



MONTA LOMA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE SATURDAY, MAY 4

Start clearing out your garage in advance of the Monta Loma garage sale; learn about neighborhood events and local birds; try a new recipe.

Mark Your Calendars for the Monta Loma Garage Sale

The Monta Loma Neighborhood will hold its fifth annual garage-sale/driveway-giveaway event on the first Saturday in May. The City is postponing its citywide garage sale until autumn, so ours will be a more neighborly event. Mark your calendar now, and plan to participate as a seller or a shopper, or just go for a walk and visit with your neighbors.



Last year, more than 50 households participated, most registering on the Monta Loma list and map. Joan MacDonald will again welcome donations to her sale on Emmons, which benefits the Community Health Awareness Council (CHAC).

The list of participants and a map of their locations will be made public at montaloma.org in early May. To register now for the sale/give-away, contact Marilyn Gildea at montaloma.org/contact.

Plan your 2024 Block party

Eleven block parties were enjoyed last year between July and October. It's not too early to contact a neighbor and set a date for yours. For how-to information, go to montaloma.org and click on **Block Parties** under **Events**.

BLOCK PARTY

Repair Café March 17

Don't toss it, repair it.
The next Repair Café is in Mountain View, at Hacker Dojo, 855 Maude Ave., on Sunday, March 17, 11:00 to 3:00.



Visit <http://www.repaircafemv.org/index.html> for information.

Save the date - The Ice Cream Social will be August 25, 3:00 to 5:00 pm



Mark your calendars! The annual neighborhood Ice Cream Social will be held at the Monta Loma Field on Sunday, August 25. It's a great opportunity to meet new neighbors and chat with old friends. Watch for details in the summer newsletter.

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Water-main replacement projects

Kudos to the construction crew that replaced the 70-year-old water mains on Thaddeus and the 500 block of Emmons. Although the work was disruptive to both residents and through-drivers, the work crew was very accommodating and service-minded. They guided residents backing out of their driveways, moved equipment when necessary, and even carried bags of groceries when one resident couldn't return home after a shopping trip.

Replacing the water mains on Whitney Drive & Court and Parker Court, is currently underway and is estimated to take 6 to 8 weeks. This is the only other city construction project scheduled for Monta Loma this year.



MLNA Newsletter

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Welcome new neighbors!

By John Canata

The Meet and Greet at the local Starbucks on Saturday, January 20, was a great success and wonderful opportunity for new residents to meet our team and learn more about our neighbors and neighborhood. Special thanks to the Starbucks store manager, Jennifer Pascua, for providing us with coffee.

The Welcome team of Brad and Shelly Ostman, Andrea Thomas, and John Canata (with a big assist from Nirvana Nwokidu) welcome all new neighborhood residents, and thank our friends and neighbors for bringing them to our attention. If you are aware of a new resident, please contact us at welcome-team@montaloma.org or call John at (650) 269-5646.

We are always looking for more residents to become regional ambassadors and personally deliver welcome bags to new residents. If you are interested, please contact us.

If any small-business owners who live in the neighborhood would like to contribute a discount or business card, or a tchotchke for our new-resident welcome bag, please contact us.



EARTH AND ARBOR DAY

— Celebration —

Celebrate Earth and Arbor Day on April 20

The City is combining these two events on Saturday, April 20, between 10:00 and 2:00 at the Community Center and Rengstorff Park, with activities for the whole family. The schedule and attractions are tinyurl.com/mlnearth.

Activities for the whole family!

- Earth-friendly booths
- Live music
- Live animal programs
- Outdoor classroom & hands-on workshops
- Planet playground
- Electric vehicle showcase
- Vegan and plant-based food – free samples and food trucks!

Keep Monta Loma clean and green - tips to remember

Walkable Sidewalks

Please trim your greenery back to the full width of the sidewalk and to a height of seven feet.

Remove foxtails - they menace our pets

Foxtails are common in the neighborhood and are a hazard to pets and wildlife. (See photos at tinyurl.com/fxtlmln).

Expensive surgery is required when the seeds embed themselves in tender places such as nose, ears, or paws. Please pull up the plants wherever you can and bag in compostable yard-waste bags. If you must mow, bag for disposal. If using plastic bags, place them in a garbage bin.

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

Keep our storm drain system clean and flowing

Help prevent street flooding and storm drain clogs by removing leaves.



New parents' group meetup in Monta Loma Park



The new-parent get-together has changed time from 11:00 to 1:00 on Saturdays. Join us at Monta Loma Park with a picnic blanket and meet with other new parents. This is a great opportunity to make friends, share best practices, and more. Children vary in age from newborn to almost toddler age, and we welcome all parents to join. Questions? Email Ella Gille at Ella.gille14@gmail.com.

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

Alan Whitaker, 650-279-3375
trafficliaison@montaloma.org

Stay Connected with MLN

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NextDoor.com

MLNA Websites

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



Thanks to those who delivered the November newsletter:

Cheryl Smith, Silke Gurlich, Tracey Ostebo, Donna Clarke, Linda Powers, Olga Bright, Dave Erskine, John Canata, Carolyn Len, Diane McCleary, Leane Reelfs, Paul Kostka, Maria Nelson, Dave McCleary, Chuck & Cookie Henderson, Herb & Victoria Perry, Martha Elderon, Grant & Birgit Grundler, Andy Coe, Nirvana Nwokidu & Jennifer Dell-Ernstrom

Do you have an hour to spare? We welcome new volunteers, even if you can help only occasionally. It's a great way to get to know your neighborhood and get an hour's exercise.

Contact Linda Powers at
lindapowers.007@gmail.com

AROUND THE BLOCK

Musicians of Monta Loma, let's make music together!

By Lindsay Sterling

The music share gathering on January 6 was a blast. We played folk, classical, jazz, and rock, and group-whistled A Grand Old Flag. Saturday afternoon cannot get better than this!



Next Music Share will be Saturday, April 20, 2:00 to 4:00 at 290 Laura Lane. This is a gathering for anyone in the neighborhood to share a piece of live music with a friendly audience of neighbors. All levels are welcome and encouraged. You are welcome to just listen as well. If you would like accompaniment or the others to sing along, consider sharing a link to the song by email beforehand so people can be familiar with the song. We have a piano. Contact information: lindsay@lindsaysterling.com

We look forward to seeing you! Lindsay and John Sterling

Fresh, local seafood delivered weekly to Monta Loma

By Tricia DelGaudio

Four years ago I became a Real Good Fish site host in Monta Loma. I wanted to provide a close, walkable place where neighbors could gain access to fresh, local, sustainably caught fish and seafood. 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



February storm causes electricity power outage

By Jennifer Dell-Ernstrom

In early February, a storm swept through California resulting in a small section of Monta Loma losing electricity for over 48 hours. My family was one of 94 households affected. I want to thank all the neighbors and CERT



CERT member photos of examples of tree-related damage in the neighborhood

members who offered support via the neighborhood email list. CERT leader Tim Slattery sent helpful storm updates.

If you haven't yet joined the email list, you can subscribe at montaloma-post.org. To see PG&E's outages, visit: pgealerts.alerts.pge.com/outage-tools/outage-map.



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. If you sign up, select "Monta Loma" as your pickup site. If you have questions feel free to reach out at tricia.montaloma2017@gmail.com.

Holiday happenings report

"A neighborhood treasure" is how some describe John Bianco, who again ran Ernie's Trains from Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve. Some children came repeatedly to see the different engines and cars.



Bookmobile schedule

The new Bookmobile will visit Monta Loma Elementary School from 2:45 to 3:45 on these Tuesdays: March 5, April 25, and May 14. You can obtain a new library card, pick up your [prearranged] holds, and borrow and renew library materials for all ages. More information is at

library.mountainview.gov/connect/bookmobile-service.

Look for Bookmobile under Hours & Location at library.mountainview.gov.

You can search the catalog at catalog.mountainview.gov to request books to be put aboard for you. It's wise to do it the week before so the staff has time to find them for you.



Meet newest board member, Caleb Fenner

Having grown up in Oregon, my journey includes a background as a swimmer and extensive experience coaching, from running large aquatic programs to assisting an Olympic Gold Medalist at the 2012

Olympic Games. Throughout my adult life, whether running large non-profit youth organizations or working in real estate, community service has always been a significant aspect of my endeavors.

Now a resident of Monta Loma, I'm excited about the opportunity to contribute to the community as a member at large. Looking forward to connecting and being a part of the vibrant Monta Loma neighborhood.

Get involved. Join the Monta Loma Neighborhood Board

We're looking for new neighbors to join the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association (MLNA). This is an opportunity to get involved with the Monta Loma community you live in.

We are a group of neighbors trying to make our neighborhood a better place to live. - Cheryl, current board member

I want to bring the neighborhood together by increasing communication and facilitating inclusiveness among neighbors. - Olga, current Board member

Please contact board@montaloma.org with your interest.

Free exhibit at the Community of School of Music and Arts (CSMA)

Elizabeth Jiménez Montelongo:

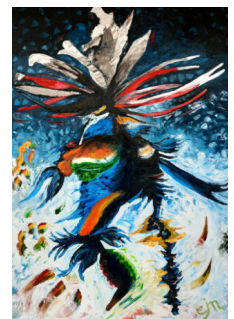
The Euphoric Dance of the Unconquered Mind

Through Sunday, March 24

Mohr Gallery
230 San Antonio Circle,
Mountain View

M-F 9:00 to 6:00,
Sat. 9:00- 1:00

The CSMA Mohr Gallery showcases diverse artwork from seasoned professionals, emerging artists, and student groups. All exhibitions are free and open to the public. More information can be found at <https://arts4all.org/mohr-gallery/>.



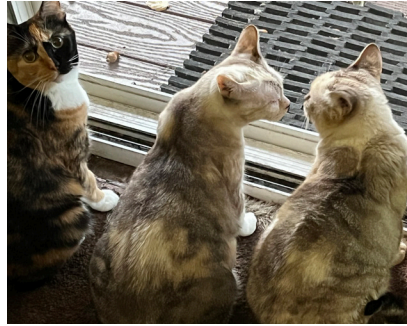
Images from the CSMA Mohr Gallery

Pets in the 'Hood'

Compiled By Cheryl Smith



Emma lives on Hamilton with her sister, parents, and 7-year-old black Labrador who has lived in Kenya, Europe, and now California.



Hannah, Honey Bee, and Hope consider which squirrels and birds to watch through their "screen door TV", chez Sara and Dox on Adele.



Strudel lives on Adele with her parents Nicole and Can, two dog sisters Roxie and Peanut, and two human toddler brothers, Ada and River.



James and Bethany live on Ruth with their rabbit, Olive. Olive is an opinionated Silver Marten who would eat her weight in lettuce, if allowed, and whose fondest desire is to excavate a luxury burrow into their new couch.



Rio and Pica are three-year-old rescues from Taiwan. They love playing tug with each other and sunning in their Alvin Street home with owners/pet parents Jeremy, Liat, Sammy, and Mia.



Piccola gets a walk at Byxbee Park every day!

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A Proud Monta Loma Resident
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Mrs. Murphy's Irish-American Soda Bread

Submitted by Baidra Murphy

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 4 cups all-purpose flour | 1 egg, lightly beaten |
| ¼ cups sugar | 1 ½ cups buttermilk (+ ¼ cup) |
| 1 teaspoon baking soda | 1 teaspoon grated orange zest |
| ¾ teaspoon salt | (optional but highly recommended) |
| 1 ½ - 2 cups raisins/currants | |
| 1 tablespoon caraway seeds | |
| ½ cup (1 stick) + 2 tbsp cold unsalted butter | |



Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Bake for 45 to 55 minutes.

1. Mix dry ingredients in a large bowl.
2. Add caraway seeds and raisins.
3. Add butter, cut in small pieces or grated.
4. Beat egg with a fork.
5. Mix buttermilk, egg, and zest together.
6. Add buttermilk mixture to dry mixture and mix with fork. When adding the buttermilk, start with 1 ½ cups of the buttermilk. If more is needed, add just enough additional buttermilk for the dough to combine (for me it is about ¼ cup). It should still be a bit crumbly but able to hold together, and it should not be particularly sticky.
7. Put the dough onto a well-floured surface and knead it a few times, gently shaping it into a round loaf.
8. Place the loaf onto a edged sheet pan lined with parchment paper.
9. Lightly cut an X into the top of the bread with a sharp knife (sign of the cross or X marks the spot - you choose).

The bread is done when a cake tester comes out clean and the loaf sounds hollow when tapped.

Note from Baidra:

Research tells us that Irish Soda Bread traditionally consisted of flour, baking soda, salt, and buttermilk. Over the years, people have added sugar, butter, caraway seeds, raisins/currants, and zests du jour. While some declare (& debate) that caraway and raisins are not traditional, Soda Bread is not a recipe of the wealthy, and very likely came from the farmers, which leaves me to believe that they would add embellishments as desired and available. So, raisins, currants, and caraway may easily have appeared depending on whim and supply.

I include currants and caraway in Mrs. Murphy's Irish-American Soda Bread. It reminds me of my family and my god-mother Kathleen's delicious loaf.

Join our Monta Loma Neighborhood email list!

The Monta Loma Neighborhood email list has been a major part of our close-knit community for over 20 years, and we encourage you to join if you haven't already. Information is at montaloma-post.org.



Village Harvest will harvest your citrus

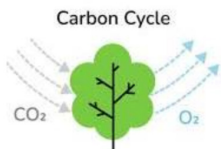
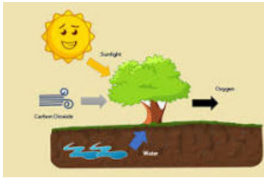
Village Harvest provides healthy fruit to local food banks and people in need. You can arrange for your excess citrus fruit to be collected by Village Harvest by contacting Megan at megan.l.elmore@gmail.com. To learn more visit <https://www.villageharvest.org/>.



The power of trees - oxygen emitters

By Olga Bright

Have you ever stopped to think about the fact that trees cannot move? Trees and plants generally cannot search for their own food. Instead, they need to make their own food. Moisture is drawn up from the roots through cells called xylem, and in return phloem cells transport the nutrients produced by photosynthesis in the leaves back to the roots.



The process of photosynthesis is critical for many forms of life. Many animals, including people, consume plants, and carnivorous animals depend on plant-eating animals. Carbon dioxide is taken by plants from the air and used in the process of photosynthesis, thus reducing the CO₂ in the atmosphere. We are also dependent on the by-product of photosynthesis, oxygen, to breathe.

Photosynthesis occurs in two stages. First, energy from sunlight is captured by the leaves to form high-energy molecules. Then the molecules transform carbon dioxide into glucose, a form of sugar, which the tree needs to grow. Chlorophyll, a pigment that makes leaves appear green, makes it possible for sunlight to be converted into glucose. The by-product, oxygen, is emitted through the stomata on the underside of the leaves.

This process is quite energy intensive. Therefore, deciduous trees extract all their nutrients before the leaves fall in the autumn, including chlorophyll. In some trees, this allows other pigments to become visible, creating beautiful fall leaf colors. In our neighborhood, the Chinese Pistache and the Sweet Gum are notable for their red, orange, and yellow pigments, and the Ginkgo for its brilliant yellow.

Trees typically emit more oxygen than shrubs and flowers because of their size and the number of leaves. According to [Arborday.org](https://arborday.org), the average mature tree will produce 260 pounds of oxygen and absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide. Two mature trees will provide enough oxygen for a family of four AND it takes a lot of CO₂ out of the atmosphere!

Arbor Day is coming up, Friday, April 26, so don't forget to plant a tree!

Editor's Note: Please refer to page 3 for Mountain View Earth and Arbor Day celebrations on April 20.

Free CERT course begins on April 11

Having some emergency training is part of being a responsible citizen, so we encourage you to take the city's free CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) course, whether or not you join our neighborhood group. The Spring course begins on April 11. Visit montaloma.org/mlna/cert for a link to course-registration information.

Meet California's new state mushroom – the California golden chanterelle

By Jennifer Dell-Ernstrom

In late 2023, the California golden chanterelle, native to California and the northern Baja Peninsula, became our very first state mushroom. It grows from the ground in partnership with coastal live oaks and can sometimes associate with other oak species. It has an overall golden orange color, shallow gill ridges, and a white inner flesh. They sometimes show an orange-red staining or bruising, but this can be trimmed off before eating.



They can be found mostly in the fall and winter, but can appear throughout the spring and even summer to early fall in areas with coastal fog. The 2023/2024 season has been ideal due to all the precipitation. If you are interested in learning more about foraging mushrooms, a quick Google search turns up several options in the Bay Area. I'm not very adventurous, so my go-to for delicious mushrooms is Far West Fungi, a farmer selling many varieties of mushrooms at our local Mountain View Farmers' market on Sundays. Check out the market if you haven't been; it's every Sunday from 9:00 to 1:00 in the Mountain View Caltrain Station parking lot. With 80+ farmers and vendors, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

BIRDING IN MONTA LOMA

Are those big black birds ravens or crows?

By Dotty Calabrese

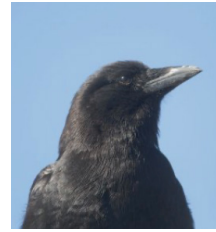
One of the most common bird questions I hear from neighbors is, "Are those big black birds ravens or crows?" The answer is, we have both, but most are crows. Several large families of American Crows live in the Monta Loma neighborhood. Occasional Common Ravens fly over or are seen at the periphery of the neighborhood.

Here are some of the differences between the two, to help you tell them apart. A raven has a thicker bill that is slightly down-turned, while a crow's bill is thinner and straight. A crow's tail is fan-shaped when spread, and flat at the tip when held in a relaxed position. A raven's tail is wedge-shaped, and longer in the center. Ravens travel alone or in pairs. Crows travel alone or in groups, known as murders. Crows caw; ravens make croaking sounds. Ravens tend to be larger, but American Crows do vary in size. The largest American Crows can be as large as a Common Raven, so size is not always diagnostic.

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



Common Raven



American Crow

Photos by Tom Grey - <https://tgreybirds.com/>
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Preschool on Jane Lane has a new owner

By Olga Bright

The Hobbledehoy Montessori Preschool on Jane Lane was owned by Ms. Zoie until she retired in November 2023. The new owner, Manjusha Shanmughan, has renamed the preschool Learning Nest Montessori. We welcome her and her director, Miss Chrissy, to our neighborhood.

Ms. Shanmughan and Miss Chrissy are very committed to providing an enriching environment for the children. The preschool curriculum is based on Montessori philosophy. Ms. Shanmughan says that she embraces this philosophy because of its emphasis on education as a journey for self discovery and personal growth. She and Miss Chrissy actively encourage the children to develop their interests, explore, and learn at their own pace.

The day is structured with time for outdoor play, Montessori work time, story time, cultural activities, musical activities, and an enrichment program. This structure develops children's gross and fine motor skills and exposes them to concepts in science, literature, and math. The curriculum also develops children's appreciation of

different cultures and to enjoy music with singing and musical instruments.

The classroom structure is designed so that there are many hands-on activities to stimulate the children of each developmental stage and encourage personal growth. They emphasize the importance of concrete experiential learning and design teaching moments to bridge the gap between abstract and experiential learning. For example, the older children are shown a catapult, to talk and learn about how an object can be thrown forward with great speed. In addition, parents or local community members are invited to do short presentations about their special interests or their occupations. The classroom is also a place to learn independence, sharing, co-operation, and self discipline. The teachers prioritize freedom, within limits, allowing children to choose activities aligned with their interests while fostering a sense of responsibility towards others.

Ms. Shanmughan and Miss Chrissy are eager to share their new pre-school, and encourage parents and community members to visit learningnestmontessori.com.



Ms. Shanmughan and Miss Chrissy



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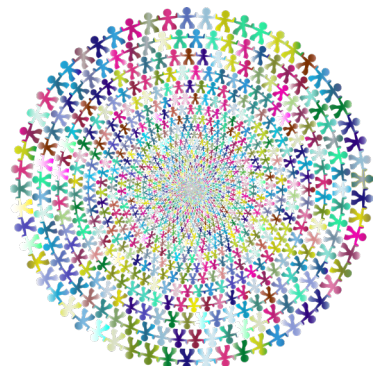


Multicultural Festival

The Multicultural Festival celebrates the diversity of Mountain View. The city-sponsored free event will feature community resource tables, crafts, and a variety of dance, vocal, and musical performances.

Saturday, March 23
• 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Civic Center Plaza
500 Castro Street
Mountain View



Monta Loma School News: From the PTA

By Tanya Ngo, President

The PTA had a busy winter! Our annual winter clothing & food drive collected over 800 clothing and food items for Hope's Corner. We also had the kids' favorite, Movie Night. Over 100 people enjoyed *Ice Age 2* with friends and family while munching on treats.

Mark your calendars for **Friday, March 29**. The Walkathon, our biggest fundraiser, is back, and we'd love your support. You can volunteer, donate to our raffle, and much more. Check out our site via the QR code or montalomapta.org for details. Funds raised go toward student learning enrichment, so every bit is appreciated. Come by the Monta Loma field between 3:00 and 6:00 to cheer on the students and grab a bite to eat. See you there!



List your website on montaloma.org

If you are a Monta Loma resident and would like to be listed on the Neighbors Websites page, send your name, field of interest or business name/description, and the link to your site to marilyn@gildea.com. You may advertise your business twice a year on Share.

If your link is no longer valid or has changed, or you know that someone listed no longer lives in the neighborhood, please let Marilyn know so she can update the page at montaloma.org/mlna/neighbors-websites.

Second Harvest of Silicon Valley holiday fundraiser

Karla Valente once again created a page to encourage Monta Loma neighbors to donate to Second Harvest of Silicon Valley. Our contributions provided a nutritious mix of fresh produce, protein, and pantry items so that local families could enjoy a holiday meal together. Each dollar helped provide food for two meals. This year's fundraiser raised \$1,050. Thank you, neighbors, for your generosity!



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