

MONTA LOMA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

THE SCOOP: ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Monta Loma Ice Cream Social is planned for Sunday, August 28th, from 3 to 5 p.m. in Monta Loma Park.

Catch-up with neighbors, check out information tables, listen to local bands, and of course, eat ice cream.

This event can't happen without neighborhood volunteer support!
E-mail board@montaloma.org if you can help out.

What to See and Do at the Ice Cream Social

By Marilyn Gildea

The MLNA Ice Cream Social is our biggest social event of the year. This year it's on **Sunday, August 28, from 3:00 to 5:00 in Monta Loma Park.**



In addition to free ice cream, attendees can enjoy Gizmo Gary's balloon creations and a display of Monta Loma history items.

Our CERT members will display equipment and information to help us stay safe during a disaster. The Garden Club members will sponsor a plant exchange and bring information about Monarch butterflies. Neighborhood Watch and bike-registration information will be available.

The Monta Loma PTA will offer community information, membership signups and spirit wear.

Recology Zero Waste will bring recycling information, and the Recreation Department will offer information on activities.

Barring an emergency, you can chat with Mountain View police officers. A crew from the Fire Department may bring an engine during the last half hour.

Friends of Mountain View Parks (FMVP) advocate for parks and open spaces and will have a table with information. Members of the City Council and the board members of the Mountain View Whisman School District and the

Mountain View Los Altos High School District have been invited.

Canopy members will offer activities as well as providing tree information, such as drought tree care tips. Bring your tree questions! The Mountain View Educational Foundation, which helps our schools, has also been invited.

Living Classroom, a non-profit that provides garden-based science and environmental education for TK to 8th grade students will also have a table at the event.

A buggy pulled by robot horses is anticipated. We will have live music by neighborhood band *On the Edge*, and cotton-candy around 4:00.

Updates are posted frequently at montaloma.org



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MONTA LOMA BLOCK PARTIES

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

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Block parties — is yours scheduled?

By Marilyn Gildea

At press time, six parties had been held or scheduled. If you haven't yet planned your party, the after-summer-vacation season is a good time to hold it. A block party is great way to meet your new neighbors, build the friendships that help keep our neighborhood safe, and compile a list of contact information to share.

To promote these goals, the MLNA will help pay for your party.

For how-to information, go to montaloma.org and click Block Parties under Events. Find "printable version" at the bottom of the page. Note that to block off a street you must obtain a permit. Allow 30 days for it to be processed.

Our Neighborhood Watch Captain, Tom Purcell on Alvin Street, would be happy to attend your party. Contact Tom at MontaLomaNBC@gmail.com or 650-224-5110. To invite a police officer to stop by, request it on your permit application. To invite city council members, email them all at citycouncil@mountainview.gov or individually under Council Roster at mountainview.gov.



Gloria Jackson – Benjamin/Quincy/Emmons block party



"More people came than we were expecting, especially given that we haven't held it for two years, and people are still worried about Covid. Those who weren't able to bring food still felt free to come, which was so great. Everyone was generous, and we had more than enough food. Many people said that they were grateful to be together again, and those who had moved in during Covid really appreciated getting to meet neighbors."



New Bike Rack at San Antonio Road Shoreline Entrance

By Jennifer Dell-Ernstrom



Did you know? **Ask Mountain View** is a nifty service available 24/7 on the web or as a mobile app. It's an easy way to send your questions, concerns and compliments directly to a City staff person who can help you.

Earlier this summer I submitted a question to the website **Ask Mountain View** if bike racks could be added to the Shoreline Park entrance at the end of San Antonio Road. I got a reply within a few days that the racks were planned to be installed soon. You can now park your bike at the entrance to the park and enjoy a walk or jog!



Neighborhoods Committee awards grant to MLNA

The city's Neighborhood Grant Program provides annual grants "to help resident-based groups carry out programs and activities designed to improve participation and neighborhood conditions." The Council Neighborhoods Committee (CNC) members again awarded the MLNA the full grant amount, \$2,000.

The grant helps pay for block parties, the Ice Cream Social, and the CNC urges neighborhood associations to spend the money. We receive the funds after MLNA Treasurer Andre Valente submits original receipts.

Meet the people who run our city on October 27

By Marilyn Gildea



Every other year three city council members plus the heads of most city departments (including Police and Streets/Parking/Traffic) update us on their plans and respond to our questions. This year's meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 27, 6:30 p.m.**, and will probably be held virtually. Please mark your calendar now and bring your concerns to the people who run our city.

Knitting Club

The knitting group meets approximately once a month, outside for now. If you would like to be added to the email announcing upcoming meeting dates, please contact Ann Togasaki at ann.togasaki@gmail.com.

Monta Loma School News: From the PTA

By Vanessa Bernegger, Vice President

The Monta Loma PTA kicked off the new school year by hosting a lemonade social for all incoming Monta Loma families, including incoming Kindergarten students and families on August 6th.

We will have a table at the upcoming Ice Cream Social, so we look forward to seeing you there. We will offer community information, membership signups and spirit wear. Go Leopards!



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

Open Position - Please apply!

Stay Connected with MLN

To subscribe to the email list, sign up at <https://montaloma-post.org>

Or find Monta Loma on NextDoor.com

MLNA Websites

www.montaloma.org

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



Thanks to those who delivered the May newsletter:

Silke Gurlich, Dave Erskine, Lindsay Sterling, John Thomas, John Canata, Maria Harnoto, Diane McCleary, Chuck & Cookie Henderson & Griffen Auckland, Herb & Victoria Perry, Birgit & Grant Grundler, Andy Coe, Raymond White, Alan Liang, Tricia DelGaudio, Paul Kostka, Dave McCleary, Martha Elderon, Susan Jee, Isabella Hill, 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



Get your cuppa at CoupA!

By Julie Baher

Coupa Cafe located at 4748 W. El Camino - easy to miss on your way to Whole Foods but worth a stop (there is parking underground). It's a great place for brunch or to sit and work (this is one of several peninsula locations). There is outdoor seating or you can order for pickup or delivery. Their unique offering is the Venezuelan fare: arepas, fried mini empanadas, and pabellon plates – with plenty of gluten-free, vegan options. Or you can opt for french toast and bacon! To drink, I recommend the Spicy Maya Hot Chocolate or the Tiger Spice Chai. For you coffee drinkers, there are plenty of options as well as some great mochas.

Wow! Check out State Parks day pass from MV Library!

By Rebecca Chopra

With these passes, library cardholders can access over 200 parks, lakes, beaches, and monuments in the State Parks system for free.

Check out the library website for details: <https://www.mountainview.gov/depts/library/services/stateparkspass.asp>.



And that's not all... Use your library card to get free museum passes!

1. Visit the MV Discover & Go site at <https://mountainview.discoverandgo.net/>.
2. Enter your MV library card number and PIN (just like you do when you check out books or eBooks).
3. Choose a date on the calendar on the left side of the page.
4. Scroll through the list to find the museum or attraction that you want to visit.
5. Click Reserve Pass.
6. Print your pass!



Oh no! The tire pressure light came on!

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

You're on a road trip and your tire pressure light comes on. What does it mean? Is it an emergency? First, the tire pressure light is the one that has an exclamation mark in parentheses with a squiggle underneath. It will come on if the air pressure in your tire is too low, which happens if you run over a nail and develop a small leak, or you are in the mountains and it's cold and the air pressure in your tire decreases because of altitude and temperature. The tire light can also come on if one of the batteries in your tire pressure monitor sensors (TPMS) dies. These are small disc batteries inside a sensor in the tire, connected to the valve stem. They die after five years or so and the only way to replace them is to take the tire off the rim, replace the TPMS sensor/valve and re-mount the tire, and then program them (they are smart and most know which tire of the car they are on so if you rotate tires or replace the sensors, you must program them to tell them where they are). So, TPMS sensors are \$85-\$185 each plus an hour's worth of time (it takes one hour whether you are doing one or all 4 TPMS sensors).



It's a great idea to purchase a tire pressure gauge from a local parts store so you can check the pressure to see if it's low, and add air at the gas station as needed. Your tire pressure number is on the driver's side of your open door on a sticker, it's usually around 32 psi. Always call your shop if you are concerned; they want to help.

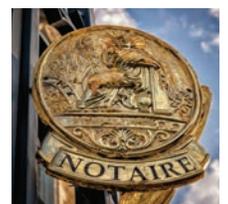
Did you know Monta Loma has a Notary Public?

Our neighbor Nirvana Nwokidu is a California commissioned Notary Public and a certified Loan Signing Agent.

Why drive miles for your Notary needs?

Nirvana can come to notarize your important documents at a convenient time and place. Signing can take place in your backyard, front porch, driveway, or at a neighborhood park or coffee shop. She's here to get your important documents notarized, confidentially and with care, while following social distancing protocols.

Call / text 650-435-2349 for appointments. Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-7pm. Fee: \$15 per signature.



Beautiful Ginkgo Trees

By Olga Bright

Monta Loma residents are grateful for our local park with its numerous trees. Have you noticed the cluster of Ginkgo trees in the Monta Loma Park? The Ginkgo is distinctive because of beautiful fan-shaped leaves and the stunning yellow fall color, and is thought to have originated in China, where they were cultivated by monks for their medicinal properties.

Today the Ginkgo is considered a living fossil, with the earliest leaf fossils dating back to 270 million years ago. It's been known to live for up to 1000 years! It is a hardy tree, and easy to grow. The Ginkgo tolerates sun or partial shade, it will grow in confined spaces, such as along streets. It also tolerates heat, pollution, and soil salts, and it will grow in a variety of soil types. The Ginkgo grows to a height of between 25 and 50 feet, with a width between 25 to 35 feet, at a medium growth rate. Be aware that the female ginkgo has a reputation for smelling bad, so it is probably wise to choose the male tree.



Kids of all ages!
Submit your art, jokes, or games
to newsletter@montaloma.org

Neighbor connections, free stuff, and more!

The 20+ year old Monta Loma Neighborhood email list is a major part of our close-knit community, and we encourage you to join if you haven't already. Information about the list is at www.montaloma-post.org.

November 8 Election; Can You Vote?

By Marilyn Gildea

Check your voter registration at tinyurl.com/mlnvtreg or call 1-866-430-8683 toll free. If you need to update your registration, do it online at registertovote.ca.gov. The registration deadline is Monday, October 24. All registered voters receive a mail-in ballot.



Be an Informed Voter

By Marilyn Gildea

To help you decide among the candidates running for local offices, their websites and (probably virtual) public forums will be posted at montaloma.org after the filing deadline in mid-August. The web page will be kept updated and notices sent to the MLN email list and NextDoor.

Monta Loma Welcome Wagon

By Debbie Cunningham

Are you interested in welcoming new neighbors to our wonderful neighborhood? In an effort to warmly welcome new residents, we are looking for people who can help us do that. If you notice a moving truck on your street, see a new face, or strike up a conversation at the park and realize you are talking to someone new, you are in a great position to help welcome them to our active Monta Loma Neighborhood. John Canata and Debbie Cunningham are gathering ideas and folks willing to be our ambassadors to help extend hospitality and welcome to new neighbors.

Please contact us at: canata350@comcast.net or debbie.cunningham@gmail.com. We are working on a card that you can give neighbors that has quick references for Monta Loma Neighborhood Association events, resources, etc. We hope to have cards on hand at the Ice Cream Social so you are ready to hand them out.

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<p>NIRVANA NWOKIDU A proud Monta Loma resident at your service.</p> <p>Bus. Ph.: 650.435-2349 Email: nirvana.nwokidu@kw.com</p>	<p>REALTOR: DRE# 02142853</p> <p>"Backed by an exceptional and experienced team, to bring you the best home selling experience and satisfaction."</p> 

How can I improve my chances of contacting my family after an earthquake?

By Tim Slattery

This is part 4 of a series of articles trying to answer the question: "How can I let my family know I'm OK after an earthquake?"

So far I have covered Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS), Cellular phones, and Internet communications. None of those methods is foolproof; in fact, all are likely to fail to some degree or at some point after a disaster. So how do you maximize your chances of getting that message out?

Have a plan in place before it is needed. For all of the modes of connecting you need to know the phone number, text number, or email address you are going to get hold of. That needs to be somewhere you can get to if power is off, you can't get into your house, or you are away from home. Having the info on your cell phone is good, but what if you lose your cell phone or the battery is dead? A paper copy in your wallet doesn't take much space and is likely to stay with you wherever you are.

The contact person you choose should be far enough away that they are not going to be affected by most emergencies. They also should know your plan. It is best to have a single point of contact, who will then be the clearing house for your entire family's information. That way you have to only contact one person, and they can try to call the rest of your family, so you can deal with the emergency here. The whole family should know your contact person is the one to call to find out what is going on. Everyone should know the emergency contact plan. It is best to pick a family member who is located fairly far away, but within the continental US, is reasonably tech savvy, and is known by everyone in your contact group.

Have as many ways as possible to get to your contact. POTS phone number, cell phone number, work phone, home email, and work email. Another possibility is to have a designated social media site that everyone can use to post information. Have several communication options, but prioritize the list for what works best for your family.

When a disaster strikes, your first priority is to ensure your own safety, and the safety of your immediate family. Once that is established you can try reaching out to let the rest of your family know your status. To do that you will need working equipment. Here are some recommendations for each of the communications methods I've discussed:

POTS lines: Have a phone that will work without grid power. AT&T still sells phones like the Trimline Corded phone for about \$15 (<https://telephones.att.com/telephones/corded-telephones/no-ac-power>). Be prepared to try several times to get through. Even if there is no dial tone, try periodically to see if the connection has been restored.

Cell phone: Have alternate ways to power your phone. At a minimum, have a 12-volt charger and cord in your car. A battery bank is also good to keep handy. Some agencies recommend having a cheap backup phone that stays in your emergency kit, in case something happens to your primary phone.

Internet: To connect to the Internet you will need AC power for your equipment. Since power is likely to go off and be off for a while after an earthquake, you will need an alternate source of power. An Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) can provide power for a limited time. A generator can provide power for a longer time, but requires regular maintenance, and knowledge of how to safely use it. Also, a typical AT&T fiber connection needs power to the Optical Network Terminal (ONT), the router, and any switches between any wired equipment you intend to use and the router. Newer systems have the ONT and router plus WiFi all in one. The device you are using to connect (cell phone, tablet, laptop, etc.) will also need power, or intermittent charging.

There are more exotic (and expensive) ways to connect after a disaster. These will be the subject of our next installment.

If you wish to learn more about disaster preparedness, consider joining CERT. Meetings are held monthly on the second Saturday of the month at 9:00 am at the CERT trailer, located at the Monta Loma school. Or contact CERT@montaloma.org.



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New CERT course starts October 6

By Tim Slattery

The city of Mountain View will offer a free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course starting on October 6. Learn basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Visit the CERT page at www.montaloma.org for a link to info.

"First Aid teaches you what to do until the ambulance comes; CERT teaches you what to do when the ambulance isn't going to come."

Traffic & Parking Resources

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



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AROUND THE BLOCK

Fresh, local seafood delivered weekly to Monta Loma

By Tricia DelGaudio



Through the pandemic I've been a Real Good Fish site host in Monta Loma where neighbors pickup their weekly fish/seafood delivery. Real Good Fish is a community-based organization committed to providing the freshest, healthiest, and most ecologically sound local seafood directly to the communities of Monterey Bay and San Francisco Bay. Each week members receive an email announcing the fish or seafood of the week along with where, how, and who caught the fish and suggested recipes. Most often, the seafood is caught 1-2 days before delivery.

Real Good Fish isn't a one-time delivery. You opt in for weekly or bi-weekly deliveries and pay the same amount each week, but the species varies seasonally. A few of my favorite varieties are King Salmon, Opah, Bluefin Tuna, Dungeness Crab, Black Cod (Sablefish), and Sea Bass, but there is so much more!

Recently Real Good Fish has partnered with local farmers to



add optional add-ons such as poultry, beef, and pork that is delivered same day as the fish pickup.

Visit RealGoodFish.com to learn more or sign up and select your pickup site as "Monta Loma". If you have questions feel free to reach out at tricia.montaloma2017@gmail.com

Monta Loma t-shirts are still available

Show your pride in our neighborhood by wearing a Monta Loma t-shirt to the Ice Cream Social or your block party. Contact Marilyn at marilyn@gildea.com or 940-1606 to learn whether one of the remaining shirts is your size. See the styles at <https://www.montaloma.org/monta-loma-tee-shirts-still-available/>

Drought Update

On June 28, 2022, the Mountain View City Council declared a Stage 2 water shortage emergency condition. Current water use restrictions are listed below or can be found at <https://www.mountainview.gov/depts/pw/services/conservation/regulate.asp>



Weekly Irrigation Schedule:

- Even addresses – Irrigation allowed on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Odd addresses – Irrigation allowed on Mondays and Thursdays.

Do Not:

- Wash paved or hard surfaces (except by bucket or for health and safety reasons)
- Wash vehicles at home (except by bucket)
- Use potable water to fill decorative water features (except to sustain aquatic life)
- Water between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (except by bucket, hose, drip irrigation or for system repair)
- Water more than 15 minutes per day (except for drip irrigation or system repair)
- Irrigate during a rain event

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BIRDING IN MONTA LOMA

Part 1: Common Ground-Feeding Birds

By Doty Calabrese

Our Monta Loma neighborhood abounds with bird life. Over the noise of cars, trains, and baseball games, an almost continuous cacophony of bird sounds can be heard - melodious, mimicking, whistling, hammering, squawking, buzzing, and of course, male birds singing mating songs. Even loud, exotic pet birdcalls are audible.

California Towhee



With our temperate climate, the Bay Area enjoys a wide variety of feathered species. Some reside here;

others winter here to escape the cold; while still others come to mate and raise their young each spring. It's no surprise that bird watching has become a major American pastime, even more so during the pandemic. With our busy human schedules, watching and listening to our neighborhood birds is one way we can relax and enjoy the moment.

Over the next four issues, I will list common birds I see year-round, as I stroll through our neighborhood, with a few facts to help you identify them. Many more birds visit less often or are seasonal.

Often Foraging on the Ground:

- **Mourning Dove** - 10 1/2" - beige w/ darker wings - wings make a startling sound when mourning doves take flight
- **California Towhee** - 7 1/4" - brown w/ rust colored rump
- **Dark-eyed Junco** (Oregon race) - 5 1/4" - pink bill, dark gray/black hood, pale peach flanks, rusty back

Check the full list of birds seen in the Monta Loma neighborhood in the last 43 years at <https://www.montaloma.org/monta-loma/neighborhood-birds/>

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



Dark-eyed Junco



Mourning Dove

credit: Photos, with permission, by Tom Grey <https://pbase.com/tgrey/>

Everything BIRDS!

By Jennifer Dell-Ernstrom

I recently needed to get something to stop the birds from trying to fly through my windows and sliding doors and visited **Los Gatos Birdwatcher**, located in King's Court Shopping Center, 792 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos.

I enjoyed browsing the high-quality selection of bird food, feeders and baffles, bird houses/baths, garden art, and unique, nature themed gifts. Owner Lisa Myers was very knowledgeable and helped me understand what I needed. I bought window reflectors made in Mount Shasta (pictured right), a bird feeder baffle to deter critters from stealing my bird food, and I couldn't resist a cute bird-themed kitchen towel.

Website: logatosbirdwatcher.com



QUIZ: Can You Name this Bird?



photo credit: Heather Schoell

Stone Fruit Jam

By Tricia DelGaudio

My peach tree recently gave me an over-abundance of fruit and I wanted to try a multi-stone fruit jam. I called upon neighbors to trade fruit and offered a jar of the finished product in return. It turned out fabulous! So I thought I'd share the recipe from the *New York Times*. This recipe makes about 4 cups of jam.

Ingredients:

- ½ pounds/2 kilograms peaches, nectarines, plums or apricots, pitted, sliced/cut into 1-inch chunks (*no need to peel*)
- 2 ¾ cups/550 grams granulated sugar
- 3 tbsp fresh lemon or lime juice

Directions:

Toss fruit and sugar together in a large, heavy-bottomed pot. Let sit for at least 15 minutes or up to overnight, tossing periodically to coat and to dissolve the sugar. (*This will help coax the juices out of the fruit.*)

Place a small plate with 3 spoons in the freezer to chill. (*You'll use this later.*)

Bring the fruit to a strong simmer over medium heat until the skins burst and the juices start to boil, 10 to 15 minutes.



Increase the heat to medium-high. Cook the jam, stirring occasionally with a spatula at first, and more frequently as juices thicken, until most of the liquid has evaporated and the fruit has begun to break down, about 25 to 35 minutes.

As the jam cooks, the liquid reduces, the sugars thicken, and the natural fruit pectins activate. You'll notice the liquid go from a rapid, rolling boil with smaller bubbles to a slow, thick, tarlike boil with larger bubbles. This is the stage at which it's most important to stir constantly along the bottom of the pot to prevent scorching.

When the jam reaches a slow, thick boil, add lemon juice. Continue to cook, stirring constantly until the jam has returned to its previously thickened state, about another 5 minutes. To test the consistency, spoon a bit of jam onto a chilled spoon, return it to the freezer and chill for 2 minutes. Drag your finger through it: It should hold its shape on either side without appearing too runny. If it's not there yet, cook it a few minutes more and repeat.

When ready, remove from heat. Divide between jars, leaving ¼ inch of space at the top of the jar, and seal immediately.

Note: To seal I use the dry oven method from Blue Chair Jam Cookbook. This uses no water and requires no special equipment. In a preheated 250 degree Fahrenheit oven, I place my filled jam jars complete with tops and rings on a jellyroll pan in the oven for 15 minutes. I then turn the oven off and leave them there to cool for hours, sometimes overnight. Tighten the rings after cooled. Jars seal beautifully this way and if one doesn't, it's enjoyed over the next week and stored in the refrigerator.

Traffic Liaison position open.

Thank you to John Canata for his service!

Looking for an opportunity to help keep our neighborhood safe? This Volunteer position coordinates with our Google X contact and city traffic engineers regarding neighborhood traffic and parking issues. Just a few past successes include adding "Cross traffic does not stop" signage, tree trimming to help with signage visibility, red/elevated curb barriers to prevent curb cutting, and red flags on stop signs at Google X driveways.

If you are interested in this role, please reach out to board@montaloma.org



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MLN Puzzles Fueled Puzzle-Passionate Neighbor to Compete in Puzzling Competitions

By Heather Schoell

During the pandemic, while some of us were baking sour-dough and others binged on TV series, neighbor Susanne Riehemann found renewed satisfaction in doing puzzles.

Since childhood, she couldn't resist a good puzzle, completing some up to 5000 pieces. In spring of 2021, she came across a Zoom competition from her favorite puzzle brand, inspiring her to participate. She enjoyed the competition so much that she has since competed in 24 virtual competitions, and finally made the trip to Spain this summer for the world competition.

Around the same time that Susanne started her puzzling habit, the Monta Loma Puzzle Library appeared at the home of Ann Togasaki on Whitney Court. Susanne trained for puzzle competitions by constantly having puzzles going, and in the three weeks before the competition doing one puzzle a day, and once even completing four 500-piece puzzles in one day. She was extremely grateful to the neighbors who shared their puzzles in the puzzle box, as well as many who offered to lend her their special puzzles to help her train. She says, "I really appreciated the variety of brands/cuts and images that I wouldn't have chosen to buy, but that were great for training! And my daily walks to the puzzle box were good exercise and felt like Christmas almost every day." Susanne



Having trained with puzzles from Monta Loma neighbors, Susanne Riehemann competed at the World Jigsaw Championship in Valladolid, Spain, on June 22, 2022.

used about 100 puzzles from Monta Loma neighbors in her training.

Susanne's tips for doing hard puzzles: "The strategies really vary by what's making it hard. Usually sorting by colors/patterns is best but sometimes sorting by shape can help." She is looking forward to the national competition in San Diego this October, and is looking for local teammates who would want to compete as a group of four. Learn more about puzzle competitions at www.speedpuzzling.com.

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