



MONTA LOMA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

THE SCOOP: ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Monta Loma Ice Cream Social is planned for Sunday, August 30, from 3:00–5:00pm in Monta Loma Park.

Catch up with neighbors, check out information tables, enjoy a frozen treat, and more.

This event can't happen without neighborhood volunteer support!

E-mail eventcoordinator@montaloma.org if you can help out.

City-wide garage sale Sept. 19 & 20

Plan to participate, or just enjoy this annual event by strolling the neighborhood to greet your neighbors and admire front gardens. Last year, almost 50 MLN households registered with the City. Many more neighbors set out their no-longer-needed items when they saw how many shoppers were coming by. Kids set up lemonade stands.



Visit tinyurl.com/mln-sale to register your sale by September 8 and find tips on planning your sale and disposing of your leftovers without sending them to the dump.

It's not too late to plan a block party

Several parties have been held, and more are planned through mid-October. If your street hasn't scheduled one yet, Fall is a good time to hold it. A block party is a great way to build the camaraderie that helps keep our neighborhood safe, and compile a list of each other's contact information to share. To promote these goals, the MLNA will help pay for your party.



To block off a street you must obtain a permit. **Allow at least 30 days** for it to be processed. For how-to information, go to montaloma.org and find **Block Parties** under **Events**.

What to see and do at the Ice Cream Social

The MLNA Ice Cream Social is our biggest social event of the year, and your best opportunity to meet your neighbors. Visit a welcome table first and sign in; our insurance requires it. Pick up your ticket(s) for a frozen treat, one ticket per person. Write your name and street on a name tag so your neighbors can meet you.



In addition to a free frozen treat, you will find much to see and do. Wouter plans to bring the robot-horse-drawn solar surrey. Not all the attractions and displays had been confirmed, so check montaloma.org for updates as Aug. 30 draws near.

The city manager, members of the City Council, and the members of our school districts' boards have been invited so you can meet them. Candidates for local offices may attend and talk with neighbors but will not be actively campaigning.

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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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2026 Neighborhood Annual Meeting Recap

By Cheryl Smith

More than 40 residents attended the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association's Annual Meeting on June 3. City Manager Kimbra McCarthy (also a Monta Loma neighbor) and Community Development Director Christian Murdock discussed future projects that affect our neighborhood. Mayor Emily Ramos also attended. They answered all our questions pertaining to the major projects:



Pictured from left to right: City Manager Kimbra McCarthy, Mayor Emily Ramos, Community Development Director Christian Murdock, MLNA President and Treasurer Andre Valente, and a neighbor

SB 79 - This Senate bill went into effect on July 1 to zone areas near public transportation (such as Caltrain stops) to accommodate higher density housing. The bill mandates that the City must allow R-7 zoning (70-foot-tall building development) in areas within half a mile of mass transit. Most of Monta Loma had previously been zoned for R-1 (single-family housing). This legislation affects most of Monta Loma. Neighbor Jim Zaorski brought an enlarged map so people could see how they might be affected.

Follow-up: To answer questions about the impacts of the bill, the MLNA will be sponsoring an information session on Sept. 23 at 6:00pm in the Monta Loma Elementary School's multipurpose room. Community Development Director Christian Murdock will be on hand to answer questions. For more information, contact Jim Zaorski at jim.zaorski@gmail.com.

Renovated Recreation Area - The planning process is underway for the playground and structures in Monta Loma Park.

Follow-up: Sand play areas have been added to the plan after neighborhood feedback at the June 11 neighborhood meeting. See Bill Lambert's article in this issue.

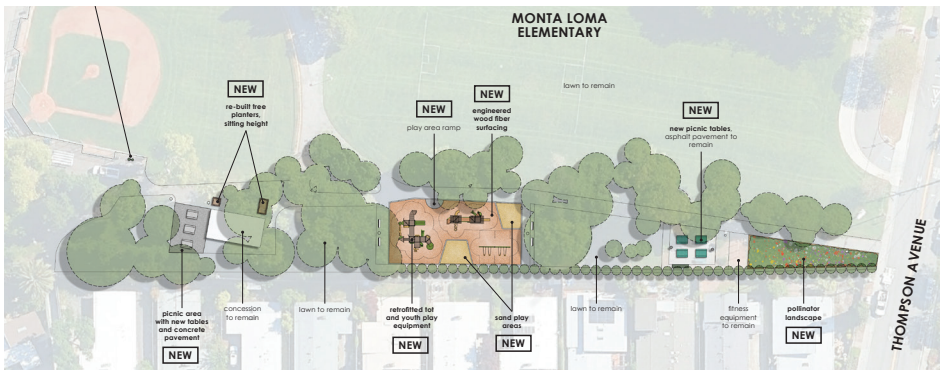
New park at 538 Thompson Ave. Monta Loma residents have been invited to participate in the design of the future park. The City has also purchased one adjoining property, 2231 W. Middlefield Rd.

San Antonio Corridor Plan (paloalto.gov/SanAntonioAreaPlan). Neighbors Bill Lambert and Heather Scholl are members of the Community Advisory Group as this project moves through the planning phases.

Council Neighborhoods Committee Meeting Sept. 10

Every other year three city council members plus the heads of city departments (including Police and Public Works) update us on their plans and respond to our questions. This year's Council Neighborhoods (CNC) meeting is scheduled for Thurs., Sept. 10, 6:30pm, at Stevenson Middle School. Bring your concerns to the people who run our city.

The Committee members are Mayor Emily Ann Ramos and council members John McAlister (Chair) and Pat Showalter. More info and a link to submit questions are at tinyurl.com/ml-cnc.



Monta Loma Recreation Area Update

By Bill Lambert

The City of Mountain View is moving forward with plans to renovate the Monta Loma Recreation Area across the sports field from the Monta Loma Elementary School. The project is a partnership between the City and the Mountain View Whisman School District under their Joint Use Agreement for Recreational Use of School Sites. The City maintains and programs the recreation area and will fund the approximately \$650,000 renovation.

The existing playground structure has reached the end of its useful life after more than 23 years. Planned improvements include new play equipment for both toddlers and older children, an accessible play area ramp, drinking fountains with bottle fillers, a picnic area with new tables and concrete paving, rebuilt tree planters, and pollinator-friendly landscaping.

The City has sought neighborhood input throughout the design process, holding community meetings on December 15, 2025, and April 30, 2026, with about 35 residents attending each. After the second meeting, approximately 30 residents signed a letter requesting additional sand play areas. City staff determined that two sand play features could be added while staying within the project's budget and meeting accessibility, safety, and maintenance requirements. The revised concept plan now includes those additions.

On June 11, 2026, the Mountain View Whisman Board of Trustees unanimously endorsed the proposed design (single-page architect's drawing, tinyurl.com/ml-proposal). The project will now move into construction document preparation, Division of the State Architect (DSA) review, and City Council approval before bidding and construction. Design is expected to be completed in fall 2027, with construction anticipated to begin in spring 2028.

For more information refer to Mountain View city's 25-page presentation tinyurl.com/ml-presentatn from the June 11th meeting. Direct questions to Faryal Saidnia in the Public Works Department at public.works@mountainview.gov.

Hazardous waste drop-off August 22

Household hazardous waste drop-off events enable residents to dispose of paint, oil, cleaners, batteries, solvents, and other household chemical products safely. To register for the appointment-only Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off on August 22, visit www.hhw.org and click on **Events**. This and other environmental events are listed at tinyurl.com/mln-environment.

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
traffici liaison@montaloma.org

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MLNA Website

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

Thank you to the May newsletter delivery volunteers

Cheryl Smith, Leslie Zeisler, Tracey Ostebo, Donna Clarke, Andre Valente, Linda Powers, Olga Bright, Robert Engelmann, John Canata, Maria Harnoto, Diane McCleary, Silke Gürlich, Paul Kostka, Maria Nelson, Dave McCleary, Chuck & Cookie Henderson & Griffen Ackland Herb & Victoria Perry, Martha Elderon, Grant & Birgit Grundler, Andy Coe, Nirvana Nwokidu

Special thanks 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

Foxtails Menace Our Pets and Wildlife

Foxtails (tinyurl.com/fxtlmln) are proliferating in our neighborhood and are a hazard to pets and wildlife. Expensive surgery is required when the seeds embed themselves in tender places such as noses, ears, paws, or eyes. Please pull up the plants wherever you can, and bag in compostable bags for disposal in yard waste bins. If you must mow them, bag for disposal. If using plastic bags, place them in the garbage bin. Please help remove this danger from our pet-friendly neighborhood!



Living Classroom

By Sierra Van Zandt

The Living Classroom welcomes neighbors who would like to volunteer in our school gardens or assist with Living Classroom lessons at Monta Loma Elementary and other local school sites. You do not need to have a child enrolled in the school to get involved.



All volunteers complete fingerprinting and background checks through our nonprofit and meet Mountain View Whisman School District volunteer requirements. In fact, some of our most dedicated volunteers are neighborhood residents who simply enjoy supporting students and helping our gardens thrive.

If you're looking for a meaningful way to give back to the community, we'd love to have you join us! Visit, living-classroom.org/get-involved.

Curbside carts

According to the city's website, the rule is to remove carts (garbage, yard waste, and recycling) from the street no later than the next day. Store the carts inside the garage or behind a fence, hedge, or area screened from street view. If these areas are unavailable, place the carts on the side of the garage or house.

Tree Giveaway Program

Free trees are available until August 27 to Mountain View homeowners to plant and maintain on their Mountain View property. This program supports the city's urban forest restoration and enhancement efforts. Registration details are at tinyurl.com/treemln.



One passage at a time

By Jasper Herman

For nearly nine years, Linda Powers and Jim Fair called a sailboat their home, carrying their lives across oceans as they circumnavigated the globe. Their years at sea did not begin with a firm plan. For Jim, their journey began with the desire "to leave and go see the world." As he explained, "You end up putting one foot in front of another...sooner or later, you realize that you're now halfway around the globe."



Linda Powers and Jim Fair

Some of Linda's most cherished memories came at night. "At night, the stars were just fabulous," she said. "You saw the planets, you saw the constellations." With the waves and the boat moving beneath her, she felt a kind of solitude that ordinary life could not offer. "It was just way cool," she said. "You can't have that here."

Other memories were less grandiose. One day, someone visited their boat with a warm baguette. "It felt like I'd died and gone to heaven!" Linda exclaimed. On the water, even simple comforts became extraordinary.

Even now, the voyage continues through memory. Jim said, "There's not a day that goes by that I don't think about some portion of the trip." For Linda, those memories have crystallized into advice: "Put down the devices and go step out into the world." Their experiences have also taught Linda the importance of staying open to change. "Figure out what your passion is and follow it," she said. "Your passion might also change, and that's okay."

Together, their story is about learning to live with uncertainty. They left without knowing exactly how far they would go. Then the world kept unfolding, one passage at a time.



Visit tinyurl.com/2s3h6zyn or scan the QR code to discover a book filled with fascinating stories from Monta Loma residents, featuring narratives and higher-resolution photos.

To share comments or questions, email jasperherman@gmail.com. Jasper Herman completed this online book as his senior project for the Woodside Priory school. He will be attending UCLA in the fall.

BIRDING IN MONTA LOMA

House Finches

By Dotty Calabrese

One of the best ways to observe our neighborhood birds is to feed them. Seed feeders and seed for wild birds are available at hardware, discount, pet, and nature stores. Birdseed is also available at grocery stores. Spend some time deciding where to hang your feeder. Try to make its location observable from a window, but not too close to the window. Also, make it inaccessible to cats and squirrels. You may want to put decals on nearby windows, so birds are less likely to impact them. Window strikes account for thousands of wild bird deaths annually in the U.S.

Once your feeder is hung, you can expect to see at least one species within a few days. Chances are the house finches will find it first. One of the most abundant birds in our Monta Loma neighborhood, the House Finch, a.k.a. Linnet, is 6" long, greyish brown above with a streaked greyish brown breast,

two narrow white wing bars, and a greyish brown bill that is short and fat, excellent for cracking their favorite thistle, millet, and sunflower seeds. Males have a bright red to orange-yellow bib and forehead. House finches sing in a rich, varied warble. They usually travel in pairs or small family groups. In winter they form larger, foraging flocks. The House Finch is native to the Western U.S. and Mexico, but was introduced to New York from Europe in the 1940's for its melodious song.



Male House Finch



Female House Finch

E-mail your bird questions to dottycala@aol.com

Photos by Tom Grey - reproduced with permission

Sensational sages: The perfect fit for Monta Loma gardens

By Karla Valente

Looking for a beautiful, water-wise plant that thrives in Mountain View? Consider the wonderfully diverse Salvia family, better known as sages. With colorful blooms, fragrant foliage, and tremendous value for pollinators, salvias are a natural choice for many Monta Loma gardens.

Sages also have a rich history. The name Salvia comes from Latin words associated with health and well-being. In medieval Europe, sage was prized as a medicinal herb, inspiring the saying, "Why should a person die when sage grows in the garden?"

Part of the mint family, salvias include hundreds of species adapted to a variety of climates. Many California native and Mediterranean varieties thrive in our mild winters and warm, dry summers.

Popular choices include Cleveland Sage (*Salvia clevelandii*), a California native with aromatic leaves and a wonderful chaparral fragrance; Hummingbird Sage (*Salvia spathacea*), which produces brilliant magenta flowers; and Mexican Bush Sage (*Salvia leucantha*), known for its velvety purple blooms that brighten gardens nearly year-round. Other favorites include long-blooming Autumn Sage, the red-and-



Left to right: Cleveland Sage, Hummingbird Sage, and Mexican Bush Sage

white "Hot Lips" sage, silvery White Sage, and compact Woodland Sage with its upright flower spikes.

Most sages prefer sunny locations and well-drained soil. Once established, many California native varieties need very little summer water. Because salvias vary widely, check the care needs of your specific plant before watering or pruning. Some benefit from seasonal trimming, while others should not be cut back into old woody stems.

Deadheading faded flowers can encourage more blooms, while leaving some seed heads can provide winter interest and food for wildlife. Sages even have a fascinating pollination trick: some bee-pollinated species use a lever-like mechanism that places pollen on visiting bees.

Beautiful, resilient, and wildlife-friendly, salvias are a perfect match for Monta Loma gardens. Consider adding one this season!



Pictured from left to right: Donna Clarke, Sharon Egan, and Annette Havens

Breakfast Club restaurant review

By Annette Havens

I recently visited The Breakfast Club at Midtown and had a really enjoyable experience. Known for its breakfast and lunch comfort food, this spot delivers on both flavor and atmosphere.

I ordered a spinach, cheese, and mushroom omelette with a side of potatoes. The omelette was generous in size, well-seasoned, and satisfying, while the potatoes were perfectly crisp on the outside and soft inside. Others in our group tried the French toast and scrambled eggs, and everyone was happy with their meals. The vegan representative noted that there was only one option for her, but she enjoyed the tofu scramble with vegetables.

Menu prices for omelettes and scrambles range from \$13 to \$25 depending on ingredients and add-ons, with French toast and pancakes priced similarly. One of the best features is the ability to order many items à la carte, making it easy to customize your meal.

The ambiance is another highlight—the space feels bright, open, and welcoming. The music is quiet, making it an ideal spot to relax and hear the entire conversation. There is an outdoor patio and alcoholic drinks are served (an espresso martini looked very yummy as it passed our table). The bathrooms were very clean as well. Whether you're catching up with friends or enjoying a casual meal, it offers a comfortable and inviting setting.

Located in The Village at San Antonio Center next to Il Fornaio at 545 San Antonio Rd., The Breakfast Club at Midtown is open daily from 7:00 to 3:00. It's also within walking/biking distance of the Monta Loma neighborhood. I'd definitely recommend it for anyone looking for a reliable breakfast or lunch spot with a cheerful vibe. bcmidtown.com

Welcome Back to Monta Loma Elementary

By Meghan Jingui, Monta Loma Elementary Principal and Amanda Odette, PTA Communication Chair

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! We are excited to welcome both returning and new families to the Monta Loma Elementary community. We are in the final stretch of preparing classrooms, learning spaces, and completing the Outdoor Learning Spaces construction. We look forward to another year of learning, growth, and connection.

The first day of school is Tuesday, August 12, and we look forward to seeing our Leopards back on campus! Whether your child is joining us for the first time or returning for another year, we are committed to providing a safe, engaging, and supportive learning environment.

Please mark these important dates on your calendar:

- Aug. 9 – PTA Juice Box Social (blue playground behind school)
- Aug. 12 – First Day of School
- Aug. 13 & 14 – PTA Coffee and Tea Meet and Greet with PTA officers
- **Note:** PTA Membership must be renewed each school year. montalomapta.org
- Aug. 26 – Minimum Day & Back-to-School Night
- Sept. 7 – No School (Labor Day)

At Monta Loma, we believe that a strong school culture helps every student succeed.



Keep up with what's happening at the Mountain View Whisman School District

Both Superintendent Jeff Baier and Board President Charles DiFazio publish very readable newsletters to keep us informed of the district's struggles to educate our children within budget limitations. You can join their respective mailing lists by sending a request to supt@mvwsd.org and cdifazio.mvwsd@gmail.com.



Bookmobile Schedule

The Bookmobile will visit the school every three weeks beginning on Tues., Aug. 18. Info is at tinyurl.com/ml-bookmobile.



Join MLN CERT

By Tim Slattery

After a major earthquake, Mountain View's firefighters, police, and paramedics will be stretched thin, tackling the most critical emergencies first. Help for many residents could be hours or days away.



That's where MLN CERT (Monta Loma Neighborhood Community Emergency Response Team) comes in. Since 2000, we've trained ordinary residents to assist our neighborhood when professional responders are delayed—running a Command Post and door-to-door checks after a disaster.

Getting involved is easy: training provided, no prerequisites. Want official certification? The City's free CERT Basic Training starts September 10—register at tinyurl.com/CERT-mln.

Curious first? Visit our table at the Monta Loma Ice Cream Social on August 30, or drop by a meeting the second Saturday of each month, 9–11am, at the CERT trailer. No obligation—just come, ask questions, and meet your neighbors.

When disaster strikes, neighbors helping neighbors can make all the difference.

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