

# MONTA LOMA NEWS



## Spring Fling 2017



Come meet and chat with your neighbors and friends.  
**¡Vengan todos a conocer y platicar con sus vecinos y amigos!**

**Saturday, March 4, 10:00 a.m. – noon**

**Monta Loma School Multipurpose Room**

Chat with old friends and meet new neighbors as you enjoy free Starbucks coffee, hot cider or chocolate, and baked goods. Buy books at the PTA's used-book sale. Visit the Neighborhood Watch/MVPD table, and the city's table for information on the residential food-scrap recycling program being implemented in July. Buy a Monta Loma tee shirt and a ticket for the MV Ed Fund's raffle. Many more attractions are listed at [www.montaloma.org](http://www.montaloma.org).

Some people think that Spring Fling is just for families, but it's for everyone in Monta Loma. We provide activities for the children so their parents can chat with neighbors.

If you can help with this popular event or have a community activity you would like to share, please contact Mary Partlan now. She can be reached at [vp2@montaloma.org](mailto:vp2@montaloma.org) or 961-2912.

**Welcome to our neighbors in Fairview Park.** Please introduce yourselves at the Spring Fling so we can welcome you personally into the Monta Loma Neighborhood.

### **MLNA board election and annual meeting Wednesday, May 31**

At press time, all the current board members had agreed to serve again if elected, but Stuff Happens (see page 2). As always, all positions are open, so do feel free to volunteer to run. We always welcome hearing from anyone interested in joining the board, either now or in the future. The positions are described at [montaloma.org](http://montaloma.org) under MLNA.

We meet only every six weeks for about an hour and a half. If you want to be part of keeping Monta Loma great, please contact any board member. (See list on page 2.)

**Annual meeting topic?** We are seeking a topic or speaker for that meeting. Possibilities include senior services, Measure B's plan to eliminate all left turns at Thompson/Central, and/or an update on the city's or the Mountain View Whisman School District's plans. If you have a preference or a suggestion, please contact a board member ASAP. (See list on page 2.)

### **PTA used-book sale; donate books now, shop during the Spring Fling**

To help us ensure that all children will find an appropriate book, please donate your outgrown gently-loved children's books. We accept books of all types and any language, from kindergarten through junior high level, but especially need 3rd- to 5th-grade popular series, picture books, and books in Spanish (all levels). No textbooks, technical manuals, religious, or parenting books, please!

Drop books off in the bin in the school office on Monday, February 27. (The school is closed February 20–24.) Then stop by the school and browse on the multipurpose room's stage on Saturday, March 4, 10:00–noon. Questions? Contact Shanna Bengston at [shannamaybe@gmail.com](mailto:shannamaybe@gmail.com) or 602-799-7828.

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW**

March 4 MLNA Spring Fling & PTA used-book sale (p. 1)  
May 6 Citywide garage sale (p. 6)  
May 31 MLNA General Meeting and Board Election (p. 1)

August 27 MLNA Ice Cream Social, 3:00–5:00  
Also see the list of Community Events on p.6.

## MLNA Board Members

### President

Jill Rakestraw, 966-8494  
president@montaloma.org

### First Vice President

Ann Togasaki, 415-314-7166  
vp1@montaloma.org

### Second Vice President

Mary Partlan, 961-2912  
vp2@montaloma.org

### Treasurer

Andre Valente, 310-986-3356  
treasurer@montaloma.org

### Secretary

Alice Hazelgrove, 204-5105  
secretary@montaloma.org

### Newsletter Editor

Marilyn Gildea, 940-1606  
newsletter@montaloma.org

### Member-at-Large

Linda Harvey, 961-7098  
member-at-large@montaloma.org

Area code is 650 unless otherwise specified.

## MLNA Newsletter

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## Board changes

MLNA President Bill Cranston has reluctantly resigned because of work commitments. Bill joined the Board in 2013 because of his interest in local development projects such as the San Antonio Center and made several useful contributions to the city planners. He also worked on traffic issues and shepherded us through the Google move-in. Bill will continue to set up and take down our A-frame signs for our events, but we are sorry to lose him as a board member.

In accordance with the bylaws, First VP Jill Rakestraw becomes president until the board election. Jill and her family have lived in Monta Loma for seven years, and she's been very active in the community, including the school's PTA and Site Council.

Ann Togasaki moves up the First VP and Mary Partlan to Second VP. Linda Harvey had earlier volunteered to serve on the Board and was appointed a member-at-large to keep the board at seven members.

## CERT comes to you on Saturday, March 4

Normally we encourage you to visit the Monta Loma's CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Saturday Sessions on the second Saturday of the month. But in March you can also learn about CERT while sipping coffee at the Spring Fling.

The regular Second Saturday Sessions will be on March 11, April 8, and May 13, between 9 and 11 a.m. at the trailer next to Monta Loma School. Questions? Contact Tim Slattery at CERT@montaloma.org or 964-6389.

We encourage you to take the city's **free CERT course**, whether or not you join our neighborhood group. The next series **begins on March 16**. Visit the CERT page at 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."

## Neighborhood Watch – Prevent burglaries, package thefts

By Tom Purcell, Monta Loma Neighborhood Watch Captain

A neighbor returning home was surprised to find that her empty trash bin had been moved from the curb to the side of her garage. This neighborly act helps prevent burglaries and package thefts because bins left at the curb and no cars in the driveway indicate to thieves that no one is home. One home-security video shows a car stopping at, and the woman passenger walking up to, only those homes with bins at the curb and an empty driveway.

Thefts from vehicles continue, so avoid leaving valuables in yours, and always lock it. Some arrests have been made, thanks to alert bystanders. The police urge you to call whenever 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, which you should have in your cell phone.

A link to the MVPD's tip sheet on how to prevent burglaries in your home and vehicle is at [tinyurl.com/mvpdtips](http://tinyurl.com/mvpdtips) and also at [montaloma.org](http://montaloma.org) on the Neighborhood Watch page (under MLNA). Visit [tinyurl.com/prvntthft](http://tinyurl.com/prvntthft) for tips to prevent package thefts.

## Donate stuffed animals at the Spring Fling

By Jenise Dormann and Ellen Henson

The Animal Beacons of Light project gathers stuffed animals, freshens them and gifts them to children around the world who appreciate something to cuddle. We seek new or gently used soft-filled stuffed animals between 6 and 24 inches, made of fake fur, plush, or soft cloth, and that are cute, cuddly, and in excellent condition. More information is at [localwiki.org/montaloma/Stuffed\\_Animals](http://localwiki.org/montaloma/Stuffed_Animals).

Bring your donations, labeled with your name, to the Spring Fling, or contact Jenise at [animalbeaconsoflight@gmail.com](mailto:animalbeaconsoflight@gmail.com) or 954-8443. Please do not leave donations at Ellen's home.

## The Rails Project

By Jill Rakestraw, MLNA President

Google contractors have been working on the new pedestrian/bike crossing at Victory/Middlefield/Rock that will connect the Rails site (on Mayfield) with the Permanente Trail next to Crittenden Middle School. A push button will activate flashing lights to stop traffic so you can cross to the Middlefield median, where you push another button to cross to the other side.

On Jewell and Montecito at Rengstorff, the current lanes will be re-stripped to fit in a bike lane in the center of the street and to create a protected bike waiting area (bike box) in front of cars. Street parking on Jewell and Montecito nearest Rengstorff will be removed. The streets are already marked to show where the new lanes will go, and "No Right on Red" signs are up. You can see the plans at [tinyurl.com/Rails-Info](http://tinyurl.com/Rails-Info).

Shared lane and green conflict markings are also planned for Rock/Rengstorff.

## MLNA Scrapbook

Visit the MLN History table at the Spring Fling to leaf through the scrapbook kept by Barbara Lugn, one of the founders the MLNA in the mid-1970s, and passed along by her son, Jack Hudkins.

## Block parties; more and better than ever

Last year a record-setting total of 13 parties were held between June and early October. (Look for a map of where at the Spring Fling.) Both newcomers and long-timers appreciated the chance to get together, and everyone's looking forward to a repeat this year. For how-to information, go to [montaloma.org](http://montaloma.org) and click on Block Parties under Events.

## Heritage Park now open

This new park at 771 North Rengstorff Avenue is an easy walk from Monta Loma. It's the home of the historic Immigrant House, an 80-year-old windmill, and 150 trees. It has a bike rack, benches, a drinking fountain, and a picnic table. It doesn't have play equipment or restrooms, and parking is on-street only. Coming soon are bee hives and a demonstration garden.

## MLN email list

Offering something on the list? Rather than attach your photo or flyer, please post it on a file-sharing site and include the link in your message. To join, see Email Lists under MLNA at [montaloma.org](http://montaloma.org).

## Monta Loma Plaza; update on Safeway

The shopping center owner reports, "My last conversation with the on-site construction superintendent was that they are shooting for a July completion date. This is not to say that Safeway would be opening in July, but only that the intention is for construction to be completed by then." The July 2016 press release is at [tinyurl.com/MLPSafeway](http://tinyurl.com/MLPSafeway).

## City boards and commissions

Want to help make Mountain View a better place to live? Consider serving on one of the city's boards, commissions, or committees. These groups provide advice in their areas of expertise to the City Council.

It's wise to attend a few meetings of the board that interests you before applying. Applicants who don't are rarely selected to serve. Go to [mountainview.gov](http://mountainview.gov) and click on Advisory Bodies under City Council.

### Neighborhood Resources

#### Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Tim Slattery, 964-6389  
[CERT@montaloma.org](mailto:CERT@montaloma.org)

#### Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

Tom Purcell, 224-5110  
[MontaLomaNBC@gmail.com](mailto:MontaLomaNBC@gmail.com)

#### Preschooler Network

Darcy Koch, 507-358-1522  
[preschooler@montaloma.org](mailto:preschooler@montaloma.org)

#### MLN Neighborhood Email List

[mln@yahogroups.com](mailto:mln@yahogroups.com)  
List owner: Peggy Manor  
[mlnlist@montaloma.org](mailto:mlnlist@montaloma.org)  
To join this or alternate lists go to [montaloma.org/mlna](http://montaloma.org/mlna) and click on MLNA Email Lists.

#### MLNA Websites

[www.montaloma.org](http://www.montaloma.org)  
Referrals:  
[localwiki.org/montaloma](http://localwiki.org/montaloma)  
Webmaster: Hien Do  
[webmaster@montaloma.org](mailto:webmaster@montaloma.org)



### THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to those who delivered the October newsletter: John Canata, Donna Clarke, Jim & Alice Cochran, Martha Elderon, Harry Gordon, Birgit Grundler, Maria Harnoto, Chuck & Cookie Henderson, Isabella Hill, Jessie Holombo, Paul Kostka, Vickie Lee, Vania Mendonca, Shelly Ostman, Mary Parflan, Herb & Victoria Perry, Leane Reelfs, Pat Young, and Raymond White.

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.

## Preschooler Network

In late October, Monta Loma Preschooler Network members teamed up with Alice Hazelgrove, Monta Loma's Story Lady, for a Halloween costume parade and story hour. If you have children under 6 and want to meet other neighborhood families, contact Darcy Koch at preschooler@montaloma.org.

## Story Hour to resume

Alice Hazelgrove plans to revive her monthly story hour in April. Watch for announcements on the mln email list and the notice board in the park.

## Holiday Progressive Dinner a success

Thanks to organizers Debbie Cunningham and Maria Harnoto, the ninth annual Holiday Potluck Progressive Dinner on December 3 was again a warm and festive success. The 20 attendees went to three homes for the various courses. Everyone had fun meeting new people, seeing old friends, and eating delicious food.

The generous hosts were Linda and Pat Harvey, Elisa Lamb and Scott Ewing, and Karla and Andre Valente. Contributions to Second Harvest Food Bank totaled \$600, enough to provide hundreds of holiday meals.

## Need a tax preparer? A notary?

"Financial and Legal Services" is just one of the topics on the MLN Referral Wiki, at localwiki.org/montaloma/ or at montaloma.org/resources. Both sites also have a link to Businesses Owned by Neighbors. Please add your own recommendations to the wiki, and if you notice outdated information notify webmaster@montaloma.org.

## Help keep birds safe

Sally Clark read that domestic cats are believed to kill more than 2 billion birds each year. Her cats were contributing to this loss until she put colorful collars from birdsbesafe.com on them. That cut their kill rate from one bird per week to one all summer. Dotty Calabrese reminds us that the bird-kill rate is zero for cats kept indoors.

## Neighborhood Birds page on website

A list of the birds that you might see while walking around our neighborhood is now our website, montaloma.org, under the Monta Loma heading. Thanks go to Dotty Calabrese and other neighborhood birders for compiling the list.

### Mobile Library schedule, Friends' used-book sale

The Mobile Library stops at Monta Loma School every Friday from 4:15 to 5:00, and also on Jane at Fay on March 17, April 14, and May 12 from 9:45 to 10:15. For more information or special requests, email Mobile.Library@mountainview.gov or call 526-7029.

The used-book sale is on May 6 & 7. Details at mvlibraryfriends.org.

## Ernie's trains ran again

John Bianco, Ernie's son, continued the tradition of running his model trains evenings between Thanksgiving and Christmas. More families than ever before came to view them, with the biggest crowd on Christmas Eve, when Kate Shih played Christmas carols on her trumpet and Elna Tymes's daughter-in-law, Kelly McCoy-Prael, sang. Visit tinyurl.com/Erniestrains to view the *San Francisco Chronicle* photos and article on the train display.

## Free bus service

Remember that the Mountain View Community Bus stops on Rengstorff at W. Middlefield and at Jewel/Montecito. Visit MVCommunityShuttle.com for information.

## Scout food drive

*By Matthew Wood, parent in Pack 84*

The members of Cub Scout Pack 84 thank all who donated food to our Scouting for Food drive in November. We collected 505 pounds of food, bringing our four-year total from Monta Loma to 2,523 lbs. The total for area scouts was 17 tons, equivalent to 24,000 meals, for Second Harvest Food Bank.

## Voter turnout

Natalie Canata reported that approximately 200 people voted in person and about 200 others dropped off their mail-in ballots at her polling place on Mardell on Election Day. Thanks, Natalie and assistants, for providing this service.

## Google bikes

Google bikes are intended for Google employees to travel around campus or from one campus to another. If you see a multicolor Google bike where it probably shouldn't be, report its location and the time spotted to Google Security (253-5353) and they will pick it up. Most bikes have that phone number in the basket, but it's easy to remember. You might put it on your phone as Speed Dial 53.

## Sewer problem? Call the City first

Each year someone learns the expensive way that the City needs to check your line to the street before you pay for a service to come. Call 903-6329 to report a backup or overflow. They respond at all hours, even on a Sunday, so always call the City first. See tinyurl.com/sewermv for info.

### NEW NEIGHBORS?

Scroll down the home page at montaloma.org to the "welcome letter" link, then print a copy for your new neighbors. Click on "New Neighbor?" under MLNA for information about our neighborhood. 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 Alice Hazelgrove at 204-5105 or secretary@montaloma.org.



## Traffic news from Monta Loma School

By Gloria Higgins, Monta Loma School Principal

We continue to work with the MVPD to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety during drop-off and dismissal times. We also recently added buses to and from Moffett Field, which has reduced the number of cars at pick-up and drop-off by approximately 50.

Even so, with more than 450 students at Monta Loma, traffic will be especially heavy around drop-off and pick-up times, and on rainy days. Anything neighbors can do to avoid Thompson Avenue at those times is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Reminder: School traffic times are 8:10 – 8:35, 1:50 – 2:10, and 3:00 – 3:30. On Thursdays all students leave at 12:30.

## Support Monta Loma School's Walk-a-Thon

The annual Walk-a-Thon on Friday afternoon, May 5, is the PTA's biggest fundraiser of the year. We need lots of energetic volunteers to count laps, serve snacks/water, help with the bake sale and auction, or keep the kids on course and excited. If you can volunteer or donate time/food/items for auction/activities (balloon animals, face painting, etc.), please contact Tonya Brilon at [tonya@victorland.com](mailto:tonya@victorland.com) or drop a note in the PTA box in the office. Neighbors are encouraged to come between 3:00 and 6:00, when you can buy food for dinner.

## Mountain View Educational Foundation plans fundraiser gala

The MVEF supports art, music, science, and technology programs in the Mountain View Whisman School District. Its annual fundraising gala and silent auction is on March 25 at the Senior Center, and all community members are invited to buy tickets at [mvf.org](http://mvf.org). A raffle will be part of the gala, and Adrienne Heiskanen and Wendy Tanabe will sell raffle tickets at the Spring Fling on March 4. Questions? Contact Adrienne at [adrienne\\_heiskanen@yahoo.com](mailto:adrienne_heiskanen@yahoo.com) or 996-6729.

## Tutors needed at Crittenden

By Julie Scott

If you have an hour a week, volunteer to be a tutor in the JustREAD/JustMATH program at Crittenden Middle School, just a short walk or bike away on Rock Street. No special qualifications are needed. You will get the training and materials you need to help students make great progress. Reading tutors are needed on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Math tutors are needed almost any time on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. Visit [justreadcenters.org](http://justreadcenters.org) to learn more and to sign up.

## VIP Reading Day scheduled for March 3

Monta Loma School's students really look forward to this annual tradition. A diverse group of interesting volunteers (VIPs) will read a book to a classroom, donate that book, and briefly describe their background and why they like reading. If you would like to be a VIP reader on Friday, March 3, contact Debbie Chin at [montalomapta@gmail.com](mailto:montalomapta@gmail.com) or 796-1773. Thank you!

## The Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School

on San Antonio will hold its Purim outdoor celebration on March 10 from 9:00 to noon, weather permitting.

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## KEEPING MONTA LOMA CLEAN AND GREEN

**Dogs:** Monta Loma Park fields and school grounds are off limits to dogs during school hours. Pick up dog messes deposited at other times. 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.

**Walkable Sidewalks:** If your greenery is hampering passersby, please trim it back to a height of seven feet and the full width of the sidewalk.

**Hazardous waste:** Visit [hhw.org](http://hhw.org) or call 408-299-7300 to make an appointment to drop off your household hazardous waste and e-waste. Go to [paintcare.org/locator/](http://paintcare.org/locator/) for stores accepting leftover paint. Invite neighbors to help fill your trunk.

**Bulky trash:** Go to [goo.gl/Ka9Que](http://goo.gl/Ka9Que) for On Call Plus pickup info.

**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.

**Trash and recycling bins** should be out of sight except within 24 hours of pickup time.

### Paper shredding March 18

The next shredding opportunity is on Saturday, March 18, 8:00 to noon at the SMaRT Station, 301 Carl Rd. in Sunnyvale. You may want to arrange a carpool via the mln email list. See [mvrecycle.org](http://mvrecycle.org) and click on Events, or call 903-6311.

If you shred at home, please put the shreds in paper bags, stapled shut, so they won't litter the street when the recycling cart is emptied.



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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Arbor Day:** Saturday, March 11, 11:00–1:00, Rengstorff Park.

**City of Mountain View Spring Family Parade:** Saturday, April 22, 10:00–1:00. Register at [mountainview.gov/parade](http://mountainview.gov/parade) or 903-6331.

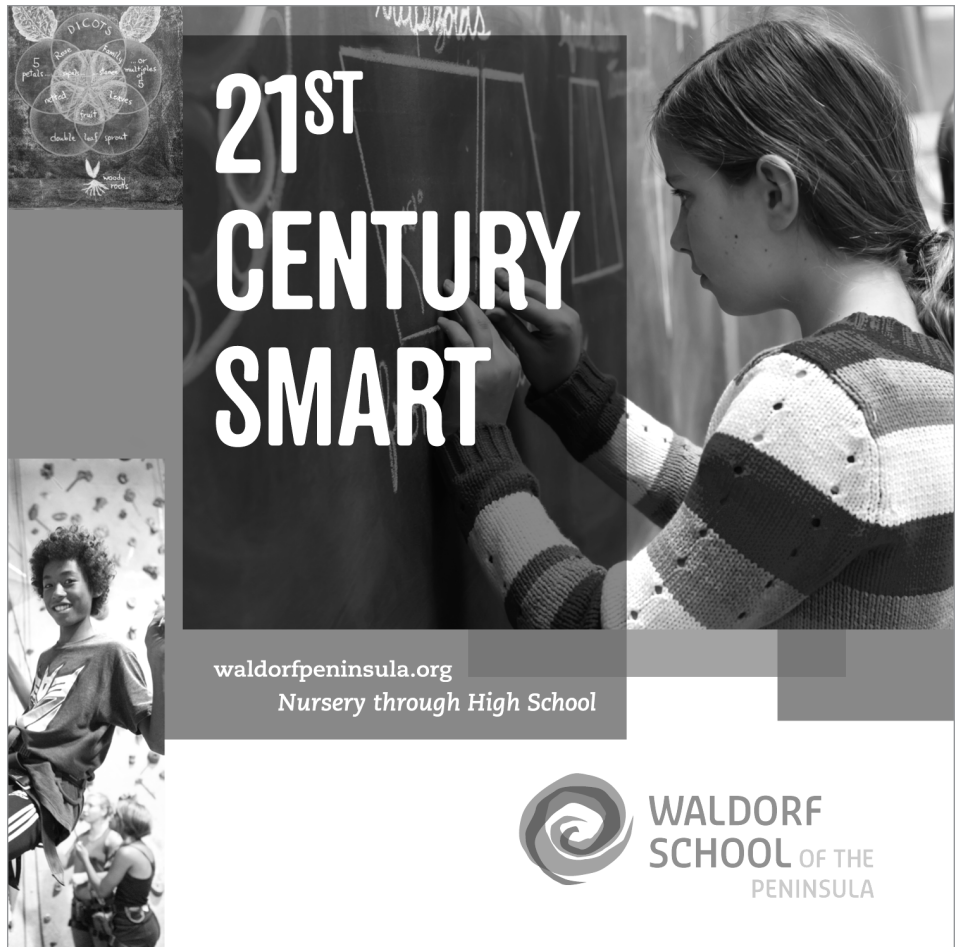
**Library used-book sale:** May 6 & 7. [mvlibraryfriends.org](http://mvlibraryfriends.org).

**Citywide garage sale:** Saturday, May 6, 8:00–2:00 at homes. Register free March 1–April 24. Visit [mvrecycle.org](http://mvrecycle.org) or call 903-6311. (Ed. note: The more local dots on the map, the more customers we'll attract. Online registration is preferred because it supports the online mapping function.)

**Community yard sale:** Saturday, May 20, 8:00–2:00 at Rengstorff Park. Register (\$21) March 1–April 24. Spaces fill quickly. Call 903-6331.

### Ask Mountain View

Use the city's website, [mountainview.gov](http://mountainview.gov), to get a response to any inquiry or request. Click on "Ask MV" on the bottom of the home page. If you are already registered, remember to log in.



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# Prices and Demand Remain Strong It Is Still a Seller's Market!

Monta Loma year over year sales (MLS, Single Family)

Jan. 1 through Dec. 30, 2016 vs 2015:

	2016	2015
# of Sales	19	18
Avg. List Price	\$1,469,299	\$1,296,167
Avg. Sale Price	\$1,544,164	\$1,489,639
Avg. Sq. Ft.	1,421	1,327
Avg \$/Sq. Ft.	\$1,117.82	\$1,156.71

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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. Use "Email settings" to choose the types of messages you receive, such as urgent alerts and the Daily Digest. At press time, montaloma.nextdoor.com had 661 members.

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[mountainviewpoliceblog.com](http://mountainviewpoliceblog.com)

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[@MountainViewPD](https://twitter.com/MountainViewPD)

MVPD collision report:  
[ecrash.lexisnexis.com](http://ecrash.lexisnexis.com)