



MONTA LOMA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

JUST IN TIME FOR THE SEASON

Enjoy all Monta Loma has to offer this holiday season.
Do your holiday shopping with the talented artists and makers in the neighborhood, visit Ernie's trains, and support Second Harvest.

Details for all these events and more in this newsletter.

Dotty's Holiday Open Studio

- Handweaving & Polymer Clay by Dotty Calabrese
- Fiber Arts by Blanche Prior



**Friday, Saturday & Sunday,
December 5, 6, & 7**

10:00 am - 5:00 pm
2465 Richard Ct.
(across Thaddeus from
Thaddeus Park)

Stop by for holiday shopping, weaving demonstrations, hot cider, and cookies! Enjoy a wonderful selection of handmade gifts including: elegant hand-woven scarves & herbal pillows, kitty catnip pillows, polymer clothing buttons, needle cases, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, pins, eyeglass chains, hair barrettes, and cufflinks, fiber coasters, eyeglass cases, small wall art, and hand-knit mohair/silk scarves. All pieces are original designs, crafted with care. Please come visit us and see our work! View some of Dotty's creations at DottyCalabrese.com.

Note: If county COVID rates are high, we may ask visitors to wear a mask (masks will be provided).

The average American consumes about how many calories during a Thanksgiving dinner?

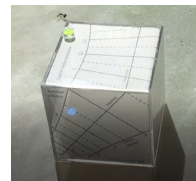


Answer: Between 3,000 and 4,500 calories!

Shop Very Locally

Gift-giving season is fast approaching, so this is a reminder that you can shop very locally by exploring the neighbors' businesses listed on our Neighbors Websites page, montaloma.org/mlna/neighbors-websites.

By exploring our creative neighbors' websites, you can find ready-made gifts to buy, or perhaps arrange to have a gift custom made. You may even be able to arrange a gift certificate for a lesson in an art or skill.



*Sundial and Hoya:
Cube Reflection
Sundial*

One advantage of shopping here in our neighborhood is being able to see your gift before it's sent. Bonus advantages are meeting another neighbor, and, quite possibly, making a new friend.



*Bailey Creek Images:
Wild Sweet Peas
greeting card*

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secretary@montaloma.org

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 Robert Engelmann
 Marilyn Gildea (communications)
 Silke Gürlich
 Cheryl Smith

Ice Cream Social — Another success!

Our annual Ice Cream Social, held at Monta Loma Park on Sunday, August 24, was the traditional success, with attendance estimated to be more than 350.

A difference from previous years was the number of police personnel. Chief Mike Canfield brought at least five officers. Kids enjoyed receiving stickers from him, and sitting in the off-road vehicle.

Other invitees who attended included city council and school board members, plus new MVWSD Superintendent Jeff Baier. They appreciated the opportunity to meet Monta Loma residents, and their appreciation was echoed by the neighbors.

City staff members brought several tables to inform us about the Multicultural Engagement Program, the Sustainability Initiative, and the Recreation Department's offerings.

**MLNA Newsletter****Editor**

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

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The Mountain View Whisman School District again brought a display. Also making repeat appearances were the Monta Loma Elementary and Crittenden Middle School PTAs, Living Classroom, the Mountain View Historical Association, and the Community Action Team (CAT).

Neighborhood participants included CERT members Tim Slattery, John Partlan, and John Thomas (emergency preparation info); John Canata and Wanda Furman (Welcome Team); Gary Heyman with daughters Tori and Leah (balloon creations); Tom Purcell (Monta Loma History); Alan Whitaker (butterfly info); Marilyn Nourse (Girl Scouts); and Grant Grundler (plant give-away and information). New this year were Dotty Calabrese (birds) and Stig Ostenberg (ham radio). Vivek Chopra offered information on a security-camera sharing project.

Nirvana Nwokiduru and son Akin provided the very popular kids' games, and Wouter Suverkropp gave rides in a buggy drawn by robot horses. Gloria Jackson and John Ari Stepp offered cotton candy. Bill Cranston provided and posted the A-frame signs that reminded us to attend, Bill Lambert coned off the driveway for the fire engine, and Cheryl Smith took photos.

Lack of space prevents naming the many volunteers who helped produce the event by delivering and returning the welcome and ice cream tables, staffing them, and ensuring that all traces of the event were removed before leaving the park. We appreciate them all.

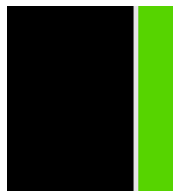
The 2026 ICS will be on Sunday, August 30.

Sharing the Road: Understanding Mountain View's New Bike Lanes

By Scott Hutton

If you've driven along El Camino Real or California Street lately, you've probably noticed those bright new green bike lanes. The City of Mountain View and Caltrans recently wrapped up several road upgrades to make it easier and safer for everyone—drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians — to share the road.

So what do all those green stripes mean? Here's a quick guide.



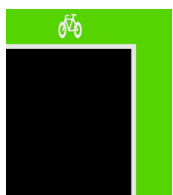
Solid green bike lanes (solid white borders):

Think of these as “bike-only” zones. Cars shouldn't drive or park here, except to get in or out of a driveway.



Dashed green lanes (dashed white lines or broken green paint):

you'll see these near intersections. Cyclists have the right-of-way, so if you're turning right, merge carefully—either well ahead of a rider or after they've passed. Never turn in front of a cyclist.



Bike boxes: These are the green T- or L-shaped areas at intersections. Cars should stop behind the box, while cyclists wait up front to be more visible before the light changes.

As a frequent road cyclist, I can say that a little patience really helps. Giving a rider some extra space might add a few seconds to your trip—and you might even get a friendly wave in return.

Want to learn more? Check out the Mountain View Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan here: tinyurl.com/MtnViewRoadUsers.

Support Second Harvest This Holiday Season

Join the Monta Loma community in our annual tradition of holiday giving! Each year, we come together to support the Silicon Valley Second Harvest Food Bank, helping provide food security—and hope—to local families.



Every \$1 donated provides two meals, so even small contributions make a big difference. Don't forget to check if your employer offers donation matching to double your impact!

The fundraiser runs through December 31, and donations can be made securely here: tinyurl.com/MontaLoma2ndHarvestFundraiser

Thank you for helping make a difference this holiday season!

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

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MLNA Website

montaloma.org
Webmaster: Việt Hoà Dinh
webmaster@montaloma.org

Thank you to the August newsletter delivery volunteers

Cheryl Smith, Leslie Zeisler, Tracey Ostebo, Andre Valente, Ivy Lu, Linda Powers, Olga Bright, Dave Erskine, Hether Cowper, Maria Harnoto, Diane McCleary, Silke Gurlich, Paul Kostka, Maria Nelson, Dave McCleary, Leane Reelfs, Herb & Victoria Perry, Martha Elderon, Grant & Birgit Grundler, Andy Coe, Nirvana Nwokidu

Also, thank you to Bill Cranston for printing the newsletters.

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

Greetings from Lund University

By Jennifer Dell-Ernström

Hello from southern Sweden! I'm currently pursuing my Master's degree at Lund University's Centre for Sustainability Studies, and I'm thoroughly enjoying both my studies and life here in this beautiful corner of Scandinavia.

Lund is a charming, historic town just a short train ride from Copenhagen, Denmark. The university itself has an impressive pedigree—it was founded in 1666, after Sweden won a war with Denmark and sought to establish a seat of learning in the newly acquired southern provinces. Before that, Lund was already a center of scholarship, known since the Middle Ages as a hub of Catholic education dating back to the 1000s.

Today, Lund remains very much a university town, with nearby Malmö serving as the larger neighboring city. The cobblestone streets and preserved medieval core make it a delight to explore. Bicycles are everywhere, and public transport—by bus and train—is excellent, creating a very walkable, people-friendly environment.

The surrounding countryside is equally lovely. This region boasts some of the most fertile farmland in Europe, where sugar beets, corn, rapeseed, and peas are major crops. Picturesque villages and historic coastal towns line the Baltic Sea, making every weekend an opportunity for discovery.

Lund's deep academic roots and vibrant community make it an inspiring place to study and live—it's easy to see why students from all over the world are drawn here.



Lund Cathedral was built between 1081-1145. It was originally built as the Catholic cathedral for all the Nordic countries.

Meet Your New MLNA Board Member: Robert Engemann



Robert Engemann

It was 1973 when I first joined this community as a four-year-old, along with my parents and baby brother. I started kindergarten at Monta Loma Elementary the following year. I still remember attending some of the MLNA meetings my parents brought me to and being fascinated by the neighborhood map printed on the back of the newsletter, with every lot carefully marked.

We moved to the East Coast in 1985, halfway through my high school years. But in 2006, I returned to Monta Loma with my own family—my wife, Beverley, and our twin girls, who were just starting kindergarten. It was wonderful to see that some of my childhood neighbors were still living on the same street.

After a few years away, I came back to California to attend UC Berkeley, then began my career in New York City as an IT manager for a media production company. That role led me into the emerging field of video streaming, where I worked as a solutions engineer. Outside of work, I enjoy travel, genealogy research, and DIY projects around the house.

I'm honored to be joining the MLNA Board and look forward to serving our community and helping keep Monta Loma a great place to live.

Ernie's Trains Will Run Again

The beloved neighborhood tradition continues. John Bianco, Ernie's son, will once again run the model trains from Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve, December 24.

Weather permitting, five tracks will run trains every evening except Mondays at 2387 Adele from 6:30 pm to about 9:00 pm. The engines and cars change daily. Visit montaloma.org for links to past articles and photos in the Mountain View Voice.

Each year, as many as a hundred people stop by on a single night, including parents who fondly remember visiting the trains when they were children themselves.



Kids of all ages!

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

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Jim Cochran Celebrates 95 Remarkable Years

Longtime resident and former mayor Jim Cochran celebrated a milestone on October 27th, when his family gathered to honor Jim's 95 years filled with love, laughter, and a legacy of service. Jim has been part of the community since moving to Thaddeus Drive in 1967. His wisdom, leadership, and dedication have left a lasting impact.



Jim served on the Whisman School District board, as president of the MLNA twice, and was one of the founders of Monta Loma's CERT. But the accomplishments of which he is most proud was the revitalization of downtown.

He was on the Environmental Planning Commission in 1987/88 as it developed the plan for reviving downtown, and then was elected to the City Council in 1988, which approved the plan. Castro Street was torn up and replaced with only three lanes. The sidewalks were widened, underground pipes replaced, parking changed, and the trees that we enjoy today were planted.

The Council also resolved major design errors in the architect's plan for City Hall, furnished City Hall and the Performing Arts Center, and hired an operations manager for the PAC. Jim served on the Council until 1997.

This article was inspired by a message from Jim and Alice's daughter, Laura Donner.

Welcome Team update

By John Canata

The Welcome Team (Nirvana Nwokidu, Andrea Thomas, and John Canata) continues to meet to coordinate the welcoming of new residents to our community. Our next Meet and Greet date will be announced through the Share email list. We are appreciative of the new residents who have joined us at previous Meet and Greets at Starbucks, allowing us to share our experiences living in the neighborhood with them as well as getting to know them and their families.



The team is always excited to share information about our wonderful neighborhood and any upcoming events. If you are able to get out and walk, please explore this wonderful neighborhood and get to know the people who are a part of it. The Team wishes you and your families Happy Holidays. Have fun but be safe.

Please feel free to contact the welcome team at canata350@comcast.net or call John at 650-269-5646 if you have questions

2025 Annual Financial Report

By Andre Valente, MLNA Treasurer

Monta Loma Neighborhood Association has had a very successful year. We supported the Ice Cream Social, which is our signature event, and eleven neighborhood block parties. I have met many neighbors at these activities, which helps make this neighborhood such a wonderful place to live. This is a condensed financial statement for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, audited by the Board. Feel free to contact me at treasurer@montaloma.org if you need more details.

Please patronize our newsletter advertisers; they provide significant financial support to the association.

MLNA	Withdrawals	Deposits
Beginning balance 7/1/2024	\$8,527.43	
City Grant	\$0.00	\$2,625.00
Ice Cream Social	\$823.61	\$0.00
Annual Meeting	\$84.86	\$0.00
Block Parties	\$1,291.6	\$0.00
CERT	\$40.00	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$4,980.12	\$4,250.68
Fees	\$20.00	\$0.00
Internet Hosting	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Withdrawals/Deposits	\$7,240.28	\$6,875.68
Ending balance 6/30/2025	\$8,162.83	

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

From Backyard Bounty to Bubbly Brew

By Tricia DelGaudio

I feel privileged to live in a California neighborhood where the sun shines bright and the days are long. But for me, the most wonderful thing about my Monta Loma is the variety of fruit trees, especially the old, gnarled Asian Pear tree in my front yard. It's a true treasure, with branches that twist and turn like an old wizard's staff. This tree is a relentless giver, producing anywhere from 600 to 800 pieces of fruit each year. And every fall, my family and neighbor take on the wonderful, sticky challenge of harvesting it all, usually in one weekend.

The picking process is a joyous, exhausting chaos. My boys, with their bags, become tiny fruit-gathering squirrels, scrambling to find the ripest, most perfect asian pears. My husband and I manage the ladders, reaching for the higher branches with the picker, and we always make a game of who can find the biggest one. Our fearless neighbor makes sure every last piece of fruit is picked before we call it done. We usually end up with more pears than we know what to do with, and while we love baking them into pies and dehydrating them, there are always leftovers.

During the pandemic, with everyone home and looking for new things to do, we started juicing the pears. First we tried an I love Lucy style with bricks and a bucket, which produced some great photos but poor results. We then rented a large scale food grinder and juice press and spent



hours in the yard, laughing as we took turns cranking the handle and spinning the press. The result was a crisp, sweet juice that was unlike anything you could buy at the store. One evening, my husband and I had a fun idea—why not turn some of it into a hard cider? We weren't new to the process, having brewed beer in the past, but had fun trying different yeasts that turn the simple fruit juice into something effervescent and magical. The final product is nothing short of amazing. It's a light golden color, with a delicate, not overly sweet flavor that's more subtle than apple cider.

Now, every fall, our asian pear harvest is a two-part celebration: the picking and the pressing, and then the waiting and the eventual kegging of our very own asian pear hard cider. It's a wonderful tradition that has brought our family and neighbors even closer and given us a delicious way to enjoy the generosity of our old Asian Pear tree. It has taught my boys about patience, the beauty of team work, and the sweet rewards of a job well done.



Photo: From left to right, Jenna Kingkade, Dotty Calabrese, Cindy Tseng, and Mario Mariatta IV

Neighborhood Birdwalk

On Saturday, 9/20/25, four enthusiastic birders met at Thaddeus Park in the early morning and walked as far as most of Benjamin Drive. In an hour and a half, we saw and identified thirteen species and heard and identified an additional seven. We all enjoyed the experience.

ADVERTISE

IN THE MONTA LOMA NEWSLETTER

The Monta Loma newsletter is issued quarterly and is a great way to reach the local community.

- Ads are available in 3 sizes at different price points.
- All ads are printed in full color.
- Paper copies are delivered to ~1,025 Monta Loma residences.

contact: ADS@MONTALOMA.ORG

BIRDING IN MONTA LOMA

The Red-breasted Sapsucker

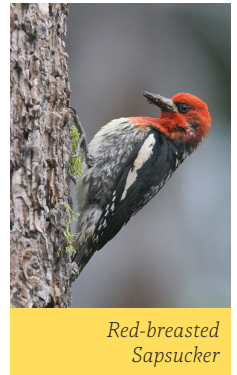
By Dotty Calabrese

Each winter, several migrating bird species visit our Monta Loma neighborhood to enjoy our mild weather and plentiful food. Regular visitors include the Cedar Waxwing, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-crowned Sparrow, and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

One of the most elusive — yet beautiful — of these visitors is the Red-breasted Sapsucker. Although often perched in plain sight, it frequently goes unnoticed. About eight inches long, this medium-sized woodpecker favors neighborhoods like ours with many mature trees.

The Red-breasted Sapsucker is striking: A vivid red head and upper breast, a pale yellowish-white cheek line and belly, black wings and back with a vertical white wing patch, and a black tail with white barring. Males and females look alike.

As its name suggests, the sapsucker drills neat rows of small holes in trees to sip the sap, supplementing its diet with insects and fruit. In Monta Loma, pepper trees seem to be their favorite. If you look closely at the trunks or larger branches of our local pepper trees, you may notice those tidy parallel rows of holes — a sure sign that a Red-breasted Sapsucker has been there!



Keep an eye out during your winter walks — you might just spot one of these quiet, colorful visitors.

Have a bird question? I'd love to hear from you!
dottycala@aol.com

Photo by Tom Grey - reproduced with permission

Prevent holiday thefts

By Tom Purcell, Monta Loma Neighborhood Watch Captain

With the holidays approaching, we can expect a spike in package thefts. Take steps to avoid having deliveries loiter unattended on your doorstep. Many package deliveries offer detailed tracking information and delivery preference options so that you can make sure you or a trusted neighbor can secure a package soon after it's delivered.



For a tip sheet on preventing package theft as well as other helpful safety tips, visit the Neighborhood Watch page on montaloma.org.

Take care to avoid leaving signs that you're not home, such as empty trash bins at the curb. If you leave before your bins are emptied, ask a neighbor to roll them off the street. If you have home security cameras, include in the coverage area where you expect packages to be left. Thefts from vehicles continue, so avoid leaving valuables in yours, and always lock it. The police urge you to call whenever you see anything that seems suspicious. For emergencies and in-progress incidents, call 911. For other matters, suspicious circumstances, or crimes that have already occurred, call the non-emergency number 650-903-6344.

Trim your trees and shrubs

Now through December is the BEST time to do this, both for the health of the trees/shrubs and for the birds and mammals that inhabit them for raising their young. Late December and early January are the best time to trim many fruit trees. By mid-January, many of our local birds are choosing potential nest sites and beginning to court potential mates. Courting, nesting, and raising young go on through most of August. Only emergency tree work should be done from mid-January through August. If your trees and/or shrubs need work, schedule it now or ASAP.



Community Emergency Response Team Meetings

To learn more about disaster preparedness, drop in on a CERT meeting, held on the second Saturday of the month between 9 and 11 a.m. at the trailer next to Monta Loma School. Coming meetings are on December 13, January 10, February 14, and March 14. Questions? Contact Tim Slattery at CERT@montaloma.org or 650-964-6389.



More information is at montaloma.org/mlna/cert/.

Dittmer's Wurst and Meat Haus: A Local Treasure for Meat Lovers

By Peggy Manor

Need a duck for a special dinner? A goose? A rabbit? A capon? Ham or ham hocks for a pot of split pea soup? Dittmer's Wurst and Meat Haus, founded in 1978, has all of these and more—along with a mouth-watering selection of sausages, smoked meats, and smoked salmon, all made on the premises.

Dittmer's award-winning braunschweiger, smoked salmon, and smoked turkey have earned recognition throughout California, as have many of their sausages. Watch for special order deadlines for Thanksgiving and Christmas turkeys and hams on their website, dittmers.com.

The wall freezer holds veal kidneys, frozen sausages, and poultry, as well as buffalo and Dittmer's own burger patties and meatloaves ready to thaw and cook. Among the most interesting and delicious is the Leberkäse, a traditional veal-and-pork meatloaf.

The deli case is a carnivore's dream—featuring smoked turkey, tender roast beef, head cheese, mortadella, and Jagdwurst (hunter's sausage), along with the beloved Braunschweiger. You'll also find venison, Hungarian and Thuringer salamis, and pastrami. There's always something new to try.

The lineup of sausages is dizzying: award-winning Nuremberg Brats, Lamb Merguez, Sheboygan Brats, Bratwurst, Weisswurst, and a tempting variety of chicken sausages.

For bacon lovers, the refrigerator case along the front wall offers thick-cut, country-style bacon. The garlic-smoked version is especially good, while the jalapeño adds a nice kick to wake up your taste buds. Their smoked pork chops make a quick, delicious dinner—just heat and serve with soup, salad, and some good crusty bread. (Dittmer's also carries Acme breads.)

The pork tenderloin, either marinated or plain and ready for your own touch, has become one of my favorites at home—tender, flavorful, and quick to prepare. (It's divine with a port wine sauce, with or without mushrooms!)

In addition to meats, Dittmer's stocks a fine selection of German specialties: mustards from Händlmaier (the Bavarian sweet mustard is my favorite) and Löwensenf, as well as Hengstenberg's pickled red cabbage and sauerkraut—perfect for quick side dishes or traditional meals like spareribs and Reubens.



Peggy Manor with chocolate frogs sold at Dittmer's



Founder Dittmer Bubert (1939-2019). Today, Dittmer's legacy is carried on by his daughter, Petra Silva. Photo from Dittmers.com

Dittmer's also makes their own sauces, including two barbecue varieties, a zesty Jalapeño Pineapple, and my personal favorite, the Apricot Ginger Teriyaki Glaze, which perks up both vegetables and meats. Their house spice blend, Dittmer's Dust, is flavorful but a bit salty for those watching their sodium. You'll also find Palo Alto Firefighter's Pepper Sauce on the shelf.

Don't miss their house-made beef jerky and snack sticks—Pepperoni, Pastrami Swiss, and Jalapeño Enchilada—great for hiking or packed lunches.

At Christmas, Dittmer's transforms into a festive wonderland with traditional Stollen, cookies, biscuits, and confections, plus chocolate Santas and adorable milk chocolate ladybugs—perfect for stockings or gifts.

Treat yourself to a visit. Questions? Call 650-941-3800

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"Ask Mountain View" Really Works!

By Sarah Doxiadis

Last summer, and again this August, my husband, Dox, and I discovered a small encampment behind our property—hidden between our sound wall and an old wooden fence near the former Hobee's parking lot along Central Expressway.



If you've driven on Central toward Thompson, you've probably noticed that the triangular lot beside the old Hobee's has now been cleared. The site, owned by the City of Mountain View, once held a decommissioned water well.

Thanks to the Mountain View Police Department and city staff, the area has been cleaned up and made safer. An MVPD officer arranged for outreach services to assist the individual there. They provided shelter resources and 72 hours' notice for belongings to be removed.

Following the officer's suggestion, I used the Ask Mountain View app to report the unsafe fence and overgrown vegetation. Within days, the city removed the fence and scheduled quarterly maintenance.

If you've been unsure about asking the city for help, give Ask Mountain View a try. It's available on the city's website (mountainview.gov/) and as the Ask Mountain View Mobile app on the iPhone App Store. It truly works!

Holiday tree recycling schedule



Holiday trees will be collected at no charge on your compost day from December 26 until the third Friday in January. If your tree was set out properly and not collected, contact Recology Mountain View at ContactUsRMV@Recology.com or 650-967-3034.

Set Out Instructions

Green and flocked trees with wood stands are accepted, but please no tinsel, decorations, or metal or plastic stands.

Small trees: Cut trees so they fit into the compost carts for collection by the regular truck.

Large trees: Cut into 5-foot pieces and place in the street gutter next to your driveway so they can be easily seen by drivers (and not missed because they were next to hedges or bushes). Large trees will be collected by a special rear-loading truck.

After the third Friday in January, residents may only recycle trees (cut up) in the compost cart; use a free On Call Plus appointment; or attach an extra garbage tag.

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SCHOOL CORNER

Monta Loma Elementary PTA Update

By Amanda Odette, Communication Chair

The Monta Loma PTA held our annual Fall Festival on Friday, October 24th. It was wonderful to see the school and community come together to enjoy carnival games, face painting, food, and music.

As a 100% volunteer-driven event, a huge THANK YOU to the parents, staff, and community members who volunteered, donated prizes, made food, and took the time to attend the festival. We couldn't have done it without all of you.

All the funds raised from the festival go towards field trips, supplies, equipment, and books for the school. Thank you for supporting Monta Loma Elementary.

Up Next: Come do some early holiday gift shopping at Books Inc in downtown Mountain View on **November 19th 3:00 pm—6:00 pm!** There will be a featured reading by author Misa Sugiura from her book *Momo Arashima Steals the Sword of the Wind* at 5:30 pm, and a talk on how an idea becomes a book. Monta Loma librarian Ms. Caryn will also do a reading. A portion of the price of all books sold will be donated to Monta Loma PTA. Spread the word to support your local elementary school!

In addition, the PTA's annual **Winter Clothing Drive will take place from December 1–5** and **Food Drive will be from Dec 8–12**. Donate in the bins outside the multi-use room during these dates.

We are proud to be Monta Loma Leopards.



Where Diversity Inspires Learning: Inside Monta Loma Elementary

By Meghan Jinguji, Monta Loma Elementary Principal

Monta Loma Elementary, home of the Leopards, is a vibrant, diverse community serving Transitional Kindergarten through 5th grade. With 322 students, our small school is rich in culture—over 25 languages are spoken, and students come from more than 25 countries. We also host the district's Extensive Service Needs (ESN) program for students with autism and serve military families from Moffett Field, representing all branches of the military and NASA.

Our student body mirrors the world: 11% Asian, 3% Black/African American, 44% Hispanic/Latino, 26% White, 12% Multi-racial, and 15% military-connected. Twenty-one percent are English learners, 11% receive Special Education services, and 34% are socio-economically disadvantaged. This diversity provides daily opportunities for cultural awareness and understanding.

Monta Loma's climate is shaped by our core values—Respect, Responsibility, Courage, Compassion, and Hard Work. Students are recognized throughout the year through Leopard Spot Winners and Leopard Leader Awards. The Responsive Classroom approach fosters caring relationships, student voice, and high expectations.

Family and community partnerships are central to our success. Parents participate through events, workshops, and leadership roles such as PTA, ELAC, and School Site Council. Community partners enhance learning with enrichment programs and field trips.

As part of the Mountain View Whisman School District, Monta Loma thrives on collaboration among staff, families, and community to ensure every child feels safe, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential—academically, socially, and emotionally.

Bookmobile schedule

The Bookmobile will visit Monta Loma Elementary on Monday, Dec. 2, from 2:45 pm to 3:45 pm.

More information is at library.mountainview.gov/connect/bookmobile-service.



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Enjoying Rambles in Nature in the Midpeninsula Open Space Preserves

by Olga Bright

As fall brings cooler weather, it becomes even more inviting to head outdoors for a walk or hike in the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Preserves. Midpen manages more than 70,000 acres across a rich variety of habitats, including redwood forests, coastal scrub, chaparral, woodlands, grasslands, and riparian areas. There are over 250 miles of trails to explore within 27 preserves spanning Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz counties.

Midpen's mission is to protect native plants and animals so that everyone can enjoy these lands now and into the future. Most preserves offer trails for hiking, and some also allow biking and horseback riding. You can enjoy these activities on your own, with friends and family or join one of the docent-led hikes and programs listed on the Midpen website (openspace.org).

Hiking remains one of the most popular ways to experience these open spaces. Even in fall, you can still find water at Alpine Pond in Russian Ridge, Sausal Pond

in Windy Hill, and Horseshoe Lake in Skyline Ridge. These water habitats persist even through long droughts, and are home to tule sedge, cattails, willows, blackberries, and poison oak.

Such areas provide vital habitat for wildlife and were also important to the Ohlone people, the original inhabitants of this region. As you walk along the water, take a moment to notice the willow tree—once invaluable to the Ohlone. Willow branches were used to build homes, weave baskets, and craft flutes and dolls. The inner bark, rich in salicin (a natural compound later synthesized as aspirin), was used to reduce fever and ease headaches and toothaches.

Whether you're seeking quiet relaxation or a chance to learn about the abundance of our natural surroundings, hiking the Midpen preserves offers both. Each ramble is a reminder of the beauty and history rooted in our local landscapes.



2025

Thank you Monta Loma, I am grateful to be serving you for more than 25 years.



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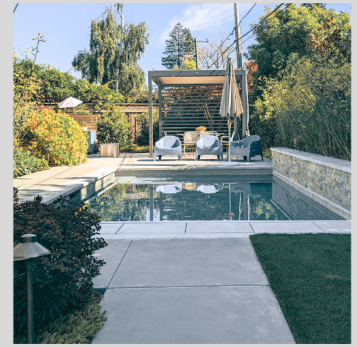
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