

Neighborhood ~ Newsletter

OF THE MONTA LOMA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

JANUARY, 1978

NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS TO BE DISCUSSED

The upcoming meeting of the MLNA will be used as a forum for residents' views and for a neighborhood discussion of what specific concerns and problems we are experiencing, and how these might be resolved. MLNA committee representatives will coordinate separate discussions on neighborhood property improvement; social, cultural, and civic help activities; schools; crime prevention; and any other topics that are relevant to MLNA's purpose "to promote and advance united effort in support of community goals and the welfare of community residents."

In addition, both Mayor Matt Allen and city council member Emily Lyon will be present to stimulate our discussion, answer questions, and inform us of new directions in which we and our city government are or should be proceeding. The meeting will be held in the multipurpose room of the Monta Loma School at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 19.

SMOKE DETECTORS STILL AVAILABLE

Initial response of MLNA area residents to our smoke detector project far exceeded our expectations. As a result, our first order of 24 FIREMAN'S PROFESSIONAL detectors was insufficient to handle the demand. In fact, fliers announcing the sale were distributed in Neighborhood Areas 1, 7 and 8, but Boy Scouts (accompanied by Mr. Frank Walsh and the vintage Ford firetruck from the Mountain View Fire Department) sold out of detectors before they had finished calling on residents in Area 1. For those still planning to purchase a detector (or two) who missed out on the earlier sale, a new supply of units will be available at the MLNA meeting on January 19th, at a cost of \$18.75. With Mr. Walsh's help, additional neighborhood canvassing may also be made by the Scouts.

MLNA MEETING THURSDAY,
JANUARY 19, 1978, 7:30 PM

The general meeting of the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association (MLNA) will be held at 7:30 pm at the Monta Loma

School multipurpose room. All residents of the area are automatically members of the association, and are invited to attend.

MLNA SURVEY

Analysis of the responses to the first seven questions on the MLNA survey distributed in September has been completed. The results are shown in the accompanying table. Question 1 asked the respondents' street name and number, and these answers were not tabulated. The average number of residents per household was 3.4 for the survey respondents, compared to the latest Mountain View Planning Department data of 3.3 for rental units and 3.6 for owner occupied units (in the Monta Loma area). Thus, even though the number of respondents to the survey was statistically small (88 from 877 houses and 114 apartments), the information provided should be meaningful. An interesting result is that, with an average commute of 6.8 miles, many providers travel away from Mountain View for their jobs (one as far as 35 miles). The average length of respondents' residents is 6.9 years, compared with the planning department data showing 5.9 years, according to a U.S. census of housing in our area in 1970. In the next newsletter, an analysis of answers to questions on neighborhood attitudes, moving plans, and school and city services will be presented.

Household Composition		No. of Rspnd.	%
married, no children		15	17
married, children		47	53
unrelated adults		9	10
single adult/parent		15	17
retired		6	7
Avg Number in Household			
total		3.4	
adults		2.1	
children		1.3	
Own/Rent Home			
own		73	83
rent		15	17
Commute Distance		average miles	
1st provider		6.8	
2nd provider		1.7	
Avg Length of Residence		6.9 years	
Why Chose Monta Loma Area		No. of Rspnd.	%
Proximity to work, shopping or schools		87	99
Amount of rent or price of home		66	75
Design of home		37	42
Other housing not available		10	11
Neighborhood		26	30

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The neighborhood improvement committee has met with city officials on how to deal with neighborhood problems of unsightly and hazzardously maintained properties. The committee met with representatives of the police department, building inspections department, and the city manager. The discussion of how the neighborhood could enlist the city's help led to some informal guidelines offered by the city representatives. These will be pursued at the upcoming MLNA meeting, where residents are invited to discuss their specific problem with neighborhood appearances and help resolve it through community action.

DANGEROUS TRASH DISPOSAL

In the November newsletter, it was mentioned that crankcase oil could be placed in plastic bottles for garbage pick-up. However, it should be further stated that oil, paints, thinners, lead-acid batteries and other such dangerous or dirty wastes be placed alongside the garbage cans at the curb, not within them. If the garbage man were to place these wastes with the other garbage, the compactor could burst the container, spraying him with the substance. Knowing that there is a danger he will place it into another part of the truck. Our garbage man helps keep our neighborhood clean, please help preserve him.

DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

- That the high school shops are available for do-it-yourself wood and metal projects, including all the tools you were hoping to get for Christmas but didn't. Call the school at 967-5543 ext. 35 for further information.
- If the fall leaves and debris are not cleared away before spring, there will result an influx of snails and insects, breeding in the moist, decaying material.
- City ordinances prohibit: parking a vehicle on the street for purposes of washing, repairing or maintaining same, except in an emergency; parking on the street for more than 72 hours; abandoning vehicles by letting them stand inoperative or on blocks, either on the street or on private property.
- That wood piled next to your house may harbor termites which, once infested in the siding, are costly to remove.
- Weed oil is suggested for weed control at this time, as rain permits. Weeds will multiply by the hundreds or thousands if left unchecked.

MLNA GIVEN MOUNTAIN VIEW MAYOR'S AWARD

It is with great pride that this newsletter announces that the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association has been honored by the City of Mountain View as a recipient of the biennial Mayor's Award. The award citation read, "for enhancing the present community of Mountain View while planning for the future, through its accomplishments in neighborhood improvement and constructive community spirit; and for the unselfish gift of time and effort volunteered by many citizens." This award is presented every other year by the mayor for outstanding programs and projects undertaken in the city during the preceding two years.

The Mayor's Award program was started in 1969 by resolution of the city council. This year the nine-member awards jury, representing a cross-section of the city's make-up and headed by Councilman Angelo Frosolone, selected the MLNA for the award, along with twelve other recipients, out of about thirty nominations. The director of planning for the city, Glen Gentry, had nominated the MLNA.

The award ceremony was held on Monday, January 9 at the City Council meeting. Mayor Matt Allen presented the award to MLNA representatives.

FIRE PROTECTION PRESENTATION

At the November 10 MLNA meeting, representatives of the Mountain View Fire Department (MVFD) gave a fire prevention presentation to residents that emphasized smoke detectors, trash fires, fire hazards, etc. plus a MVFD promise to act as a referral for residents (with problems for which they don't know where to turn) to an appropriate city agency. Fire chief Burns discussed a wide range of topics, some only generally related to fire protection, but all relating to neighborhood needs and problems common to all residents.

Mr. Frank Walsh spoke on smoke detectors, graphically portraying the advantage of smoke alarms by the showing of a film. He indicated that 89% of the time residents will have at least three minutes to escape a burning home with adequate warning from a smoke detector. Regarding the two types, Mr. Walsh indicated that the photo electric-type detector acts as our "sense of sight," and the ionization-type detector acts as our "sense of smell," while we are asleep. While one of each type detector provides added protection, either is adequate as a fire alarm.

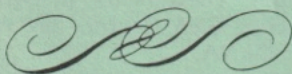
The MVFD is assisting the MLNA in its own smoke detector sales project, by arranging for scouts to accompany Mr. Walsh and transporting them in a MVFD fire truck while selling the detectors. Similar assistance is given the Rotary Club in its sale of detectors elsewhere in the city.

NEIGHBORHOOD PERSONALITIES

The idea of a Neighborhood "Watch," as suggested by our police department representatives at the September MLNA meeting, really works! Residents RAY SOTO and ALICE COCHRAN, of Thaddeus Drive, noted suspicious activity by two youths at a neighbor's house and called police. As a result, three juveniles have been arrested and linked to 14 midpeninsula burglaries involving \$70,000 of stolen goods over the past six months.

In a similar incident of watchful help, BOB PRUEFERT of Alvin Street was alert to a fire in a neighbor's garage at the corner of Quincy. He called the fire department, who extinguished the fire before major damage was done.

Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. James McClure and family on Emmons Drive on the sudden death of Mr. McClure in November. We extend our support as neighbors as they make their new adjustments.



AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Eight smaller areas have been designated within the Monta Loma community in order to allow neighbors to get to know each other and to identify their local neighborhood needs and interests. Each resident is urged to contact his area representative about problems or help on his street. The neighborhood area representatives, and their phone numbers are:

Area 1	Rich Tashjian	961-4794
Area 2	Roberta Varney	965-2527
Area 3	Joan MacDougall	968-4912
Area 4	Sandy Hastings	961-4703
Area 5	Bob Pruefert	965-8249
Area 6	John Canata	969-6059
Area 7	Sharon Adams	969-9765
Area 8	Sue Ware	965-3135

MLNA ORGANIZATION

OFFICERS

President	Dave Jensen	969-9733
1st VP	W. Carl Mitchell	964-4522
	(community affairs)	
2nd VP	Rich Hendrickson	961-1282
	(newsletter)	
Secretary	Lotte Brown	961-7947
Treasurer	Dick Lugn	964-3176

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

editor — Rich Hendrickson
typesetting — courtesy Gus Smoorenburg
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NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES

Property Improvement	
Mer-Liz Munyer	961-6690
Traffic Control	
Richard Tashjian	961-4794
Social Committee	
Barbara Lugn	964-3176
Crime Prevention	
Barbara Lugn	964-3176
Neighborhood "Help"	
Sharon Adams	969-9765
City Council Monitors	
Bob Pruefert	965-8249
Schools Committee	
Kathy Jensen	969-9733
Alice Cochran	968-9049
Animal Control	
Sandy Hastings	961-4703
By-Laws & Incorporation	
Rich Hendrickson	961-1282
Newsletter	
Rich Hendrickson	961-1282

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY PURCHASE A SMOKE DETECTOR

\$18.75 (incl. tax)

Available at MLNA Jan. 19 meeting,
Monta Loma School, 7:30 p.m., or call
Carl Mitchell at 964-4522 or 494-7400,
ex. 6162.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are looking forward to starting the new year off right at our next meeting by devoting the time to discussions of neighborhood problems and helps. The presence of Mayor Matt Allen and Emily Lyon of the city council will help lend expertise to our ideas in this area. We want 1978 to be an even more successful year and we would like to hear your thoughts and ideas.

One of our goals is to incorporate a block representative program. We need closer ties to each neighborhood. Right now we have too few block representatives to initiate the program, but we would like to consider such block activities as a welcome packet distribution to new residents.

We are also monitoring the city's investigation of a possible pedestrian and bicycle overpass from Mayfield Mall to the Old Mill area.

The property tax initiative which many of you signed at our last meeting has received the required number of signatures and thus will be on the June ballot.

We have many areas of interest in the MLNA and many opportunities to help ourselves and our community. We appreciate the city's recognition of our own efforts in its Mayor's Award, and we want to thank all of our residents for their effort and support.

Dave Jensen
President



SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

Members have been attending Whisman School District Board meetings regularly. Some special meetings have been called regarding educational testing and to hear a report from the principal of Hoover School in Palo Alto about the structured education philosophy of that school.

Five school committee members have been working with Monta Loma School staff, including the principal, to prepare a booklet of school rules, expectations and policies. It will be completed soon and will go home with the children. We think it will help improve the behavioral and academic environment.

There are some items that are of importance which have been discussed at the DAC (District Advisory Council) meetings: Because of the new State Financing Bill AB65, the ECE program is to be replaced with a new but similar program. In order to qualify for State aid for this program, a site committee (at each school) composed of parents and school staff will be selected to work out the kind of program desired for that school. An election will be required to qualify for program initiation at the school for which it is planned. This will be an area of interest this coming year. Watch for more information.

Another important memo coming from the DAC is a SEARCH FOR CHILDREN with special needs. Do you know

a child who may benefit from special education? If so, call Special Services office at 967-6921 ex. 42 and ask for Pat Jackson or Sandy Sparby. They will explain what services are available.

Monta Loma School library is open but needs volunteers on a regular basis — even 1 hour/week. Can you help? Even if you have no children in school? Drop by and see the new location and offerings!

MANY THANKS! The first cleanup day at Monta Loma was quite successful and enthusiastic “pruners” decided another day should be scheduled to finish the job. Hope you’ll be able to join in next time!

Several neighbors have volunteered to keep a lookout on behalf of the school district’s property in the face of vandalism, arson, etc. This could mean money saved in reduced losses. We’re grateful to all who are concerned. We need to keep our schools in top condition. Whisman School District will be installing electronic alarm systems in the schools and an alarm system is under consideration for the high school district also.

The high school band is getting new uniforms — the first in many, many years. They will be delivered this year so our graduating seniors in the band can parade in them before they graduate. BARBARA LUGN of Benjamin Drive has toiled long hours with the Booster Club to help get these new uniforms.

CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT

A police department representative has stated that our area has improved greatly in all respects since the MLNA was formed last June. However, we still are not without problems. Available police data show fourteen reported burglaries within our boundaries from October through December. Burglaries on the peninsula have increased almost two-fold over the last year. And the December-January months are the worst of the year for burglaries.

Sixteen homes have had locks installed by the police department, and will have added protection as a result. But why haven’t the rest of the homes in our area? For the cost of the locks (wholesale price of \$11.50), the police department will install deadbolt locks and window and sliding door catches (at \$1.00-\$1.50). If you are interested, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 968-1666, ext. 46.

For crime problems or advice on crime prevention, call Officer Renfrow of the Crime Prevention Unit or Barbara Lugn of the MLNA committee on crime prevention.

EDUCATIONAL TESTING RESULTS

At the November 10 school board meeting, the results of the state testing done in the spring of 1977 were discussed. Each district and each school within the district is assigned a comparison score band based on the socio-economic status, pupil mobility, and test scores of entering children in each district and each school. The results for Monta Loma School in the 2nd and 3rd grades fell within the expected range. The Monta Loma 6th grade did better than expected in spelling, mathematics, and reading, and was on the lower end of the expected range in written expression. See the accompanying chart.

Comparison of Student Performance by Districts

	Los Altos	Mt. View	Whisman
Grade 2 Reading	98* (87-95)**	79 (49-71)	38 (32-51)
Grade 3 Reading	96 (87-94)	67 (44-60)	77 (30-45)
Grade 6 Reading	96 (83-90)	59 (47-68)	57 (54-76)
Written Expression	95 (81-89)	53 (46-69)	41 (55-75)
Spelling	92 (76-86)	70 (51-71)	72 (55-76)
Mathematics	95 (77-87)	53 (49-75)	57 (56-79)

Mt. View - Los Altos

Grade 12 Reading	95* (89-94)**
Written Expression	95 (86-94)
Spelling	89 (74-92)
Mathematics	95 (90-96)

*District rank (percentile) among all districts in state.

**Performance of comparison districts, see text.

From Palo Alto Times, November 9, 1977

There is a chart available showing the actual score for each school. If anyone is interested in seeing that, visit the district office. Monta Loma is highest within the expected score range, while Crittenden is lowest. Thus there are several areas in which educational improvement could be made.



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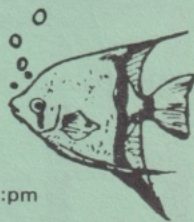
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