, which showed the interest of the new CERT groups in getting ideas for their operation. The presentations were well received, and many groups said they found good ideas to use in their own CERT.

Spring Fling a success

A large crowd of neighbors enjoyed our Spring Fling on March 8. The adults chatted with long-time and new neighbors, and also with representatives of our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), the police, Neighborhood Watch, and the MV Mediation Program. The fourth-grade Girl Scout troop showed what they'd learned about energy conservation. A member of the Audubon Society brought a bird exhibit, and a representative from the Santa Clara Valley Water District brought water-conservation information.

So that parents could chat, the children were entertained with face painting, balloon creations, cotton candy, and a crafts project. The event was held in conjunction with Monta Loma School's PTA's very successful used-book sale, and many attendees said how much they enjoyed and appreciated both events. Thanks to everyone who contributed and attended.

Monta Loma Elementary wins honor

Our neighborhood school was one of only 25 in the county awarded a Distinguished School designation. The statewide program recognizes schools that have made progress in narrowing the achievement gap. Principal Angela Lyon said, "We made significant gains over the last three years with all students, but especially with our English learners, Latino subgroup, and socioeconomically disadvantaged students. We are thrilled for our staff, students, and community!"

Little Free Library

One is coming soon to 254 Lassen Avenue, thanks to Alice Carter. The Little Free Library is an enclosed box at which anyone may pick up a book (or two) and bring books to share. See littlefreelibrary.org for more information.



Keep cool this summer

By Wouter Suverkropp

To keep your home cooler: Keep the sun off windows and sliding doors by hanging outdoor blinds or old bed sheets from the eaves. Leave windows open at night if you can safely do so (see the "Prevent warm-weather burglaries" article). Open windows and doors very early in the morning to let the cool air in. Use a fan or run your bathroom fan(s) (or kitchen fan if it leads to outside) to pull in cool air. Close the house before it's warmer outside than in; this may be only an hour after sunrise. Turn off non-essential lights and electronics.

To keep yourself cooler: Run your ceiling fan on slow; moving air can make you feel 10 degrees cooler. Visit air-conditioned libraries and stores in the afternoon.

To lower your energy bill: Set the temperature of your air conditioner a few degrees higher and keep filters clean. Limit the use of AC between noon and 7 p.m. Replace your older appliances with Energy Star models. Plant deciduous trees, which will keep your home cool in summer but let in the sun's warmth in winter. Insulate your roof, and/or have it painted white. Insulate the walls and floor. Install double-paned windows. Check PG&E.com for rebates.

Fresh & Easy — Jocelyn is back

Jocelyn has been brought back as the manager of our Fresh & Easy, which is struggling to stay in business. The store is a real neighborhood convenience and asset, so your support is welcome.

Plan a block party

The six block parties held last year were greatly enjoyed. Now it's time to set the date for your street's 2014 party. It's a great way to meet your neighbors, build the camaraderie that helps keep our neighborhood safe, and compile a list of each other's contact information to share. To promote these goals, the MLNA will help pay for your party. For how-to information, go to www.montaloma.org and click on Block Parties under Events. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "printable version."

Our Neighborhood Watch Captain, Tom Purcell on Alvin, would be happy to attend your party to meet your neighbors and discuss security. Contact Tom at MontaLomaNBC@gmail.com or 224-5110. To invite a MVPD officer, contact Sgt. Saul Jaeger at 903-6345 or saul.jaeger@mountainview.gov. To invite the city council members email citycouncil@mountainview.gov.

Get connected

Among the advantages of living in Monta Loma are the neighborhood email list, website, and referral wiki. The mln email list is for residents only and is monitored by its owner, Peggy Manor, as a community service. You'll find news affecting our neighborhood, recommendations and warnings, items for sale, and free stuff. It is not a discussion or chat list.


Join the mln email list via the MLN website, at www.montaloma.org. To get only official announcements from the Board, scroll to the bottom of the MLN Email Lists page.

The website also has a welcome letter, information about neighborhood events, groups such as CERT, the MLN Referral Wiki, links to the city, and more.




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Newcomer Welcome Packet

If you or a neighbor (whether an owner or renter) has lived here less than two years and would like a packet of local information, contact Jenny Coogan at 963-9811 or coogan@gmail.com.

New neighbor? Check our website!

Click on "New Neighbor?" under MLNA at www.montaloma.org for a page of information about our neighborhood.

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Keeping Monta Loma Clean and Green

Rats: Visit <http://www.sccgov.org/sites/vector/pests/Pages/rats.aspx> for information on controlling these pests.

Walkable sidewalks: If your greenery is hampering passersby, please trim it back, and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Paint disposal: Go to <http://www.paintcare.org/locator/> for a list of stores accepting leftover paint.

Hazardous waste: Visit www.hhw.org or call 408-299-7300 to make an appointment to drop off your household hazardous waste and e-waste. You might invite neighbors to help fill your trunk



MOBILE LIBRARY SCHEDULE

The Mobile Library stops at Monta Loma School every Friday from 4:15 to 5:00. It will also continue its monthly stops on Jane at Fay on June 13, July 11, and August 8, from 9:45 to 10:15. For information or special requests, call 526-7029 or email Mobile.Library@mountainview.gov. Go to <http://goo.gl/Stv8HW> for information on the summer reading program.

Birding in the Monta Loma Neighborhood

By Dotty Calabrese

Why keep cats indoors?

I love cats. I have shared my home with eleven over the years. Nine were indoor/outdoor cats and two were strays that lived outdoors. I had them spayed/neutered and immunized. Although well fed, most of them brought me gifts of mice, birds, and lizards. Though I have been an avid birder for over thirty years, I never considered keeping my cats indoors. However, I have finally learned the reasons to do so.

1. There are more than 90 million pet cats in the U.S. Most are indoor/outdoor. Every year, millions of cats are killed or maimed by cars by being hit, run over, or crawling into the engine compartment to sleep. My first cat was run over; my fifth was hit and killed.
2. Serious injuries or death are common from catfights or attacks by dogs or wild animals such as raccoons and coyotes. My third cat was killed by a larger animal.
3. Most veterinarians and animal shelters have treated cats that have been shot, stabbed, or set on fire. I don't know whether this happened to three of my cats that disappeared without a trace.
4. Outdoor cats are exposed to fleas and often to ticks, mites, feline leukemia, distemper, and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). Vaccines are important, but not 100% effective. Thousands die from exposure to poisons and pesticides. All but my last three had fleas, despite flea collars, powders, vacuuming, flea combing, and bombing the house. My sixth died of feline leukemia.
5. The average lifespan of an outdoor cat is two to five years, while an indoor cat often lives seventeen years or more.
6. Each year cats kill hundreds of millions of birds and fully three times as many small mammals. Even cats wearing bells hunt, maim, and kill.

Birds and other wildlife are under stress from development, habitat destruction, global warming, and introduced predators. If I again share my home with a cat, it will be kept indoors.

Here are some ways to keep your feline happy indoors:

- * Provide a viewing perch near a window to allow your cat to monitor the outdoors.
- * Place a birdfeeder where it's visible; it can be "kitty TV."
- * Play with your cat daily.
- * Provide paper bags and cardboard boxes for entertainment while you are away.
- * Plant kitty grass in pots, so your cat can graze.
- * Keep litter boxes clean.

This information is from the American Bird Conservancy's website article "Cats Indoors! The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats." Visit www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/index.html for more information.

Email your bird questions to me at dottycala@aol.com.



Ask Mountain View

Using Ask Mountain View on the city's website is a very effective way to get a response to any inquiry or request. Click on the words "Ask Mountain View" on the right side of the home page, www.mountainview.gov. If you can't find the appropriate topic, someone at City Hall will forward your message to the right person.

If you're not already signed up with Ask Mountain View, you will be asked to provide contact information for a response, or to click on Remain Anonymous. If you are registered, remember to log in first.



Oh Brother, now **EVERYONE** wants to sell bananas!

As most of you know, the Milk Pail is a Postage Stamp sized business. We've been lucky, we have survived, some say prospered, in a very tough industry that has seen a growing number of new "players".

Some of the new competitors give a new meaning to "BIG"!

A guy in Arkansas decides to stack 'em deep and stack 'em high and now we have Sam's Walmart as the number one grocery company in the United States! Not to be outdone, Target is re-inventing itself into a partial supermarket. Over in England, Tesco is the third largest retailer in the World, and they decide to try a new concept in California called Fresh & Easy Markets. Trader Joe's is owned by a German family that recently was acknowledged as the 7th wealthiest family in the WORLD.

Another new company to the Bay Area is funded by a Hedge Fund that has \$ 82,000,000,000 of investor monies. (That's Billion !)

Next time you need Bananas, remember that the little Monkeys that run your Local Neighborhood Markets are good folk, hard working, and maybe even your neighbors. The Gorillas probably don't live in your neighborhood, they might not even live in your state, or even your country!

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Nextdoor neighborhoods website

Nextdoor.com is a private social network that enables members to post messages to nearby neighborhoods, too, if they choose. You can select which types of messages to receive, such as police alerts. At press time, montaloma.nextdoor.com had 164 members and 1,204 nearby neighbors.

Prevent mail theft

For safety, deposit your outgoing mail in one of these collection boxes: Alvin at Victory, 11:00 a.m. and Thompson at Laura; noon (both Monday/Saturday) or at Independence at Leghorn, 4:00 Monday/Friday.

Bike Helmets

It's not unusual to see a parent bike riding with a youngster, but often the parent is not wearing a helmet. The message being taught is that "Helmets are kid stuff." Also often seen are helmets that aren't tightly buckled on. When the rider goes flying, the helmet does, too.

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Monta Loma Sales Update!!

Monta Loma MLS sales Jan. 1, 2013 through Oct.15, 2013

- ♦ 13 MLS sales
- ♦ High Sales Price \$1,225,000
- ♦ Low Sales Price \$798,000
- ♦ Ave. list Price: \$904,991
- ♦ Avg. Sales Price: \$1,039,923
- ♦ Average Sq. Ft.: 1346
- ♦ Average \$/sq. ft.: \$789

For more details, contact

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