

MONTA LOMA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

FRESH STARTS IN MLN

We hope that 2022 will be the year that we can again meet each other in person, connect with new neighbors, and reconnect with old friends.

Start clearing out your garage in advance of the Monta Loma garage sale the first Saturday in May, consider volunteering for a Monta Loma Neighborhood Association board position, and plan your garden for pollinators, fresh veggies, and/or water-wise savings.

Welcome New Monta Loma Neighbors!

By the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association Board

While we've all been laying low, staying safe, and working remotely, the neighborhood has continued to see some turnover. We've said goodbye to old neighbors whom we will miss, and we've welcomed new neighbors onto our blocks. It hasn't been the easiest time to settle into a new neighborhood with many people keeping to their close circles, so we encourage anyone with a new neighbor to drop a note of introduction in the mail slot and share this link to the new-neighbor welcome kit.

www.montaloma.org/mlna/new-neighbor

A great way to get to know your neighbors is to participate in and volunteer for the many neighborhood activities throughout the year.

The first event of the spring to look forward to is the **neighborhood garage sale**. We encourage neighbors to use this yearly opportunity to purge their "treasures" and pass them along to others. Some are happy to earn a little extra cash, some will give most away for free, and others will exchange their goods for token amounts that will get passed along to a charity. And many people use this day as an opportunity to visit the neighbors and have a chat.

Another way to get to know your neighborhood is to volunteer to **distribute the neighborhood newsletter**. Linda Powers coordinates volunteers, and you can contact her if

you're willing to help out next issue. It's a short walk around a section of the neighborhood, dropping off newsletters at front doors. Contact lindapowers.007@gmail.com

If gardening is your thing, the **Monta Loma Neighborhood Garden Club** meets the third Saturday of the month, and gives neighbors a chance to visit others' gardens and learn about what grows in our unique microclimate. Email Karla Valente (klvalente@yahoo.com) for more information or to be added to the group email list.

As warmer months roll around, be on the lookout for a block party on your street, or take the initiative and make it happen. The City subsidizes the get-together and it's a great way to meet each other and eat great food! Info at montaloma.org/events/block-parties.

All of this requires help from a small but mighty group of **volunteers on the neighborhood board**. Meeting every six weeks, it's not a big commitment. There are currently open positions, with a few more opening in the summer with the new term. Please email board@montaloma.org if you'd like to help. We need fresh voices!

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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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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:

- First Vice President
- Member at Large

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 Editor (urgent need)
- 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.

Prepare for the MLN Garage Sale, Saturday, May 7

Mark your calendar now, and plan to participate as a seller and/or a shopper, or just go for a walk to see your neighbors

Last year's neighborhood garage sale gave us all an excuse to walk around the neighborhood and chat with neighbors on a lovely May day. In addition to the 50+ neighbors who had publicized their sales, many others put out their "giveaways" at the end of their driveways, and some enterprising kids had lemonade stands.

Comments afterward included, "Thanks for organizing... a great turnout!" "We met some new neighbors, and it was fun. I got rid of things I never use." "We walked around for 2.5 hours, viewing goods and chatting. It was wonderful to see old friends and meet new people."

There will be no city-wide garage sale this year, so if you are planning a sale (big or small), Saturday, May 7, will be the ideal day to attract the most

customers. To have your sale publicized on the Monta Loma website, contact Marilyn Gildea at marilyn@gildea.com.



Monta Loma Park Plans Continue to Grow

From the Mountain View Whisman School District

The MVWSD Board of Trustees approved Carducci Associates on Sept. 9, 2021 as the architectural design firm for the Monta Loma Outdoor Improvements Project. MVWSD and the City will work together to develop and guide the design process and to hold multiple meetings to hear community input. The goal is to receive all input to create a comprehensive design that provides for many school and community uses.

Tell the MVWSD Board your highest priority for Monta Loma's outdoor spaces in the Participant Survey: mvw.sd/MLsurvey.

The MVWSD Board of Trustees discuss the Monta Loma Outdoor Improvement Project on Thursday, February 10 at 6 p.m. (Accessible by Zoom or YouTube.) For agenda and details, please see mvw.sd/trustees.

All of the upcoming meeting info is at www.mvw.sd.org/montalomafield. This site is updated almost weekly (sometimes more often), so check back regularly.

To sign up for email updates on this topic, please visit mvw.sd/ConstUpdates.

Program Imagery, used for inspiration and discussion at the focus group discussions.

SOCIAL SPACE



UNSTRUCTURED PLAY



EXERCISE STATIONS



PICNIC



SOCCER



BASEBALL



BOCCE BALL



SEATING



HARD COURT



OUTDOOR LEARNING



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
traffici liaison@montaloma.org

Stay Connected with MLN

To subscribe to the email list, sign up at <https://montaloma-post.org>
Contact moderator:
moderator@montaloma-post.org
Or find Monta Loma on NextDoor

MLNA Websites

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



Thanks to those who delivered the last newsletter:

Elizabeth Wee, Vania Mendonca, Silke Gurlich, Dave Erskine, John Thomas, Anne Muhe, Raymond White, John Canata, Maria Harnoto, Tricia DelGaudio, Paul Kostka, Ivy Lu, Dave McCleary, Chuck and Cookie Henderson, Herb and Victoria Perry, Martha Elderon, Birgit Grundler, Andy Coe, Leanne 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.

Learn about the history of the park and how neighbors helped build it by reading the historical news article shared on the MontaLoma.org website.

MLN Gear for Your New Neighbors

Welcome neighbors to Monta Loma style with a Monta Loma mug or baseball cap. See the Monta Loma swag at montaloma.org/mln-logo-items and contact Tricia at president@montaloma.org to buy. If you'd like to show your neighborhood pride with t-shirts and other gear, visit the new store at www.zazzle.com/store/montalomamv/products.

If you have product requests or design ideas, email the board.



Traffic & Parking Resources

By John Canata, MLNA Traffic and Parking Liaison

A few contacts for your reference:

- Non emergency MVPD phone number: (650) 903-6395
- Abandoned vehicle (more than 3 days): call (650) 903-6358
- Traffic Hotline / Police enforcement at a specific intersection: (650) 903-6146
- Burned-out street light (give pole #): (650) 903-6514
- Other traffic concerns or concerns about Google X Rails: email traffichiaison@montaloma.org and John will forward concerns to the correct contact.



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Will I Be Able to Use a Cell Phone After an Earthquake?

By Tim Slattery, CERT Leader

Since cell phones are ubiquitous, we expect them to always work, but they don't. During three planned Public Safety Power Shutdowns in Marin County last year, 57% of all cell phone sites failed. In the Bay Area, 11% of the sites failed. This was a planned outage, with plenty of warning, but it is probable that an unplanned event would have even higher failure rates.

There are several reasons why cell phone coverage fails:

- Overload—There is limited call handling, as demonstrated when you are in a traffic jam and can't call home because everyone else is trying to do the same thing. This problem will be much worse after an earthquake.
- Power or hardware failure—Cell phone towers are not required to have back-up power, and many don't. Even those with back-up power will be able to stay up for only a limited time if the grid stays down. In addition, shaking from an earthquake can damage the equipment, providing another source of failure even if the power is working.
- Preemption—First responders with special codes can get a higher priority or full preemptive use of the cellular system after a significant event.

There are some advantages to using a cell phone:

- Often cell phone coverage is one of the first services to be restored. For example, after the Haiti earthquake, cell phones came back before other infrastructure.
- Key sites that have generator back-up exist, if you can reach them.
- Mobile sites, called Cellular on Wheels (COWs), can be brought in to replace or supplement coverage.
- Note that some of these take time, which means that you can be without coverage from hours to days, depending on the scale of the disaster.

Even when the service is overloaded, text messages may get through because text messages use much less bandwidth than voice. Another good point for text is that the services will automatically try to re-send a message for a time. Even a short opportunity may allow a text message through.

For iPhones: Ensure that "Send as SMS" is enabled. The iMessage service doesn't use the same protocols as SMS, so the text may not go through. Also, the failover from iMessage to SMS can take minutes, so it is better to send using SMS. Note that blue bubbles on an iPhone are using iMessage, green are using SMS.

Next, Tim will write about using the Internet after a disaster.

If this sounds interesting, visit montaloma.org/mlna/cert and consider joining CERT. Contact Tim Slattery at CERT@montaloma.org.

Holiday Happenings Report

By Marilyn Gildea

Dotty Calabrese and Marleen Nyst organized an exhibit of Monta Loma artists' and craftpersons' creations at the individuals' homes on the weekend of November 13/14.

John Bianco ran his dad's model trains at the Bianco home on Adele for six evenings every week between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve.

Karla Valente's efforts resulted in donations of \$746 to Second Harvest Food Bank, and a "treasure hunt" for neighborhood kids, searching for stuffed animals displayed at homes.

Thanks to everyone who organized and participated in these events. You helped make our holidays special.



Aylet Gal-On displayed her paintings in her garden.



Julie Baher's knitted caps and scarves made great gifts.



Aaron and Kristin Hepworth organized a very successful food drive in January.

Monta Loma Park and Its Trees

By Olga Bright

The value of Monta Loma Park to the residents of Monta Loma is evident across the community. The "Save the Park" signs in the gardens throughout the neighborhood are a testimony to the unity of purpose. The community loves the park as a place to walk, to take young children to the swings, and



credit: Caroline White

to enjoy the mature trees that surround the park. There are several small groves of trees which are worth noting. There is a lovely grove of California Redwood trees. In the fall we enjoy a cluster of yellow Ginkos. Along the side of the school there are a long line of Chinese Elm trees. In the fall we can enjoy the breathtaking colors of the Chinese Pistache trees in front of the school, along Thompson Avenue. In the fall and winter months we can also enjoy the Toyon berries and the Strawberry tree along the side parking lot of the school, not to mention the neighboring Pomegranate tree. The variety of trees in the park is something to be proud of. It is not to say that we could not wish for a few more.

The January 2022 Smithsonian Magazine article "The Old Man and the Tree" points out the importance of old trees, not only for the serene influence they convey but also the importance for mitigating climate change. Old trees have accumulated more carbon from the atmosphere than young trees. Young trees, in contrast, can quickly and efficiently remove carbon from the atmosphere. So, we also need to be proactive and plant new trees to ensure that we create biodiversity and ensure that there will be trees for our children's and grandchildren's future.

You can celebrate Arbor Day (April 29) by signing up for a free tree from the City of Mountain View at tinyurl.com/freetreemv by March 14.

The list of trees to choose from includes Japanese Maple, Crape Myrtle, Little Gem Magnolia, and Marina Strawberry Tree, among others. The website includes a brief summary of the characteristics of the trees, including their height and width, whether they are deciduous or evergreen, as well as their water and sun requirements.

It would be wonderful if we could plant a few more trees in Monta Loma and make the canopy of Monta Loma the best in Mountain View!



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Keeping Monta Loma Clean and Green

Paper Shredding Event: Recycle confidential or sensitive paper documents, tax returns, bank statements, or health records at the Sunnyvale SMaRT Station on March 5 from 8 am to 3 p.m.. More info at tinyurl.com/MLNshred

Walkable Sidewalks:

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

Street Sweeping

- Help the sweeper clean your gutter by moving your vehicles and trash bins off the street the evening before the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Cars should be moved by 6:00 a.m.
- The next street sweeping dates are: 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/14, 4/28. Details are at tinyurl.com/swpng.
- If you have tenants who park on the street, please keep them informed of dates as well.

Recycling of Old Clothes: Place clothing and textiles in a secured, clear plastic bag marked DONATION on the curb next to your yard waste cart on your regular collection day. Clothing and textiles do need to be clean (as in washed) prior to placing curbside. Shoes of all kinds (even singles) are accepted if placed in a clear bag separate from clothing and textiles.

What goes in which bin: Visit mvrecycle.org.

Hide those bins: Remove carts from the street the evening after garbage collection or no later than the next day. Store the carts inside the garage or screened from street view as a courtesy to your neighbors. If these areas are unavailable, place the carts on the side of the garage or house.

Dogs:

- In addition to always picking up your dog's droppings from others' yards, 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 breaks.
- 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.

Critters in Your Car

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

Frequently we pop open the hood of a car and see rodent droppings on the engine cover. There is no judgment here! Rodents like to hide away under the hood because it is warm, and if you aren't driving much, it's good shelter. For a while, manufacturers were making wiring harness coatings out of soy (better on the environment than plastic), but it was a tasty meal for rats. Regardless, rodents can do a lot of damage and the repairs can be expensive. We have found two tricks that work: First, Predator Pee (Bobcat) granules. These are a great deterrent because the rodent smells the predator and stays away. You can get them on Amazon, pour them into a nylon stocking and secure it under the hood away from any moving parts. The other trick is to secure a dryer sheet under the hood. The smell is so strong it can drive rodents away. They will both need to be refreshed after a period of time.

If spiders are making webs in your side mirrors and little nooks and crannies, swabbing peppermint, citrus and/or eucalyptus oil around the popular areas has been known to deter them.



Cool Block Updates

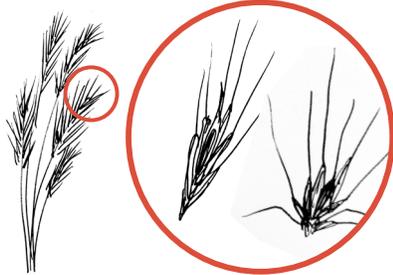
The City of Mountain View's **Cool Block Program** is a way for small groups of neighbors to meet & work together on initiatives (carbon reduction, disaster resiliency, water stewardship, livability, empowerment). MLN Neighborhood Meetings may resume soon, with the decline of the Omicron surge. Contact Jennifer Dell-Ernstrom: jdellern@gmail.com to team up with her in Monta Loma and learn more about the program.

Help the Pets, Weed out 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.

This spring, please pull out the plants. If you mow, bag the debris for disposal, and always sweep the sidewalk clear to ensure the grasses don't dry and spread further.

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.



Mow wild grasses now to keep them from going to seed and making foxtails.

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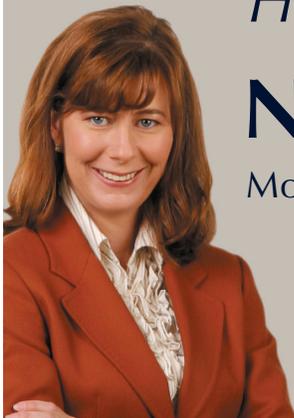


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NEIGHBORHOOD FOODIES

BBQ Truck Offers Friendly, Tasty Specialties

By Julie Baher

Bill's Family BBQ (www.billsfamilybarbecue.com) is right around the corner from Monta Loma — next time you take Old Middlefield to 101 South, look for Bill's truck right before the exit. We sampled the pulled-pork sandwich, sweet potato fries and cole slaw. All very tasty. There is some outdoor seating, but we took ours home (they only offer take-out, no delivery). The folks working there were very friendly and shared some samples with us while we were deciding what to order. So far, it's my favorite local BBQ option — give it a try!



credit: Julie Baher



credit: Julie Baher

Monta Loma Orange Fig Honey Marmalade

By Heather Schoell

This is the ultimate Monta Loma recipe — everything can be found abundantly here in our neighborhood. Depending on the oranges, it might be slightly bitter, but that gives the jam a sophisticated taste. And you can harvest your figs, trim and freeze them, and make this in the winter when the oranges are ripe. There are a few bee keepers in the neighborhood. Keep an eye out on the email list for offerings.

- 2 lbs, 10 oz figs
- 3 lbs honey
- 2 lbs, 10 oz citrus (~5-6 oranges)
- 3 C water

Wash, trim, quarter figs

Add honey to macerate overnight

Wash citrus, slice into quarters, remove central pith & seeds

Put seeds into a mesh bag—this works as the pectin

Cut orange quarters into thin slices

Put in a bowl with 3 C water, soak overnight

Combine all ingredients and bring to a boil until it reduces by half. Temperature should get to 220° F.

Test for jam set by putting a puddle on a plate that's been in the freezer and see if it still runs when turned sideways.

If jam does not run, then it's set, and jars can be filled.

Note: If oranges don't contain seeds, you may need to add pectin. Follow instructions on package based on amount of jam.

Adjust amounts based on amount of fruit available.

Weight ratio is roughly 1 figs : 1 honey : 1 citrus : .5 water

An advertisement for the Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA). It features a photograph of a young girl with blonde hair in pigtails, wearing a pink and white striped shirt, sitting at a desk and drawing. The text reads: "Let your creativity shine through at CSMA! We have art and music experiences for everyone, from preschoolers to adults, at our nearby Mountain View campus. Private music lessons • Group music classes including music theory • Art classes, camps and workshops • Free concerts and art exhibitions." At the bottom, there are logos for CSMA and the text "community school of music and arts". It also says "Learn more at ARTS4ALL.ORG • Financial aid available".

MONTA LOMA FUN & GAMES

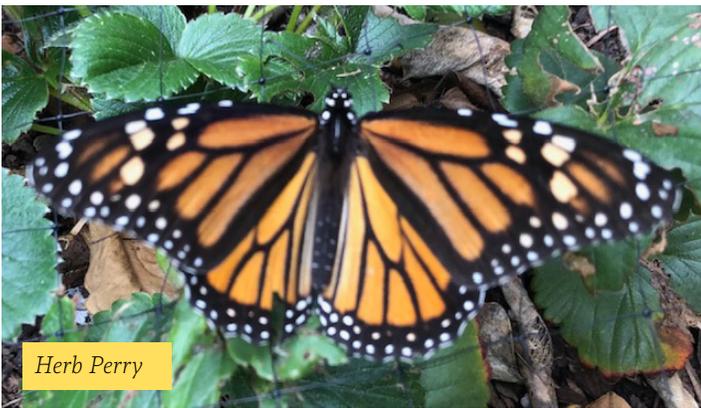
Monarchs Abound In Monta Loma! How Many Can You Find as They Emerge This Spring?



Caroline White



Caroline Chan



Herb Perry



Feeding the new monarch honey water with a paintbrush
— Ann McMillan



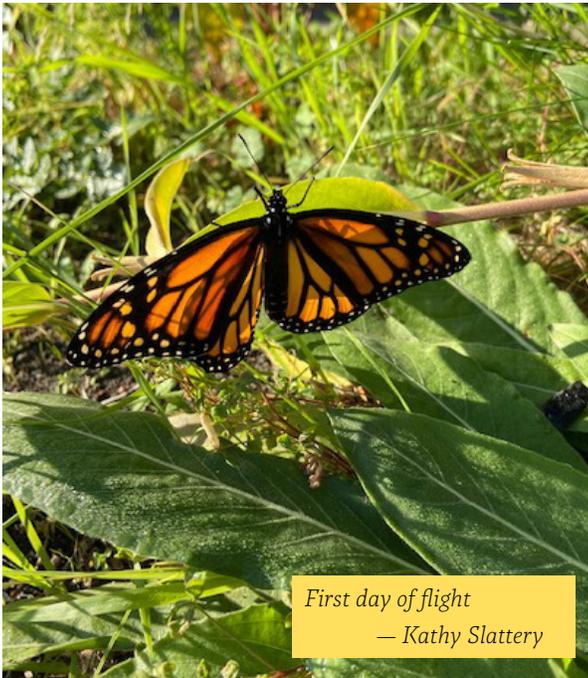
A newly hatched Monarch resting and drying
— Birgit Grundler



Toribelle



Erin Brownfield



First day of flight
— Kathy Slattery

December Bike Ride Celebrates Efforts to Restore and Protect Local Bay Lands

By Patrick Moran

Within five miles of Monta Loma is the local section of the San Francisco Bay Trail, which offers easy riding for bikes and great views of the local wetlands and wildlife. Civic leaders and the heads of several local agencies worked together to create a bike ride in December that featured several stops during which they took turns talking about the ongoing efforts to restore the wetlands, deal with anticipated sea rise, and create an attraction that will encourage local residents to come and enjoy the outdoors.

Among the organizers were Lenny Siegel and Pat Showalter, both of whom formerly served on the Mountain View City Council and as mayor of Mountain View. Also speaking was Dave Halsing, executive project manager for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. Aside from enjoying the views, I came home with at least a couple main takeaways from the day. First, it was an eye opener to learn just how many agencies play a part in overseeing the local bay lands; it was clear that without significant cooperation not much would get done. It was encouraging to hear that the various stakeholders do seem to be working together well. Second, the vision and plans for the local wetlands have already been in process for many years, and have many more years to go. For example, Dave Halsing described some of the work restoring local salt ponds; for each pond it is a painstaking, multi-year process to return the waterway to a more natural state. One has to take the long view when thinking about the bay environment.

As a bonus, we now have new bike-friendly route to Bay Trail: the Highway 101 Pedestrian/Bike Bridge. As bike bridges go, this one is definitely deluxe. In addition to providing a safer way to get to the east side of Highway 101, the bridge includes an overlook with a view towards the northeast and signage providing a larger environmental background. Reaching the new bike bridge from Monta Loma requires riding only slightly further than taking the San Antonio Road bridge, and is definitely worth the effort.

The speakers did not say when they may organize another similar ride with talks in the future, but I would highly recommend attending if they do so.

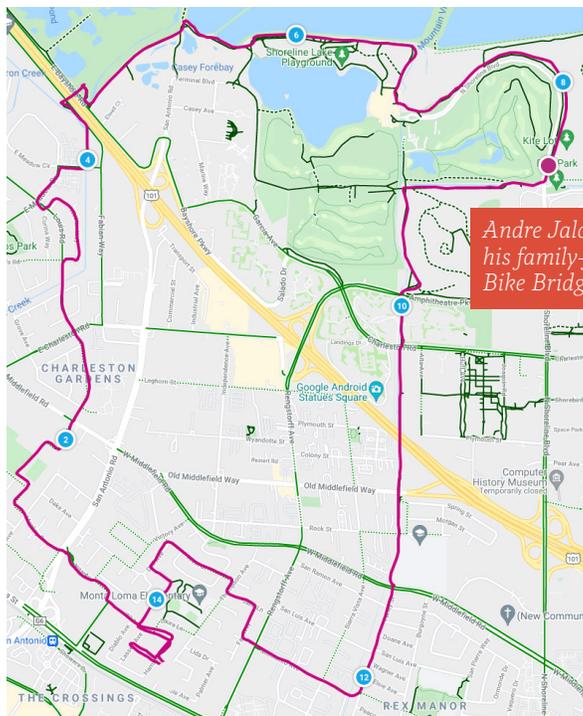
Resources to learn more:

The December ride route, courtesy of Lenny Siegel
www.plotaroute.com/route/1754734

The San Francisco Bay Trail
mtc.ca.gov/operations/regional-trails-parks/san-francisco-bay-trail



credit: Heather Schoell



Andre Jalobeanu shares his family-friendly 14km Bike Bridge route



We, Larry & Martha Ripper, moved to Benjamin Drive as young newlyweds in 1968. We stuck! Larry worked at Lockheed Sunnyvale until 1998. We would ride our bikes together every morning, then Martha would return home. From time to time we'd take excursions (Shoreline Trail, Skyline, Cañada Road) but we mostly bike for all our local errands (church, shopping, even \$250 from Costco!).

Our bikes are from garage sales or neighbors, never more than \$100.

The "Monta Loma Route" is now our daily "wheelchair" exercise. We head out Alvin to Middlefield, Rengstorff, and Central, coming back through the Waymo campus and Nita. One pic of Larry is starting this ~4-mile route would take you 5-10 minutes. It takes us 20!

Register Bikes With a Free BikeIndex Code

A bike of any value should be registered. Police departments direct people to bikeindex.org, a non-profit online bike registry. The bikeindex site offers easy, step-by-step instructions for registration and provides a QR sticker to place on the bike. If the bike is found, anyone with a smart phone can quickly determine whether it has been reported as stolen, and reunite the bike with its owner.

1. Record the bike's Make, Model, Color, Serial Number.
2. Create an account at bikeindex.org and register.
3. Contact Tom at MontaLomaNBC@gmail.com to get a sticker. If you send your address and how many stickers you need he will drop it off in your mail slot.
4. Log onto your bikeindex account on your smartphone and then scan the QR code.
5. At the url encoded by the sticker, you can click a link to register the sticker to a specific bike.

The MLNA has generously purchased a supply of the QR stickers, so they can be offered free to any residents who would like to place one on their bike(s).

If you would like some help, or to join our Monta Loma bikeindex account, contact Tom at MontaLomaNBC@gmail.com and he will help you through the process.

ParkRun Byxbee Park 5K Free Run Every Saturday Morning

By Jennifer Dell-Ernstrom

There is a free weekly timed 5k run/jog/walk at 8 a.m. every Saturday at Byxbee Park in Palo Alto. It is a volunteer run organization called ParkRun that was started in the UK a few years ago and now has local runs all over the world.

People are very friendly and I have jogged and volunteered with it since it started in Palo Alto. The local website tells how to join in the fun: www.parkrun.us/byxbee



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