Mountain View, California JUNE 2021



HELLO NEIGHBORS!

After more than a year of lock-down, neighbors come out to say hello at garage sales, music performances, block parties and more. Join the MLNA Board to bring your ideas to life for post-COVID community connections.

Annual neighborhood meeting to be held virtually on June 16 at 7:00 p.m. Agenda includes questions ansered by Mountain View's Mayor, Ellen Kamei, and MLNA Board elections.

Neighborhood Events Are on the Horizon, but We Also Need Your Volunteer Support

By Tricia DelGaudio, MLNA Board President

As California aims to "fully" reopen the economy on June 15, many of us are starting to slowly re-engage with our previous lives and in many cases reenter society. This large sweeping gesture brings both excitement but also caution to many, myself included. While many individuals have been vaccinated, others have chosen not to or were not able to, and I know that the new "normal" will not be the same.

In order to get our neighborhood back to normal, I want to share that as a neighborhood association we have made the decision to hold neighborhood-association-sponsored outdoor events this summer including block parties. We expect to hold the annual ice cream social on Sunday September 5.

I personally have been quite strict these past 15 months, flexing situational risk mitigation decisions I never imagined to protect my family and others. The MLNA is working to add attention to social distancing and sanitation to keep these beloved events safe for all, which may make them look or function a bit differently.

These events, ongoing relationships with the city, school board and neighbors are dependent on the efforts of those who step forward and volunteer. We have empty board positions and need volunteers to run in our annual election.

We are holding our annual meeting virtually this year on June 16. I hope that you'll join the meeting and send your questions in advance. I'll see many of you at block parties and the ice cream social later this summer. Be well and continue to stay safe.



Photo credit: Baidra Murphy Monta Loma loves our volunteers! With fun events planned for the summer including the Ice Cream Social, we need you to join the team and contribute how you can.

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If interested in contributing, please e-mail the editor for content ideas. Submissions for relevant cartoons also welcome.

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NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATES

Open Opportunities to Serve your Neighborhood

You are invited to volunteer to be part of our Monta Loma Neighborhood Association Board. Whether your aspirations are to get involved with local politics or you love coming up with ways to build community, serving on the board is a great way to contribute. Join at the annual meeting on June 16 at 7:00 p.m. (see page 5 for details on how to join, run, and vote)

Open Positions for 2021-2022:

- First Vice President
- Member at Large
- Or if you would like to run against any of the sitting members, please notify the board to have your name added to the ballot.

We welcome hearing from anyone who is interested in serving on the board either now or in the future, or tell us if you'd like to nominate a neighbor, and we can reach out. Descriptions of the positions are at montaloma.org under MLNA.

Additional non-elected opportunities to help the neighborhood:

- Newsletter Layout Designer (urgent need)
- Events Organization or Events support
- Community Service Liaison / Organization
- Event Photographer

If interested in any of these roles, please reach out to board@montaloma.org. We greatly appreciate the support of our neighbors no matter how big or small the role is that you have time to fill.

May's Neighborhood Garage Sale is a Huge Success

By Marilyn Gildea

Our spring social event was a neighborhood garage sale. More than 50 households registered to hold a sale or set out their free items in their driveway on Saturday, May 1. Many others also posted their addresses and items on the MLN email list, or just set out their no-longer-needed items in their driveways.

Next-day comments included "We walked around for hours, viewing goods, but mostly chatting. It was wonderful to see old friends and meet new people."

"We met new neighbors, and it was fun. I got rid of things I never use."

"The best emotional day in a very long time!"



Monta Loma Park Fencing Working Group Updates

By Jessica Chohan and Hillary Miller

May 29 Update: The Monta Loma Perimeter Fencing Working Group was disbanded by the MVWSD on May 27. The District proposes to work with the City to reconfigure the park to meet the needs of the school and public for daily use by all parties. The project is expected to take years to complete.

The proposal to reimagine the park is welcomed by the Monta Loma community representatives, although they could not in good conscience support the plan to disband the working group without a solidified replacement process for addressing the interests of the community. At time of writing, no formal commitment had been made by the City or District to meet community access needs, though verbal commitment by MVWSD was provided during the final meeting. In addition, there is no agreement on community access to greenspace in the interim while a reimagination plan is developed.

MVWSD plans to agendize the Monta Loma Project at Board meetings on June 3 (present proposal) and June 17 (Trustees vote). All neighbors are strongly encouraged to attend both meetings on Zoom. Meeting details can be found 72 hours prior at bit.ly/3fP64Za.

The MLN representatives underscore the importance to continue sharing your thoughts by emailing MV City Council and Parks & Rec leaders (email addresses at bit.ly/3eZerSy). This is a great time to thank elected officials and City Staff for their support and efforts thus far, and remind them of the community rights and needs for the park in addition to our interest in school security. Though progress has been made, there are no guarantees yet on the outcome. Continued efforts from neighbors remain critical until a satisfacgtory plan is reached.

Monta Loma School News: From the Principal

By Trisha Lee, Principal, Monta Loma Elementary School

Happy spring! This is an exciting time of year on our school campus as our students prepare to be promoted to the next grade, including on to middle school.

On May 19th, the Mountain View Whisman School District held a community meeting to hear more about potential new lighting on school campuses to improve safety as part of Measure T. If you would like to provide input, please reach out to Principal Lee at tlee@mvwsd.



org with any feedback. Information on construction projects is at tinyurl.com/MVWSDConstruction. Receive future updates about these Measure T projects at tinyurl.com/MVWSDMeasureT. You can provide feedback on plans at tinyurl.com/MLPerimeterSafety.

As requested by the community working group and community members, our staff has been collecting data regarding the incidents of non-school members accessing our campus and fields, during school business hours since we began hybrid learning in mid-March. You can review that data at tinyurl.com/MLMay-Data. You will notice that the number of incidents has significantly decreased since students initially returned to campus. We thank you all for being mindful of our school programs and learning space needs. Our staff appreciates your help as this allows them to focus on our students and their growth.

The 2020-2021 Monta Loma Elementary school year comes to an end on June 4th. Our school site is hosting our district's summer school programs through July 16th and our school campus and fields will be utilized for our student-centered programming. We will return to school for our 2021-2022 school year which will begin on August 11th. Until then, be safe, be well, and take care!

Neighborhood Resources

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Tim Slattery, (650) 964-6389 CERT@montaloma.org

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

Tom Purcell, (650) 224-5110 MontaLomaNBC@gmail.com

Traffic/Parking Liaison

John Canata, (650) 269-5646 trafficliaison@montaloma.org

MLN E-mail List

To subscribe, send a message with subject 'help' to mln-request@lists. montaloma.org Contact moderator: mln-owner@lists.montaloma.org

MLNA Websites

www.montaloma.org

Referrals: localwiki.org/montaloma Webmaster: Viêt Hoà Dinh webmaster@montaloma.org



Thanks to those who delivered the last newsletter:

Susan Jee, Joan Macdonald, Silke Gurlich, Vania Mendonca, John Thomas, Diane McCleary, Raymond White, John Canata, Maria Harnoto, Dave Erskine, Paul Kostka, Andy Coe, Dave McCleary, Chuck & Cookie Henderson, Herb Perry, Martha Elderon, Grant & Birgit Grundler, Isabella Hill, Leane Reelfs, Linda Powers

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 Linda Powers at lindapowers.007@gmail. com to learn more.

Traffic & Parking Resources

By John Canata, MLNA Traffic and Parking Liaison

We are working with the city of Mountain View and Google X staff to improve safety along Mayfield Avenue between Whitney and Central Expressway.

A few contacts for your reference:

- Abandoned vehicle (more than 3 days): call (650) 903-6358.
- Police enforcement at a specific intersection: call (650) 903-6146.
- Other traffic concerns: trafficliaison@montaloma.org.

Gear up for Summer Events in MLN!

Toss a frisbee in the park while wearing your Monta Loma t-shirt and cap for the ultimate in neighborhood pride. Stock up on Monta Loma gear including mugs, hats, frisbees, and

pens. See them at montaloma.org/mln-logo-items and contact Tricia at president@montaloma.org to buy. If a t-shirt is on your wish list, visit out the offerings at montaloma.org/shirts, or contact Marilyn at marilyn@gildea.com or 650-940-1606 to buy.





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Neighbors on Thaddeus, Emmons, and Richard Court enjoy their block party in 2019

Block Parties are Back!

By Tom Purcell, Monta Loma Neighborhood Watch Captain, & Marilyn Gildea, MLNA Board Communications

We look forward to holding block parties again safely this summer and fall. 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.

It's wise to set the date for your street's party now. Note that to block off a street you must obtain a permit and allow at least 30 days for it to be processed. For how-to information, including how to file for the permit, get reimbursed, and borrow orange safety cones and Road Closed signs, go to montaloma.org and click on Block Parties under Events. A "printable version" of the sign-in sheet and road-closed signs are available for download from this page.

Our Neighborhood Watch Captain, Tom Purcell on Alvin, would be happy to visit your party to meet your neighbors and discuss security. Contact Tom at MontaLomaNBC@gmail.com.



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Vote for the 2021-22 Monta Loma Neighborhood Association Board of Directors Candidates: Vote for each office. All candidates are running uncontested, but you may write in an alternative. yes nο President: Tricia DelGaudio **Online Voting Instructions:** Event Link: https://app.sli.do/event/ibnnjwt2 Second Vice President: Nirvana Nwokidu Event Name: MLNA Annual Meeting 2021 Treasurer: Andre Valente Event Code: #MLNA-2021 Secretary: Baidra Murphy Cast your vote on June 16 by 8:00 p.m. Member-at-Large: Marilyn Gildea Paper-Ballot Voting Instructions: Place your completed ballot in a small envelope and Member-at-Large: Heather Schoell seal it. Don't write anything on this envelope. This envelope preserves the anonymity of your vote and com-Write in or Volunteer (Include position and contact info): ments. It will be opened by the elections committee. Open positions are First Vice President and Member-at-large Place the small envelope in another envelope, and write your name and address on this outer envelope. This lets us know you've voted. Seal the envelope. Return the ballot to the mail box at 2552 Mardell. Do not ring the bell or knock. Paper ballot closes on June 16 by 4 p.m. and will be added to the online vote at the June 16 meeting. Any problems getting to the drop-off location, please call or email the board and we will find someone to assist you. (650) 691-5258 board@montaloma.org

CERT Drill Planned for Early June

By Tim Slattery, CERT Leader

Monta Loma CERT will conduct a drill in early June. This will be one of the first drills we have conducted since the start of COVID. We are still in the planning stages, but it is likely to be on June 12th.

In the event of a real emergency, the first task of CERT will be to survey the neighborhood to determine the extent of damage. The observations are reported to the city Office of Emergency Services (OES). The OES uses that information to determine where to deploy its resources and, if justified, to request assistance from Santa Clara County, and on up the line to state and federal resources. Knowing what is wrong is the fundamental first step to improving the situation. CERT also tracks the damage assessment information so that we can deploy our own resources such as First aid teams or Search and Rescue teams to try to help our neighbors.

For our drill, we will run a damage assessment survey along with practicing the procedures to record the observations, and report them to our command post via radio. At the command post, the incidents are recorded on a map of the neighborhood, and the list of incidents is consolidated to transmit to the OES.

During the drill you may see our members walking around



Monta Loma CERT volunteers at the 2019 Ice Cream Social: John Thomas, Andrea Thomas, Tim Slattery, and Jim Cochran. Photo credit: Baidra Murphy

the neighborhood in green CERT vests, with hard hats or red CERT baseball caps. Feel free to say hi and ask questions.

Does this sound interesting? Consider joining CERT. City CERT classes are suspended until the county health orders change, but you don't need to complete the class to join Monta Loma CERT. Contact Tim Slattery at CERT@montaloma.org.

HELPFUL HINTS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Keeping Monta Loma Clean and Green

Water Conservation:

- California is expected to hit a mega-drought year due to exceedingly low rainfall over the last year.
- Do your part to save water by checking your sprinklers.
- More details from the City here: https://tinyurl/mlncnsrv

Walkable Sidewalks:

- Please keep weeds under control, especially those nasty foxtails that get into our pets' toes, ears, and noses. Sweep sidewalks after mowing weeds.
- Please trim shrubs back to the full width of the sidewalk and to a height of seven feet, as req'd by city code.
- Keep sidewalks clear of debris, especially after rain, for the safety of pedestrians.

Street sweeping:

 Due to shelter-in-place rules, street sweeping has been reduced to 1 time per month, and parking restrictions are not currently enforced. Link here in case this changes in the coming month: https://www.mountainview.gov/depts/ pw/transport/schedule.asp

Dogs:

- Always pick up dog messes deposited at the Monta Loma Park fields. Dogs are not allowed on fields when school is in session, including during summer.
- Pick up droppings from yards.
- Please don't deposit doggie bags in neighbors' trash cans after they've been emptied.
- Incontinent dogs should be walked in the gutter, not on sidewalks.

What goes in which bin: Visit mvrecycle.org

Repair Cafe:

 The Repair Café has successfully gone virtual. To learn about upcoming events, join its mailing list e-mail at RepairCafeMV@gmail.com.

Moving out? Go to HHW.org or call (408) 299-7300 for a list of household hazardous waste collection options. *Note: Hazardous waste drop-off is currently closed.*

Moving in? If you found unwanted household chemicals in your new house, visit or call HHW to find nearby household hazardous waste drop-off locations.

For Your New Neighbors

Look for the "New to Monta Loma?" link under MLNA at montaloma.org, or share a copy of this newsletter with your new neighbors.

Don't Ignore the Check Engine Light

By Leane Reelfs, The Car Gal at Helming's Automotive

Some people call it the gas cap light. Some call it the warning light. It's the "Check Engine Light" (CEL) or Malfunction Indicator Light (MIL). Basically, it comes on to let you know there is a problem with your car's engine, transmission, or emission control system. The light often comes on after



you get gas and don't tighten the gas cap when done, so the system will sense a large evap leak (gas emissions). The CEL could come on because your catalytic converters aren't working efficiently, or your oxygen sensors are failing, or you have a random misfire and your spark plugs need to be replaced...it could be on for thousands of reasons. Some of them take time to diagnose and some of them are easy, but it is important to have it checked out because if you ignore it, other issues could occur, but you won't be aware of it because you are used to the light being on. Some people have code readers to see what the problem is or they go to a parts store to have the codes read. Whatever you do, don't clear the codes, because they are important for your mechanic to see to help diagnose the problem.

One tip: if your CEL is on when you go to a Smog Check Station, you will automatically fail, so save some money and hassle and get that problem solved first.

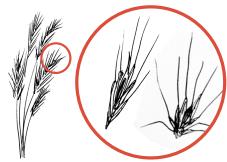
Additionally, if the CEL is on, your car is not running optimally and could be running in limp mode. If the CEL is flashing, pull over immediately to avoid engine damage.

Pandemic Puppy? Watch out for Foxtails!

Foxtails are proliferating in the neighborhood and are a hazard to pets and wildlife. The barbed seeds can lodge themselves into an animal's paws, get inhaled into their noses and even travel through the body causing pain and injury, requiring costly surgery for removal.

Dog owners are advised to keep dogs on a tight leash away from yards with foxtails, keep fur between toes trimmed and check if your dog is licking its feet. The sooner the foxtail is identified and removed, the less likely to cause issues.

Please pull out the plants when possible. If you must mow, bag for disposal, and always sweep the sidewalk clear of remaining debris.



Mini Parks Near Monta Loma Add Variety

By Heather Schoell

Opened in late 2020, Wyandotte Park is a walk away from Monta Loma and gives families an alternative play area that has a geology theme, perfect for little explorers.

A little trail with sculptural roosters winds through the park, which also has a small play structure, boulders for climbing and a rock abacus.

Another mini-park, Heritage Park, just off Rengstorff between Middlefield and Old Middlefield is home to a relocated historic immigrant house and an 80 year old windmill. But the highlight of the park is the demonstration garden, full of greens, vegetables and herbs. In the back corner you can watch bees zooming out of their hives, landing in the pollinator gardens nearby.









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NEIGHBORHOOD FOODIES

Monta Loma Summers are Ripe for New Recipes—Submit Yours Today!

By Heather Schoell

Hardly a day goes by on the MLN email list without a request for or offer of food items, many home-grown, homemade, unique, or generous, leading one to believe that we have a good number of foodies in this corner of town. The second most (unscientifically proven) common post is about gardening tips requested and offered, leading one to believe that we have a number of green thumbs and backyard farmers as well.

So I challenge you—make, bake, cook, grill, or compose your favorite recipe with Monta Loma ingredients - be it something unusual scored from the email list, overstock from your neighbor's Costco trip, or the best zucchini bread recipe for someone with an over productive zucchini plant. Share it with newsletter@montaloma.org along with a photo of your final product (and the recipe if you're willing to share!) and we'll feature our collective culinary escapades in next month's newsletter. Even better if you make your Monta Loma specialty for your block party!

Ready, set, MAKE!



Going to the block party but didn't have time to cook? Try this recipe for a conversation "starter."











One More Boba Tea Review

By Jo Chun-Wood

We are happy customers and wanted to share that we have been enjoying a new boba/bubble tea place that opened up across from the San Antonio train station. The tea is delicious and has many options including non-dairy milk options and there are also non-caffeinated beverages. There are also a few very tasty food items offered—a ground pork and rice dish, tea eggs, and egg waffles (sweet).

We were happy to find something within walking distance from Monta Loma. Hope we can support this small business!

Here is their website with menu—you can also pre-order items.

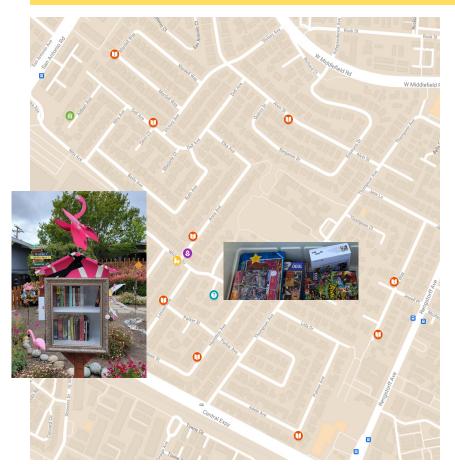
https://www.instagram.com/onemorebobatea

2101 Showers Dr., Mountain View, CA 94040

> Jo and her family enjoy walks over to One More Boba Tea for their boba tea fix



MONTA LOMA FUN & GAMES



Monta Loma Loves Little Libraries

It's hard to go on a walk in the neighborhood without coming across a Little Free Library. There are currently nine libraries, and part of the joy is finding them as you stroll around the neighborhood. In addition to book libraries, we have a puzzle library, a seed library, a food pantry, and a poetry garden accepting poetry "donations."

Our first library is on Lassen, started by previous resident, Alice Hazelgrove in 2014. This is one of a few in the neighborhood that have been successfully handed down from one resident to the next. Some libraries are for kids books, while others are more general. You will even discover a little bit about the neighbors in the area by the types of books in the local little library.



Play Neighborhood Bingo. Share some Photos. Win Frisbees.

- Use the bingo card as you walk around the neighborhood.
- Take photos of the things you find.
- Get BINGO (5 in a row).
- E-mail five of the best photos* with a pic of your completed card to newsletter@montaloma.org.
- Get a Monta Loma frisbee for some park fun.**

*By sharing your photos with us, you are allowing us to post on social media, the MLN website and in the newsletter. **While quantities last.

Kids of all ages!

Submit your art, jokes, or games to newsletter@montaloma.org

| Pickup Truck | Turquoise House | Congrats Graduate Sign | Puzzle Library | California Poppies |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| House with a red door | Little Free Food Pantry | Garden Bench | Garden Gong | Play Structure |
| Artichoke Plant | Fruit Tree | FREE | Stuffed Animal in a Window | Chalk Art |
| Sign Supporting the Park | Self Driving Car | Seed Pod | For Sale Sign | Baseball Game |
| Pink Flowers | House Under Construction | Basketball Hoop | Matching cars in driveway | Squirrel |

AROUND THE BLOCK

Observing Wildlife Around Our Home

By Antoine Picard on Diablo Ave

Our adventure in electronic wildlife observation started quite accidentally. My wife and I always enjoyed watching wildlife from laughing at the antics of juvenile raccoons outside our dorm in college to observing a wolf pack in Yellow-

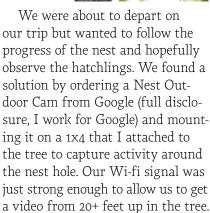
stone National Park. But we never thought animal watching would follow us home.

In April 2019, we were about to go out of town for a few days when my wife noticed, way up in our "city" tree, a new hole had appeared.

We knew it hadn't been made by a drill despite its perfectly round shape. We soon saw the culprit: a beautiful woodpecker who was making a nest. After many photos and some web searching, we identified it as a Nuttall's Woodpecker.

His excavation work was quite extensive as demonstrated by the widespread sawdust that accumulated on the car parked below.

Soon his efforts were rewarded by a lovely female woodpecker who moved into the nest that he had created and laid some eggs.



Thanks to this setup, we were able to keep track of the birds' routine over the next several weeks. We watched the

parents transition from incubating the eggs to a rather intensive feeding routine. At first the hatchlings remained invisible to the camera, we only knew they were there because of the loud chirping when the









parents approached the nest. Soon, they became less shy and gave us a peek at how they looked as they peered out of the nest while impatiently awaiting their parents' return.

By the end of May, the hatchlings were ready to leave the nest and we watched them venture out (See the video at https://youtu.be/zpFHm2HF10M). We were sad to find the nest eventually empty, particularly because we had read that woodpeckers make new nests every year so we anticipated that was the last time we had seen them.

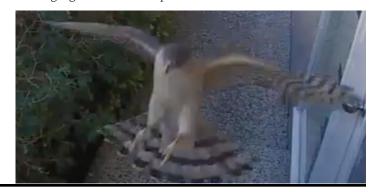
Imagine our surprise come Spring 2020 to find a bluebird investigating the digs left behind by the woodpecker.

He ended up moving in with his partner and I got back on the ladder to install the nest cam again. They went through the same process of incubation followed by feeding that the woodpeckers went through but I was happy to find that they had a more varied diet, including taking care of some unwanted pests:



Eventually, the nest cam paid off again and we were able to observe the hatchlings as they got fed, grew and, in turn, left the nest too.

The nest cam was such a hit for us that we ended up getting a couple more to place around the house and they've helped us observe other more discreet visitors. Our biggest surprise came back in March 2021 when our camera caught a hawk flying by our main door to land on our fence. We shared the image on the neighborhood email list as well as with some friends who are ornithologists. Opinions vary as to whether it was a Sharp-shinned hawk or a Cooper's hawk. It appears that the may difference between the two is size which is hard to judge from the video still. Either way, it was a gorgeous and unexpected visit.



Perhaps a bit more mundane but surprising by their boldness were the nighttime visits of a large raccoon who sauntered lazily across our driveway.





A hungry skunk came to check our main door for any stray pest in need of clean up. Skunks like to eat beetles, crickets, grubs, grasshoppers, mice, rats and moles so we welcome their work in our backyard.

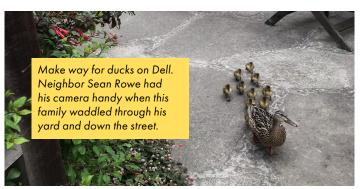
To wrap up, I wanted to mention another wildlife interaction that happened during our pandemic year though it was not security camera-based. In the middle of the tomatoseason last summer, we were concerned that our plants were being attacked by pests. Because tomato hornworms glow under UV light, I went out at night with a UV flashlight to check them over. Finding no hornworms, I decided to shine the flashlight around the backyard to see if anything unexpected would shine and I was shocked to see a large form glowing along our fence. I had seen opossums around Mountain View before but didn't realize that they were (a)

in our backyard and (b) fluorescent. Thankfully, it decided to "play possum" which gave me time to go back in and grab my camera to take this photo by the light of my flashlight.



Opossums are one of only three mammals who are known to have biofluorescence and it's a relatively recent discovery. Scientists are still unsure as to why they put on such a show.

This certainly amounts to a much more varied menagerie than I realized lived around our house. So keep a sharp eye (or lens) around your house; you never who else might be hanging around.







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