



MONTA LOMA NEWS

Fourth Annual Monta Loma Neighborhood Holiday Potluck Progressive Dinner



Mingle with both long-time and new neighbors,
enjoy wonderful food,
and contribute to a worthy cause on
Saturday, December 3, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The host homes for the three courses have already been volunteered, so all we need is you, to bring a potluck dish and your preferred beverage. As before, this is a fundraising event for the Second Harvest Food Bank. You must register in advance with your donation of \$25 per person for the charity. Space is limited, so contact Pat Jordan now at 967-1467 or californiajordan@yahoo.com.

Note: The deadline for reservations and payment is Saturday, November 12.

* * * * *

Can't participate? Why not organize a get-together for your block, friends, or neighbors? It could be a potluck supper, Sunday brunch, dessert, hot-cocoa party, or cookie exchange.

Waldorf School hosts reception December 6

The staff, faculty, and students of Waldorf School of the Peninsula's high school are looking forward to meeting folks in the community at a neighborhood reception on **Tuesday, December 6, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.** at its campus next to St. Athanasius Church. Drop by for refreshments and a chance to get acquainted. You can walk to the school from Fay or Lida if you bring a flashlight. If driving, enter the church parking lot from Rengstorff.

Paper shredding December 3

The next shredding opportunity is on Saturday, December 3, 8:00 to noon, at the SMaRT Station in Sunnyvale. You may want to arrange a carpool via the mln email list. Details are at www.mvrecycle.org; click on Events.

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

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR: - November 12: CERT Saturday (p. 2) - December 3: Paper shredding - December 3: Progressive dinner - December 6: Waldorf School reception	FOR YOUR 2012 CALENDAR: - March 17: Spring Fling (p. 4) - May 5: Citywide Garage Sales (p. 4) - May 12: Community Yard Sale (p. 4)
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MOBILE LIBRARY

The library's mobile unit stops on Jane at Fay on these Fridays: Nov. 4, Dec. 2, Jan. 27, and Feb. 24 from 9:45 to 10:15. It stops at Redwood Villa (on Montecito) from 3:00 to 3:30 on alternate Thursdays: Nov. 17; Dec. 1 and 15, Jan. 12 and 26, and Feb. 9 and 23. Note: No service at either stop during the last week of December. For information or special requests, email Mobile.Library@mountainview.gov or call 526-7029.

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Neighborhood Watch has new coordinator

Spurred by the daylight burglary of her home in July, plus later reports several other burglaries of neighborhood homes and vehicles, Stacey Maedge volunteered to be Monta Loma's Neighborhood Watch (NW) Coordinator. More than 40 residents attended a meeting in her home in September. Jennifer Crist of the MVPD explained the NW program and how to watch for suspicious activity, and answered the many questions. A representative of ADT Security Services (www.adt.com) explained security systems.

As the Neighborhood Watch (NW) Coordinator, Stacey is the liaison between the police department and the NW block captains. The ideal is to have one captain for each block, and since communication is mostly by email, this doesn't involve a lot of time. If you are interested in becoming a block captain, please contact Stacey at stacey@maedge.com or 510-754-323.

Prevent burglaries

Residential burglaries usually occur during working hours, so keep all doors and windows locked when you are not home. Don't leave any valuables in your vehicle, especially not in sight. Report **any** suspicious activity in the neighborhood by calling 911 or the non-emergency number, 903-6395, depending on the circumstances. If 903-6395 isn't in your cell phone, add it now.

Print the detailed list of when-to-call tips from the Neighborhood Watch page of www.montaloma.org. (Click on the "in-person reporting" link.) No computer? Call Marilyn at 940-1606 for a copy.

Neighbors' suggestions via email: Instead of putting give-aways out on the curb, which encourages people to cruise our neighborhood, arrange for pickup in a less conspicuous place. Use your phone to snap a photo of suspicious vehicles you see while walking; include the license plate if possible. Lock your gate. Store detailed descriptions and serial numbers of all electronics in a safe location, and install tracking software (free at preyproject.com).

CERT Saturday Session next Saturday, November 12

By Jim Cochran

Monta Loma's CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) needs interested neighbors to join us to be better prepared for disaster. No special skills are required, but if you are a retired doctor, nurse, and other medical professional, or have industrial ERT or ham radio training, you are particularly needed.

You can check out CERT at any of our Saturday Sessions on the second Saturday of the month, between 9 and 11 a.m. at the trailer next to Monta Loma School. This month's session is Saturday, November 12. The next ones are on December 10, January 14, and February 11. No cost or obligation! You may contact me at 207-5518 or jimcoch@comcast.net.

We encourage you to take the city's free CERT course, whether or not you join our neighborhood group. Put your name on the list for information at <http://tinyurl.com/MTV-CERT>.

Traffic-calming measures update

By Helen Wolter

The traffic-counter tubes the City placed across some of our streets last month were the direct result of our neighborhood traffic survey in May, which indicated that of 70% of the respondents felt that speeding is a problem, and 65% said that traffic volume is also a concern.

The data these devices collected is critical to any steps the city may take to make changes. If the city staff does determine that there is a problem, it will NOT make changes without surveying the homeowners and residents adjoining the area that would be directly affected. And if any traffic controls are implemented, there is a one-year testing period, after which the neighborhood can reconsider the changes.

When the barriers at the Mayfield complex eventually come down, traffic speed and volume will be measured again and compared to the data collected last month. The comparison must show significant changes in order for the City and the developer to undertake traffic mitigation.

If you have questions, please contact me at helenomtns@yahoo.com or 691-1291.

Mayfield development approved; what happens now?

By Wouter Suverkropp

On September 21, after some nine years of work, the City Council approved the permits and architectural designs for the 100 Mayfield project, aka the HP site.

It's been a long road, and I thank all of you for working diligently on this project, and sticking with it. It wasn't easy, but it definitely was (and remains) worth your efforts. By combining our individual expertise we have made a real impact.

The project now consists of 258 housing units (vs. the 487 originally planned), two public parks totaling 3.62 acres, a new pedestrian tunnel under Central Expressway, and updating of the underpass to Palo Alto, as well as funds for park design and build, traffic mitigation, and various other items.

Now what?

- In November, the site will be fenced, but the public roads and sidewalks will remain open. Asbestos removal inside the buildings will begin, as well as tree removal.
- In January, demolition and grading will begin. This is expected to take 3 to 6 months and there will be some road closures during this period.
- Building will begin in the middle of next year in all areas. The builder is planning to build parts of each area, rather than complete areas in succession.
- Upon the start of the building, Mayfield Park must be built and completed. This process will involve many public hearings regarding design, etc.
- No more than 10% of the site may be occupied until the tunnel under Central Expressway is open.

Are we done yet?

No. There will still be public hearings and interactions with the builder and the City. If we stay engaged in a respectful, constructive manner, we can influence details of the project that matter to us, such as vegetation, the separation walls, and undergrounding of utilities. Watch for meeting notices and participate!

Fresh & Easy and Ace Hardware coming to Monta Loma Plaza

By Wouter Suverkropp

Fresh & Easy, a "limited selection" supermarket, and Ace Hardware will share the former Golden Phoenix site at Monta Loma Plaza. The grand opening for both stores is planned for January. Having both a market and a hardware store within easy walking or biking distance is yet another benefit of living in Monta Loma!

Board notes

Alice Carter hosted the Oct. 17 board meeting. Bill Lambert reported that test scores show that Monta Loma School has made great improvement in the past year, and volunteerism has increased. Pat Jordan reported on her plans for the Progressive Dinner and for repairing or replacing our lawn signs.

Wouter Suverkropp reported on the progress of Mayfield and Fresh & Easy/Ace Hardware, and the lack of progress at the Alvin/Middlefield property. Helen Wolter continues to work with city staff on traffic-mitigation plans in anticipation of the Mayfield project.

Carolyn Schmittz reported that the City grant was received; it supported the Spring Fling, Ice Cream Social, and four block parties. Marilyn Gildea reported that the Ice Cream Social was again a huge success, with attendance estimated at about 300. The board set the date of Spring Fling for Saturday, March 17, to coincide again the PTA's used-book sale.

Webmaster transition

Cheryl Jasper is retiring as webmaster of the Monta Loma website, montaloma.org, and the referral wiki, mlna.wikispot.org. We thank her for her almost seven years of volunteer effort to keep these sites so professional and useful. Jeff Leonard has agreed to take over these responsibilities. Thank you, Cheryl and Jeff!

Neighborhood Resources

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Jim Cochran, 207-5518

jimcoch@comcast.net

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

Stacey Maedge, 510-754-3236

stacey@maedge.com

Activities Committee

Wouter Suverkropp, 396-7561

president@montaloma.org

Parents' Network and Babysitting Co-op

Verity Chase, 969-6735

MLN Neighborhood Email List

mln@yahoogroups.com

List owner: Peggy Manor

mamm@pobox.com

To get only official announcements, subscribe at www.montaloma.org.

MLNA Websites

www.montaloma.org

Referrals:

mlna.wikispot.org

Webmaster: Jeff Leonard

webmaster@montaloma.org

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Thanks to those who delivered the August newsletter: John Canata, Henry Chase, Donna Clarke, Jim and Alice Cochran, Martha Elderon, Harry Gordon, Grant and Birgit Grundler, Maria Harnoto, Paul Kostka, Vicki Lee, Joan MacDonald, Allison McGill, Ann McMillan and Wouter Suverkropp, Shelly Ostman, Herb and Victoria Perry, Leane and Alex Reelfs, Toni Sousa, Jen Wakefield, and Pat Young.

We welcome more volunteers, even those who can help only occasionally. It's a good way to get to know your neighborhood and get an hour's exercise. Contact the editor to learn more.

Spring Fling seeks exhibitors, entertainment

Spring Fling 2012 will be on Saturday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day). The purpose, as always, is to bring neighbors together. We're looking for exhibits and entertainment, so please contact any board member (see list on page 2) with offers or suggestions.

News from Monta Loma School

PTA used-book sale in March: Please save your gently-used children's books for donation to the annual Monta Loma School used-book sale in March. The PTA welcomes books of all types and any language, from kindergarten through junior high level, but is especially in need of books for 3rd- to 5th-grade readers, picture books, and books in Spanish (all levels). No textbooks, software/technical manuals, or parenting books, please! Questions? Contact Lorraine Kostka at 964-1928 or lorrainekostka@earthlink.net.

Volunteers sought: If you can help in a classroom at any time, please contact PTA Volunteer Coordinator Michelle Badger at mmbadger@gmail.com or 924-2468.

PG&E power outages; how to complain

By Tim Slattery on Claire Court; tim_slattery@usa.net

This year we have averaged more than one power outage per month of an hour or longer, and we can expect more during the winter rains. After the August 24 outage I filed a complaint with PG&E. A representative called me and said that PG&E is aware that our area has had an unusual number of outages, and that our entire circuit is being considered for upgrading. PG&E will inspect the lines to determine what the problems are. In late September I received a letter from PG&E saying that they will install animal guards on the transformers and additional fault indicators to further identify the problems in our area.

Complaints after each outage may encourage faster action. To complain, have your account number handy and call PG&E Customer Service, 1-800-743-5000. Be sure to get a trouble ticket number; it ensures that your complaint is filed.

CITYWIDE AND COMMUNITY GARAGE SALES

The annual Citywide Garage Sale will be on Saturday, May 5, at homes throughout Mountain View. Registration begins March 1 and ends April 13. Visit www.mvrecycle.org or call 903-6227.

The Community Yard Sale will be held at Rengstorff Park on Saturday, May 12. Registration begins March 1, and spaces fill up quickly. Call the Recreation Department at 903-6331 for more information.

Block parties report

Anna Avenue's very successful early-September party was organized by Bev Smolich and Janet Lavin, who took over from long-time organizer Sheri Morrison. Small water balloons and a pie (actually pudding) eating contest for the kids were part of the fun enjoyed by over 50 neighbors.

John Canata reports that Mardell Way's mid-September party attracted close to 100 attendees. Gary Heyman's balloons and hand-cranked ice cream were favorites. Sean Murphy and Elliot Dan helped John coordinate the event.

The third annual Thompson Square block party, on September 24, organized by Mary Artibee, Arleen Ballin, Peggy Franczyk, Nadine O'Leary, and Joan Starreveld, was attended by 42 neighbors. Tom Wilson and Peggy Franczyk grilled burgers and hotdogs, and contributions included homemade beer. The water-balloon toss was a big attraction.

Jen Mills reports, "Residents of the 2500 block of Alvin Street held their first-ever Blocktober Fest on October 2. Barbeques and sprinklers out on the street were a novelty for the 20 households that turned out. We discovered neighbors who have been here for almost 40 years and neighbors who had moved just in the day before. Thanks to Heather Landers for coordinating, and to Monta Loma residents for avoiding our usually heavy-trafficked street for a few hours."

Residents on Benjamin and Aldean held parties in July.

"Reaching Our Potential" project provides bookcases, books

By Jamie Seeba (Mardell Way)

On September 25 volunteers from Reach Potential Movement (RPM) partnered with our school, local church groups, Monta Loma neighbors, and kindergarten families to give kindergarten students each their own bookshelf filled with books. Monta Loma School's multipurpose room was transformed into an assembly line as kindergarten students chose, painted, and personalized a bookshelf. Then students and parents perused tables of donated children's books and filled their shelves. The bookshelves serve and encourage the development of family reading.

RPM's purpose is to provide opportunities for communities to come together to benefit local children. If you are interested in volunteering for tutoring, mentoring, or other RPM events, visit www.reachpotential.org.

Annual Financial Report

By Carolyn Schmittleh, MLNA Treasurer

We've had another very successful year. Grants from the city enabled us to hold our signature events: the Spring Fling, the Ice Cream Social, and four neighborhood block parties. MLNA has continued to support many events, including the 2010 candidates forum. I have met many neighbors at these activities, which contribute to making this neighborhood such a wonderful place to live.

This is a very condensed statement, so contact me if you'd like more detail. Please patronize our advertisers; they make the newsletter possible.

Get connected

Among the advantages of living in Monta Loma are the neighborhood email list, website, and referral wiki. The mln email list is for residents only and is monitored by its owner, Peggy Manor, as a community service. You'll find news affecting our neighborhood, recommendations and warnings, items for sale, and free stuff. It is not a discussion or chat list.

Join the mln email list via the MLN website, www.montaloma.org. The website also has a welcome letter, information about neighborhood events, groups such as CERT, the MLN Referral Wiki, links to the city, and more.

Don't have a computer? Librarians at local libraries will help you set up a free email account on a public computer.



MLNA	Withdrawals	Deposits
Beginning balance 7/1/2010		6,511.51
City of MV Grant	--	1,500.00
Ice Cream Social August 2010*	217.60	--
Block Parties	456.33	--
Spring Fling March 2011	528.79	--
General Meetings/Board Election	209.07	--
Newsletter expenses/ad revenue	2,326.01	3,165.00
Candidates forum October 2010: expenses/ad revenue	773.53	715.00
Miscellaneous expenses/revenue	1,260.39	337.65
Total Withdrawals/Deposits	5,771.72	5,717.65
Ending balance 6/30/2011		6,457.44

CERT	Withdrawals	Deposits
Beginning balance 7/1/2010		373.20
Grant received	--	--
Miscellaneous Supplies	77.15	--
Total Withdrawals/Deposits	--	--
Ending balance 6/30/2011		296.05

*The 2010 Ice Cream Social came in significantly under budget due to a generous donation of the ice cream by Alice Carter.

Expired coupons honored

Dori Lovejoy on Benjamin reports that Bed Bath & Beyond honors its mailed coupons even after their expiration date, and that you can use more than one coupon per visit. However, online coupons do expire. (*Kohl's honors recently expired coupons, too.*

— Editor)

Looking for a High School in the Neighborhood?

Come to an Open House

180 N. Rengstorff Ave.

Saturdays, Nov 5 & Dec 17

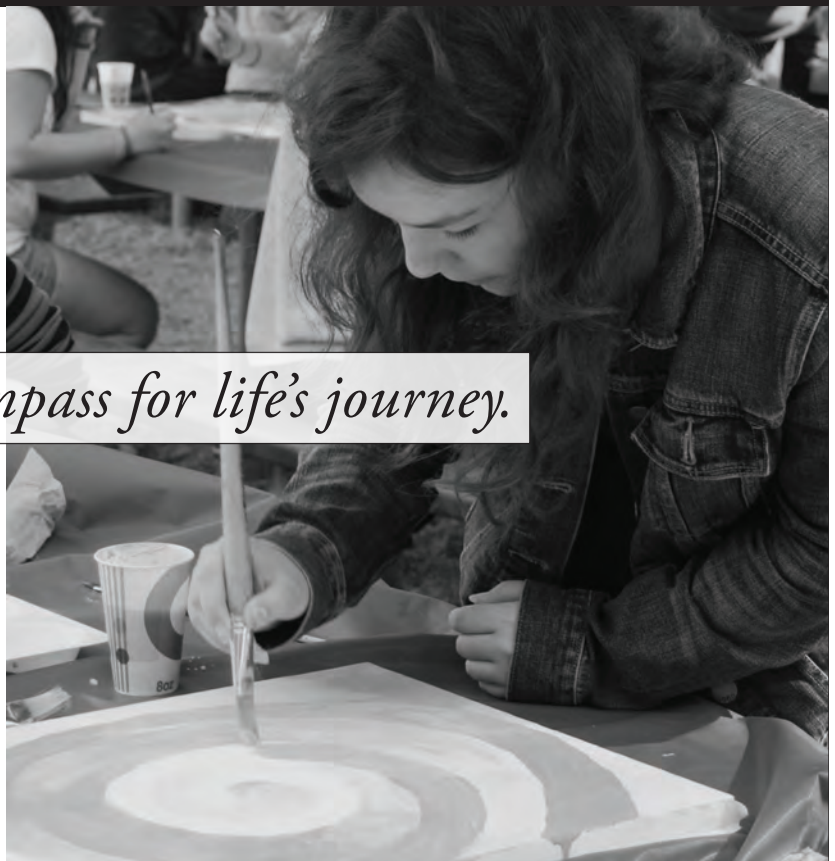
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Keeping Monta Loma Clean and Green



Free street trees: To be considered for a free street tree to be planted on your property by the City this winter, call the Forestry Division at 903-6273 now. They have a list of recommended trees and will plant and stake one for you, and trim the tree periodically over its lifetime at no charge. Property owners are responsible for watering the trees, especially for the first few years. Let's reforest our neighborhood! – *Dianne Dryer*

Street sweeping: Help the sweeper clean your gutter by moving your cars and trash bins off the street the evening before the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Pile leaves away from the curb, and limit leaf piles to less than one foot high by three feet wide.

Hazardous waste drop-off: Household hazardous waste drop-off events are held on Saturdays throughout the year at various locations to enable you to dispose of paint, oil, cleaners, batteries, solvents and other household chemical products safely. Call 408-299-7300 or visit www.hhw.org for the schedule, location, and an appointment.

Turn off sprinklers in winter: Last winter I turned off my sprinklers after the first rains in October and my lawn stayed green until mid-April, weeks after the rains had stopped. Cheryl Jasper did the same and reported that her water bill was 20% lower than the previous winter.

– *Marilyn Gildea*

Birding in the Monta Loma Neighborhood: Part 3 — American Avocet and Black-necked Stilt

by Dotty Calabrese

In the last issue I wrote, "We live very close to a beginning birdwatcher's dream, a place where 25–50 species of birds can be seen in less than two hours at any time of year, with most birds staying still long enough to get a good view through your binoculars. Even better, many of these birds are large. Just drive to the end of San Antonio Road, park on Terminal Blvd., and enter the baylands. You're at the Palo Alto Baylands/Mountain View Shoreline border."



Smaller than last issue's Snowy Egret are the American Avocet (17 in. long) and the Black-necked Stilt (14 in.). Both are common, medium-sized, long-legged shorebirds that live along the shallow edges of the Bay year round, and feed on small invertebrates. Both are spectacular to behold.

The American Avocet has a gray head and neck in winter, which molts to a rich medium-brown in breeding season. Its thin gray legs hold its white body and black and white wings aloft, while it swings its upturned, long, thin bill back and forth through the marsh and mud, hunting.

The Black-necked Stilt perches its black-above and white-below body and wings atop thin hot-pink legs. Its thin black bill is straight. The next time you are at the Bay see if you can identify the American Avocet or the Black-necked Stilt.

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

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**Good news for sellers: 2009 ended with an increase in
activity that has continued into January. Call for details.**