



MONTA LOMA NEWS

PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE MONTA LOMA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Monta Loma Neighborhood Association General Meeting

Wednesday, March 22, 7:15 pm
Monta Loma School Multipurpose Room

Learn about the NorthPark development, and the latest on the other developments. A city planner will answer questions, and proposed revisions to the MLNA bylaws will be explained (see article on page 6). Doors open at 6:30 for setup and refreshments; program begins at 7:15.

NorthPark Development

By Gregory Frank

SEVERAL NEIGHBORS HAVE EXPRESSED concern over plans to demolish the 188-unit NorthPark Apartments at 111 N. Rengstorff (across from Walgreens) and construct 211 three-story row houses.

The city is reviewing the site plan, trees, and potential impact on traffic. Before submitting a formal application to the city, the developers want to present their plans to the affected neighborhoods. Come to our March 22 General Meeting to hear Craig Champion of Centex Homes explain the project. Senior City Planner Martin Alkire will also attend to answer questions about the planning process in general.

**HP/Mayfield
Update p. 4**

**Middlefield
Terrace
Update p. 4**

Babysitting Co-op Reorganizes

By Paul Kostka

THE MONTA LOMA BABYSITTING CO-OP is reorganizing to streamline its operations and expand its membership to nearby neighbors. Joining the Co-op is a good way to meet other parents, and many long-term friendships have resulted. For more information contact Barbara Ho (barbara_ho@yahoo.com or 965-7293) or visit our table at the End-of-Winter Warmup on March 18.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

7th Annual End-of-Winter Warmup

Saturday, March 18, 10:00 am – noon
Monta Loma Multipurpose Room

Chat with old friends and meet new neighbors as you enjoy coffee, hot cider, and doughnuts. Pick up information about neighborhood groups and activities. Engage in a craft activity. Buy a Monta Loma T-shirt. Buy some new (used) books at the school book fair (see p. 6).

If you can help plan this popular event, or have a community activity you would like to share, please contact Dhananjay Ragade at dragade@gmail.com or 625-1570.

Also mark your calendar now for:

March 10: VIP Reading Day at Monta Loma School (p. 6)

March 18: Used-Book Fair at Monta Loma School (p. 6)

April 29: Monta Loma Neighborhood Bird Walk (p. 7)

June 15: MLNA General Meeting and Board Election (p. 2)

MLNA Board Members

President

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kokopelli@stanfordalumni.org

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etymes@lts.com

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MLNA Board Election

By Gregory Frank, MLNA President

THE MONTA LOMA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION that exists to keep us up to date on issues that affect our neighborhood and to organize social events to bring us together. Our association is one of the best in the area and has the ear of our city council and other associations.

Board elections will take place at the general meeting on June 15, and all positions are always open. Candidates are particularly needed for the positions of First Vice President and Corresponding Secretary.

I will not be running again for President, but will remain on the board as Past President. Nola Mae McBain (currently Past President) goes off the board but continues her interest in the HP/Mayfield site. Corresponding Secretary Dave Jensen, who hosted the first MLNA organization meeting in 1976 and served as President then and again in 2003, is also retiring.

Elna Tymes (currently 1st VP) is running for President, and has demonstrated this year that she will do an excellent job. Treasurer Kathy Fitzpatrick and Recording Secretary Jeremy Siegel are willing to continue on the board but would be happy to be replaced.

Please become involved with your neighborhood by volunteering for the MLNA board. We'd like to have a full ballot at our June election. Below are descriptions of all the positions; contact any board member for more information. If you would like to place your name on the ballot, please contact Marilyn Gildea so she can include you in the next newsletter. (marilyn@gildea.com or 940-1606)

■ **President:** Preside over neighborhood meetings and board meetings. Represent association at meetings with City of Mountain View and Santa Clara Neighborhood Association. Time required: 2 to 5 hours per month.

■ **First Vice President:** Preside over meetings in absence of President. Represent association and coordinate participation in organizations we participate in. Time required, 2 to 5 hours per month.

■ **Second Vice President:** Is responsible for publishing the association's newsletter, but that job can be delegated to Marilyn Gildea, who would like to continue as editor.

■ **Treasurer:** Maintain custody of funds; supervise receipts and expenditures; render annual statement on organization's financial condition; prepare and submit reports required by law. Time required, 2 to 4 hours per month.

■ **Recording Secretary:** Keep minutes of board and general meetings; keep roll of officers, board members, committee members and other members. Preserve records of Association's activities in an historical album. Time required, 2 hours per month.

■ **Corresponding Secretary:** Carry out correspondence. Time required, 2 hours per month.

Thanks to everyone who has served on the board or volunteered in any way.

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The Activities Committee Needs YOU!

By Susan Slater

THE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE HAS LOST A NUMBER OF MEMBERS AS THEY'VE RELOCATED or moved on to other commitments. Last year's Ice Cream Social was planned by only four individuals. That's a **lot** of work for a few bodies. We always get great neighborhood response when we ask for help for the day of the events, but we desperately need a few more people to do the advance organizing. The Winter Warmup is already planned for March 18, but the August Ice Cream Social and any future events are currently in jeopardy due to a lack of volunteers.

These two annual events are great ways to strengthen the neighborhood while having fun, but they require committee members to help in the early stages. There are generally only two planning meetings before each event, scheduled far enough in advance that the tasks (e.g., ordering food, organizing crafts, making phone calls) can be fit into your schedule.

If you are interested in being more involved in the neighborhood, meeting new people, and making your neighbors smile, we'd love to have you! For more information, contact Dhananjay (DJ) Ragade at dragade@gmail.com or 625-1570.

Neighborhood Resources

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Jim Cochran, 207-5518
jimcoch@comcast.net

Neighborhood Watch

Chuck Henderson, 969-9947
henderson86@comcast.net

MLNA Babysitting Co-op

Barbara Ho, 965-7293 (NEW)
barbara_ho@yahoo.com

Activities Committee

Dhananjay Ragade/Adriana Flores
625-1570; dragade@yahoo.com

Monta Loma on the Net

Neighborhood Email List

mln@yahoogroups.com
Chris Hoover, chris1162@yahoo.com

MLNA Websites

www.montaloma.org
Referrals: www.montaloma.org/wiki
Webmaster: Cheryl Jasper
cjasper4@comcast.net

HP/Mayfield Update

By Elma Tymes
MLNA 1st VP

Come to the general meeting on March 22 to see the final report submitted to the city in a 1½-inch binder, and learn what happens next.

PRIOR TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION'S Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) hearing in January, members of the Mayfield Coalition met for three Sunday afternoons to focus on discrepancies, missing or under-reported issues, and questions of fact in the DEIR. The newly formed coalition includes the community associations of Monta Loma, Greenmeadow, Rosewalk, and San Alma, and represents some 3,600 Mountain View and Palo Alto residents.

Monta Loma members included Gregory Frank, Elma Tymes, Nola Mae McBain, Jeremy Seigel, Andy Rose, Elaine Lee, Joel Riciputi, Jeff Kaiser, Cookie Henderson, Beth Erickson, Wayne Kelly, Mark Reed, Kathy Blake, Libby Verber, Wouter Suverkropp, Ann McMillan, Tim Auckland, and others.

At the hearing, Gregory introduced the responses, which concerned traffic,

noise, pedestrian access to CalTrain, density, the San Antonio underpass, and train ridership. He showed a graphic of housing developments planned for Mountain View; almost all of the new development will be on our side of El Camino, with a large portion close to Monta Loma.

Other coalition speakers then addressed these points in detail, pointing

evening shopping, the impact on Palo Alto schools, and that upscale-development residents are unlikely to use public transit.

Wouter pointed out that the DEIR's section about noise, during construction and afterwards, contains errors. Mary Arnone said that it doesn't mention use by bikers. John Carpenter noted that it doesn't ad-

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out flaws in the traffic analysis, the impact on local streets, and the desirability of preserving as many trees as possible.

Nola Mae discussed data errors in density, park acreage computations, the number of units to be built in the Palo Alto section, and the jobs/housing ratio. She also pointed out mischaracterizations of the project as a transit-oriented development, the availability of neighborhood services such as

dress disability access.

At the end, the EPC members applauded and congratulated us on the depth of research and clarity of presentation. One commented, "This is the best informed and best prepared group I've ever seen." It was clear that the coalition members had done a tremendous amount of preparation, including reading the entire 1,000-page DEIR and standing in the rain doing traffic counts.

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MIDDLEFIELD TERRACE UPDATE

■ The building that housed the Chinese Buffet was demolished in December. Owner/developer Stephen Allen anticipates that the construction documents will be ready for submittal to the city this autumn, and the review will take a minimum of four months. DeeDee's Indian Restaurant has at least a year to relocate.

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Shopping Center Renovation Explained

By Gregory Frank

LAST SUMMER SEVERAL NEIGHBORS were upset to see yellow “removal” ribbons around many of the trees at the shopping center at Rengstorff and Middlefield, so the MLNA board invited the center’s owner, Charlie Borello, to explain his plans for its renovation at the October general meeting. His arborist showed slides of the trees and explained why eight heritage trees should be removed. Some are dead or unhealthy, and some are too close to a building. None of the attendees objected to the removal of any of these trees, and some were in favor of removing even more because pine trees are not appropriate for parking lots; their roots heave the pavement. Each heritage tree removed must be replaced with two new trees.

We also saw the architectural renderings of the proposed remodel, which will be a vast improvement over the current center. It will look nicer, be better lighted and landscaped, and will have an additional building near the gas station. The original plan was for a bank, but Mr. Borello could not get a solid commitment, so it will probably house small businesses.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

■ Thanks to those who delivered the October newsletter: John Canata, Jim Castelli, Martha Elderon, Marilyn Gildea (2), Grant Grundler, Silke Gurlich, Maria Harnoto, Michelle Hutton (2), Janet Kenney (2), Monique Kenney (2), Paul Kostka, Vickie Palmer, Linda Powers, Carolyn Siegel, Cheryl Smith, Alan and Roberta Whitaker.

To get the job done, several deliverers take two routes, so 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.

Call for Articles

■ Late April is the deadline for submitting material for the June issue. A reminder will go out to the neighborhood email list, but if you’re not on the list, you won’t see it. (Join the list via mln-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.) We welcome all ideas but reserve the right to edit submissions. To submit an item, contact Marilyn Gildea at marilyn@gildea.com or 940-1606.

Animal Beacons of Light

By Pat Jordan

ELLEN HENSON ON TAMALPAIS FOUNDED this charitable organization in 2000 to spread joy, light, and healing to children around the world through gifts of stuffed animals. Each year, approximately 3,000 animals are washed, brushed, infused with loving energy, adorned with a bow and tag, and then distributed to shelters, daycare centers, churches, hospitals, hospices, and orphanages.

Ways to help us include donations of new or gently used stuffed animals; washing and drying them; sorting, tagging, and storing; fund raising and monetary donations; and carrying animals to any travel destination. For more information, contact Ellen Henson (961-8777 or animalbeacons@yahoo.com) or Pat Jordan (967-1467 or californiajordan@yahoo.com).

Bylaws Revisions

By Peggy Manor

THE BYLAWS REVISION COMMITTEE is nearing the end of its work. Its primary goals are to enable absentee voting (in future) for the board officers, and separate the positions of Newsletter Editor and 2nd VP so the editor isn't in line for the presidency if both the President and the 1st VP resign. We also propose to reduce the period of advance notification for amendment votes from 30 to 20 days, and correct section-numbering, spelling, and punctuation errors.

A presentation of the proposed changes is scheduled for the March 22 general meeting. Further information will be distributed in advance of the June meeting so a vote can be taken then.

The current bylaws are at www.montaloma.org. A hard copy may be obtained from Marilyn Gildea.

News from Monta Loma School

By Julie Scott, PTA Board Member

VIP Reading Day If you would enjoy reading from your favorite book to an appreciative class, volunteer to visit the school on Friday, March 10, for a half hour that's convenient for you. Watch for information on the mln email or contact Shelly Ostman at 3boys1girl@comcast.net or 967-2852.

Used-Book Sale Visit the sale during the End-of-Winter Warmup on March 18. Drop off your book donations at the school office or at 471 Victory by March 10.

Campus Beautification The PTA also organizes campus beautification days to ensure that our school presents an attractive face to the neighborhood. Join us in mulching, weeding, and painting on Saturday, May 20, from 9 to 12.

One of the biggest boosts to property values is an active, appealing school. To get involved or just to learn about how our PTA contributes to the neighborhood, join it and its email list. For more information, call the school office (903-6915) or stop by.

Neighborhood Watch Update

By Chuck Henderson

PETTY CRIMES AND SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES are reported frequently on the neighborhood email. Remember to report them (no matter how petty) to the Police Department immediately. For emergencies and in-progress incidents, call 911 (903-6395 from a cell phone). Report non-emergencies to Josef Kachman (903-6707 or josef.kachman@mountainview.gov).

The Neighborhood Watch Committee has had four NW signs installed (three along Thompson and one on Jane near Rengstorff) and is assessing appropriate locations for the other six signs they purchased. Smaller signs are available for your house or the entrance to your court (notice the one at Craig Ct.) for \$5.

We presently have block captains for 18 streets; they are listed on the Monta Loma website. Block captains are still needed for Anna, Bella,

Benjamin, Betlo, Claire, Devri, Elka, Emmons, Fay, Hamilton, Heather, Jewell, Marcelyn, Marjorie, Nedson, Nita, Parker, Parker Ct., Quincy, Rengstorff, Richard, Ruth, Tamalpais, Thaddeus, and Victory. Please consider volunteering.

To learn about the duties of a block captain or to purchase a NW sign, contact Chuck Henderson at henderson86@comcast.net or 969-9947. For a copy of the NW info page in the August newsletter, contact the editor.

Safety Tips

■ Leave nothing visible in your vehicle at night; remove CDs, iPods, laptop computers, money, sunglasses, shopping bags, etc.

■ If you see someone loitering at an odd hour (late night, early morning) in your yard or a neighbor's yard, call 911 and provide as good a description as possible.

The Northern (Red-Shafted) Flicker

by Dotty Calabrese

ONE OF OUR MOST SPECTACULAR BIRDS is a seldom-seen woodpecker named the Northern (or Red-Shafted) Flicker. This 12-inch bird has a broad black crescent-shaped chest band, gray face and throat, a red mark on each lower cheek that looks like a red whisker, brown back and head, beige breast and abdomen with many black spots, and light wings with black bars. If you see this bird flying above you, notice the vibrant reddish-pink feathers

that cover the undersides of its wings and tail. The upper side of its tail is dark, with a striking white rump.

Flickers are often seen on the ground, foraging for ants (which comprise more than half their diet) with their long, sticky tongues, or drumming on trees. Other insects make up most of the rest of their diet, but they also eat berries, seeds, and nuts.

Flickers use their strong bills to drill a new nest hole in a tree or telephone pole each spring. Both parents care for the eggs and young. See kaweahoaks.com/html/flicker.html for a picture and its calls.



Fundraising

■ In April I will again participate in the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society's Annual Birdathon, a fundraiser for environmental education in Santa Clara County schools. Last year, our three-woman team (Wild Women Birders) identified 118 bird species in Santa Clara County in one very long day, and raised over \$5,200, including several hundred dollars from Monta Loma neighbors. This year, we are attempting to raise even more money. Please consider sponsoring me in this event. Your tax-deductible donation can be as little as \$5. For more information, visit www.scvas.org/ and click on Spring Birdathon. To donate, make your check payable to SCVAS and drop it in the mail to me, Dotty Calabrese, 2465 Richard Ct., 94043. (Or drop the envelope in my mail slot; it's the blue-gray Eichler at the corner of W. Middlefield and Thaddeus, across Thaddeus from Thaddeus Park) Thank you!



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Saturday, April 29, 8:00–9:00 am

Dotty Calabrese will lead a Monta Loma Neighborhood Bird Walk

■ Meet at Thaddeus Park at the corner of W. Middlefield and Thaddeus. Bring binoculars if you have them. Children who can pay attention quietly when we see a bird are welcome to attend. Expect to see 8 to 15 species. Rain cancels.

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