

MONTA LOMA NEWS



Spring Fling 2015

Come meet and chat with your neighbors and friends.
¡Vengan todos a conocer y platicar con sus vecinos y amigos!

Saturday, March 7, 10:00 a.m. – noon

Monta Loma School Multipurpose Room

• Chat with old friends and meet new neighbors as you enjoy free Starbucks coffee, hot cider or chocolate, and baked goods. Buy books at the PTA's used-book sale. Donate stuffed animals. Learn about best tree choices from Mountain View Trees and more about Monta Loma's history. Buy a Monta Loma tee shirt and a ticket for the MV Ed Fund's raffle. Visit the Neighborhood Watch/MVPD table for crime-prevention tips and info about the PD's social-media outlets.

• Some people think that Spring Fling is just for families, but it's for everyone in Monta Loma. We provide activities for the kids in order to encourage their parents to come.

• If you can help with this popular event or have a community activity you would like to share, please contact Alice Hazelgrove (formerly Carter) now. Alice can be reached at alice.hazelgrove@gmail.com or 204-5105.

Welcome to our neighbors in Fairview Park. Please introduce yourselves at the Spring Fling so we can welcome you personally into the Monta Loma Neighborhood.

Help keep Monta Loma great — volunteer!

If you agree that we have a great thing going in our neighborhood, help us keep it that way by volunteering to serve on the MLNA Board. Several board members are unable to continue due to other commitments, so we are seeking some new faces to carry the torch. We need "at large" members and we especially need a treasurer to keep our books. (We need your financial skill.)

The annual general meeting and board election will take place on Thursday evening, June 4, but we don't need to wait until then to appoint replacements. If you want to be part of keeping Monta Loma great, please contact Bill Cranston at president@montaloma.org or any board member. (See list on page 2.)

Annual meeting topic? We are also seeking a topic or speaker for that meeting. Possibilities include senior services, lawn conversion, and/or an update on the city's, Mountain View Whisman School District's, or Google's plans. If you have a preference or a suggestion, please contact a board member ASAP.

PTA used-book sale; donate books now, shop during the Spring Fling

To help us ensure that all children will find an appropriate book, please donate your outgrown gently-loved children's books. We accept books of all types and any language, from kindergarten through junior high level, but especially need 3rd- to 5th-grade readers, picture books, and books in Spanish (all levels). No textbooks, software/technical manuals, religious, or parenting books, please!

Drop books off in the bin in the school office **no later than Monday, March 2**. Then stop by the school and browse on the multipurpose room's stage on Saturday, March 7, 10:00–noon. Questions? Contact Lorraine Kostka at 964-1928 or lorrainekostka@earthlink.net.

Citywide garage sale: Saturday, May 2, 8:00–2:00 at homes. Register free March 2–April 17. (See p. 6)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

March 7 MLNA Spring Fling & PTA used-book sale (p. 1)
May 2 Citywide garage sale (p. 1)
June 4 MLNA General Meeting and Election (p. 1)
August 30 MLNA Ice Cream Social, 3:00–5:00

Also see the list of Community Events on p. 6.

MLNA Board Members

President

Bill Cranston, 949-1838
president@montaloma.org

First Vice President

Jennifer Coogan, 963-9811
coogan@gmail.com

Second Vice President

Vacant

Treasurer

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Changes on the MLNA Board

President Estuardo Montufar resigned in January due to a family emergency, and the first and second VPs moved up. Danielle exchanged positions with Alice, who reverted to her maiden name. The entire Board thanks Estuardo for his three years of leadership.

CERT comes to you on Saturday, March 7

Normally we encourage you to visit the Monta Loma's CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Saturday Sessions on the second Saturday of the month at the trailer next to Monta Loma School. But **this time only** you can learn about CERT while sipping coffee at the Spring Fling.

The next CERT Second Saturday Sessions will be on April 11, May 9, and June 13, between 9 and 11 a.m. at the trailer next to Monta Loma School. Questions? Contact Tim Slattery at tim_slattery@usa.net or 964-6389.

We encourage you to take the city's **free CERT course**, whether or not you join our neighborhood group. The next series **begins on May 27**. Visit the CERT page at www.montaloma.org for a link to info. "First Aid teaches you what to do until the ambulance comes; CERT teaches you what to do when the ambulance isn't going to come."

Mayfield/Google update

Bill Cranston, our MLNA liaison with Google, submitted residents' questions and received these replies in late January: Occupancy is currently scheduled for early May. Access to the San Antonio Road underpass will be restored by the end of March. Privacy blinds that close automatically at dusk will be installed on the northern parts of the building, and we are looking into various window-film options. We are also extending the hedge along the entire length of the wall along Nita where it is adjacent to the street and where it extends onto our property. The Dept. of Public Works has approved a plan to add striping to the street at the Nita-Whitney connector to further delineate the geometry of the curb and driveway. We are working on an email address for Monta Loma residents to submit questions and input directly.

Bill's discussions with Google will continue, particularly on the configuration of the Nita end of the Nita-Whitney connector.

School District Report

By Bill Lambert, Trustee, MVWSD

The Mountain View Whisman K-8 School District was fortunate to be able to hire Kevin Skelly, former superintendent of the Palo Alto Unified School District, as our interim superintendent when Craig Goldman resigned in December. The board has retained a professional search firm to help us find a new superintendent. There will be opportunities during the week of February 23 for you to provide input.

Superintendent Skelly is continuing important ongoing district initiatives including restructuring the Castro schools, establishing Measure G construction priorities for our elementary schools, and exploring changing school boundaries. Monta Loma neighbors Patrick Neschleba and Erin Brownfield are members of the Facilities Task Force, and MLNA board member Jennifer Coogan is a member of the Boundary Task Force. The recommendations of these task forces and the decisions of the Board will have a long-term impact on Monta Loma, so I hope that you will give input as appropriate.

Donate stuffed animals at the Spring Fling

By Jenise Dormann and Ellen Henson

The Animal Beacons of Light project gathers stuffed animals, freshens them and gifts them to children around the world who appreciate something to cuddle. Bring your donations, labeled with your name, to the Spring Fling.

We seek new or gently used soft-filled stuffed animals between 6 and 24 inches, made of fake fur, plush, or soft cloth, and that are cute, cuddly, and in excellent condition. Visit www.mlna.wikispot.org/Stuffed_Animals for more information. Questions? Contact Jenise at animalbeaconsoflight@gmail.com or 954-8443.

Neighborhood Watch – Secure your home

By Tom Purcell, Monta Loma Neighborhood Watch Captain

The recent early-morning entry of an occupied home on Thompson Avenue and a bike theft from the patio of another are reminders to keep all gates, doors, and windows secured. Use window locks or dowels to prevent windows from being opened more than 4 inches. The police urge you to call whenever you see anything that seems suspicious. For emergencies and in-progress incidents, call 911. For non-emergencies, suspicious circumstances, or crimes that have already occurred, call 903-6395. Put this number in your cell phone. See the Neighborhood Watch page (under MLNA) at www.montaloma.org for more info.

Sewer problem? Call the City first

Alice Hazelgrove advises: I learned (the expensive way) that the City needs to check your line to the street before you pay for a service to come. Call 903-6329 to report a backup or overflow. They respond at all hours; the worker who came (within two hours, on a Sunday) told me to always call the City first. See www.ci.mtnview.ca.us/depts/pw/services/sewer.asp for info.

City buys park site on Wyandotte

While out walking some months ago, Bill Cranston spotted a property for sale at 2254 Wyandotte Street. Bill thought that it looked like a good location for a small park, as there are several projects underway to build townhomes in the park-poor area north of Monta Loma. Bill alerted Monta Loma neighbor Helen Wolter, then-chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC). Helen passed the information on to the city staff, which negotiated the sale. The PRC also asked city staff to place a notice in the *Voice* asking readers to help find other sites for pocket parks, and it ran for several weeks.

Middlefield/Independence/Thaddeus crosswalk project

Senior Traffic Engineer Lorenzo Lopez reports, “The person who was working on the project was part-time and found a full-time position elsewhere so we don’t [currently] have enough resources. We are looking for someone to replace him.... Thus the timeline on this project will shift substantially.”

Landscape rebate program extended

The Santa Clara Valley Water District has extended its landscape rebate program until June 30. Go to www.valleywater.org/Programs/LandscapeRebateProgram.aspx for information including videos. The three neighbors on Betlo/Ruth’s outer curve offer to share their recent experience with the program; just ask for advice on mln.

Holiday Progressive Dinner a success

Thanks to organizers Debbie Cunningham and Maria Harnoto, the Holiday Potluck Progressive Dinner on December 6 was again a warm and festive success. The 36 attendees, in two groups, went to three homes each for the various courses. Everyone had fun meeting new people, seeing old friends, and eating delicious food.

Hosts were Debbie and Scott Cunningham, Adrienne and Vesa Heiskanen, Kelly Hsieh and John Forster, Kevin and Nadine O’Leary, Ann Togasaki, and Karla and Andre Valente. Contributions totaled \$1,200, which was matched by donors to Second Harvest Food Bank for a total of \$2,400, enough to provide thousands of holiday meals.

New this year was an “after party” hosted by Ann Togasaki, which featured a “How well do you know Monta Loma?” quiz. Sheri and Jerry Morrison won the prize, a Monta Loma tee shirt.

Preschooler Network

The new Monta Loma Preschooler Network has held a babysitter meet-and-greet and several playdates at Monta Loma park, with more fun to come this spring and summer. If you have children under 6 and want to meet other neighborhood families, contact Maren Whitson at maren.whitson@gmail.com or 450-6354.

Neighborhood Resources

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Tim Slattery, 964-6389
tim_slattery@usa.net

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

Tom Purcell, 224-5110
MontaLomaNBC@gmail.com

Activities Committee

Alice Hazelgrove, 204-5105
albee1956@gmail.com

Preschooler Network

Maren Whitson, 450-6354
maren.whitson@gmail.com

MLN Neighborhood Email List

mln@yahoogroups.com
List owner: Peggy Manor
mamm@pobox.com
To join this or alternate lists go to montaloma.org/mlna and click on MLNA Email Lists.

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 October newsletter: Vannina Champenois, Donna Clarke, Jim & Alice Cochran, Anne Glynn, Harry Gordon, Birgit Grundler, Silke Gurlich, Maria Harnoto, Cookie & Chuck Henderson, Isabella Hill & Eli, Paul Kostka, Vickie Lee, Dave & Dianne McCleary (2 bundles), Shelly Ostman, Herb & Victoria Perry, Tom Purcell, Leane Reelfs, and Joan Sweetman.

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.

Mountain View Educational Foundation plans fundraiser gala

The MVEF supports art, music, science, and technology programs in the Mountain View Whisman School District. Its annual fundraising gala and silent auction is on March 21 at the Senior Center, and all community members are invited to buy tickets at www.mvef.org. A raffle will be part of the gala, and Adrienne Heiskanen and Wendy Tanabe will sell raffle tickets at the Spring Fling on March 7. Questions? Contact Adrienne at 996-6729 or email adrienne_heiskanen@yahoo.com.

Please support Monta Loma School's Walk-a-Thon

The annual Walk-a-Thon on Friday afternoon, May 1, is the PTA's biggest fundraiser of the year. We need lots of energetic volunteers to count laps, serve snacks/water, help with the bake sale and auction, or keep the kids on course and excited. If you can volunteer or donate time/food/items for auction/activities (balloon animals, face painting, etc.), please contact Tonya Brilon at tonya@victorland.com or drop a note in the PTA box in the office. Neighbors are encouraged to come between 3:00 and 6:00, when you can buy food for dinner.

Update on school traffic

By Angela Lyon, Monta Loma School Principal

Traffic continues to improve as more families use the dashboard placards showing their students' names. We've purchased small bullhorns for teachers to call out students to the pickup lane, which reduces wait time. Our new rainy-day pick-up procedure works well: All students wait in the multi and we use the middle loop with two lanes for pickup.

Reminder: School traffic times are 8:10 – 8:35, 1:50 – 2:10, and 3:00 – 3:30. On Thursdays all students leave at 12:30.

VIP Reading Day scheduled for March 2

Monta Loma School's students really look forward to this annual tradition. A diverse group of interesting volunteers (VIPs) will read a book to a classroom, donate that book, and briefly describe their background and why they like reading. If you would like to be a VIP reader on Monday, March 2, contact Adrienne Heiskanen at adrienne_heiskanen@yahoo.com or 996-6729. Thank you!

Leadership Mountain View taking applications

"Leadership Mountain View is where good people become great leaders," agree the graduates of this course on how the city works. If you contemplate becoming more involved in the community, consider taking the course this year. It begins in September but spaces fill months earlier. The registration deadline is April 30. Visit www.chambermv.org/leadership or contact Alicia Crank at alicia@chambermv.org or 968-8378.

Editor's note: Some elected officials say that participation in the League of Women Voters provides an even more valuable experience. (Yes, the LWV welcomes men, too.)

City boards and commissions

Want to help make Mountain View a better place to live? Consider serving on one of the city's boards, commissions,

or committees. These groups provide advice in their areas of expertise to the City Council. Being part of one gives you an ongoing first-hand look at matters that usually come before the City Council, but at the point where (sometimes substantial) changes can be made.

It's wise to attend a few meetings of the board that interests you before applying. Applicants who don't are rarely selected to serve. Go to www.mountainview.gov and click on Advisory Bodies under City Council.

New bus services inaugurated

Two new free shuttle bus services began service in January. The Mountain View Community Bus stops on Rengstorff at W. Middlefield and at Jewel/Montecito. Visit MVCommunityShuttle.com for information. Another map is at map08_it02.jpg.

The MVgo shuttle service is sponsored by area employers to connect employees in the North Bayshore and Whisman areas with the downtown transit center. It is also fare-free and open to the public. See mvgo.org for information.

Bench is a welcome addition

By Alice Hazelgrove (formerly Carter)

The pretty blue bench at the front of my house on Lassen Avenue is proving a popular destination. Young families stop by to check out the Little Free Library and read for a while, and older folks appreciate the opportunity to rest during their daily walks. What better way to help Mountain View earn the "Senior Friendly City" appellation than to install a bench in front of your house? I paid \$10 for mine at a yard sale, and attached it to the ground using rebar, so it was only a small investment.

Ernie's trains ran again

John Bianco, Ernie's son, continued the tradition of running his model trains evenings between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many families came to view them, with the biggest crowd on Christmas Eve, when Kate Shih played Christmas carols on her trumpet and Adele and Palmer were lined with farolitos.

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, and items for sale or free. It is not a discussion or chat list.

Join the mln email list at www.montaloma.org under MLNA. To get only official announcements from the Board, scroll to the bottom of the MLN Email Lists page.

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.

Weather permitting, the Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School on San Antonio will hold its Purim outdoor celebration on Thursday, March 5, from 9:00 to noon.

Information about the new **Martial Arts Academy** at Monta Loma Plaza is at www.seraoacademy.com.

MOBILE LIBRARY SCHEDULE, FRIENDS' USED-BOOK SALE

The Mobile Library stops at Monta Loma School every Friday from 4:15 to 5:00, and also on Jane at Fay on March 20, April 17, May 15, and June 12 from 9:45 to 10:15. For more information or special requests, email Mobile.Library@mountainview.gov or call 526-7029.

Used-book sales are on February 28/March 1 and May 16/17. Details at www.mvlibraryfriends.org.

New neighbors?

Scroll down the home page at www.montaloma.org to the "welcome letter" link, then print a copy for your new neighbors. Click on "New Neighbor?" under MLNA for information about our neighborhood. If you or a neighbor (whether an owner or renter) has lived here less than two years and would like a packet of local information, contact Jenny Coogan at coogan@gmail.com or 963-9811.

Swim at Greenmeadow's pool

Memberships are available for the Greenmeadow Community Association year-round pool, located within easy walking/biking distance via the Nita/San Antonio crosswalk. Info at www.greenmeadow.org.

Ask Mountain View

Use the city's website, www.mountainview.gov, to get a response to any inquiry or request. Click on "Ask Mountain View" on the bottom of the home page. If you are already registered, remember to log in.

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Oh Brother, now *EVERYONE* wants to sell bananas!

As most of you know, the Milk Pail is a Postage Stamp sized business. We've been lucky, we have survived, some say prospered, in a very tough industry that has seen a growing number of new "players".

Some of the new competitors give a new meaning to "BIG"!

A guy in Arkansas decides to stack 'em deep and stack 'em high and now we have Sam's Walmart as the number one grocery company in the United States! Not to be outdone, Target is re-inventing itself into a partial supermarket. Over in England, Tesco is the third largest retailer in the World, and they decide to try a new concept in California called Fresh & Easy Markets. Trader Joe's is owned by a German family that recently was acknowledged as the 7th wealthiest family in the WORLD.

Another new company to the Bay Area is funded by a Hedge Fund that has \$ 82,000,000,000 of investor monies. (That's Billion !)

Next time you need Bananas, remember that the little Monkeys that run your Local Neighborhood Markets are good folk, hard working, and maybe even your neighbors. The Gorillas probably don't live in your neighborhood, they might not even live in your state, or even your country!

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Trash and recycling bins should be out of sight except within 24 hours of pickup time.

Graffiti: Quick removal is the key to discouraging it. Report it ASAP to the MVPD at 903-6395, and to the property owner, who is responsible for removing it.

Young trees need water so give them a deep watering (10 gallons) near the trunk at least every two weeks during their first five years.

Water-saving tips are at goo.gl/UErkFn and on the website www.saveourh2o.org.

Walkable Sidewalks: If your greenery is hampering passersby, please trim it back, and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Hazardous waste: Visit www.hhw.org or call 408-299-7300 to make an appointment to drop off your household hazardous waste and e-waste. Go to www.paintcare.org/locator/ for stores accepting leftover paint. You might invite neighbors to help fill your trunk.

Dogs: Monta Loma Park fields and school grounds are off limits to dogs during school hours. Please pick up dog messes deposited at other times.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Library used-book sales: Feb. 28 & March 1; May 16 & 17. Details at www.mvlibraryfriends.org.

Arbor Day: Saturday, March 14, 11:00–1:00, Pioneer Park. www.mountainviewtrees.org.

City of Mountain View Spring Family Parade: Saturday, April 25, noon. Register by April 3 at www.mountainview.gov/parade or 903-6331.

Citywide garage sale: Saturday, May 2, 8:00–2:00 at homes. Register free March 2–April 17. Visit www.mvrecycle.org or call 903-6331. (Ed. note: The more local dots on the map, the more customers we'll attract. Online registration is preferred because it supports the online mapping function.)

Community yard sale: Saturday, May 9, 8:00–2:00 at Rengstorff Park. Register (\$20) March 2–April 17. Spaces fill quickly. Call 903-6331.

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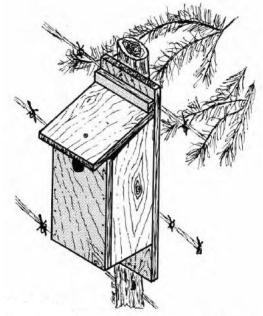
Birding in the Monta Loma Neighborhood: Houses for cavity nesting birds

by Dotty Calabrese

For many years I have been delighted by families of Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Bewick's Wrens, and now White-breasted Nuthatches nesting in my yard. Watching the chattering adults fly in and out of the nest box, hearing sounds of baby birds begging for food, and watching the parents feed the fledglings on branches near my feeders has made me smile day after day.

Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Oak Titmice, Western Bluebirds, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Bewick's Wrens all live in our neighborhood and all are on the decline statewide. These small birds nest in cavities, usually holes in older trees, but habitat destruction and introduced species make it difficult for them to find nest sites.

By adding one or more appropriate nest boxes (birdhouses) to your yard, you can make a difference! Your boxes can be almost any shape or size, but choose the opening size carefully. It should be 1 to 1 1/8 inch in diameter. Any smaller makes it difficult for the bird to enter, and any larger allows non-native House Sparrows to take over the box. (Western Bluebirds require a 1 1/2 in. entry hole.) If you have birdhouses you would like to adapt for these smaller birds, a search on "1 1/8 wild bird portal" will show places to purchase a metal cover to adapt the entry hole. Choose a nest box **without** a perch, to prevent predators. Place out of reach of cats and other predators. The nest box should be shaded for part of the day. Being visible from inside your home is a plus for you. Hanging your boxes in November or December is best, but February or March is not too late. Go to www.50birds.com for bird-box diagrams. Email your bird questions to me at dottycala@aol.com.



Earthquake preparedness

By Katharine Turkle on Nedson Ct.

As a former earthquake-hazard researcher for the US. Geological Survey, I encourage everyone to take these five steps to ensure that your family is earthquake ready.

- 1) Chose an out-of-state person as your family's emergency contact. Program this number into everyone's phone as Emergency Contact.
- 2) Keep fire extinguishers easily accessible around the house. Teach everyone how to use them. CERT and other programs offer this training.
- 3) Know your safest walking route home from work, school, etc.
- 4) Store a minimum of 3 gallons of water per person per day (remember your pets, too).
- 5) Build a family emergency plan and practice different scenarios together.

Contact me at kmturkle@gmail.com if you have questions or would like additional resources.

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NEXTDOOR NEIGHBORHOODS WEBSITE

Nextdoor.com is a private social network that enables members to post messages to nearby neighborhoods, too, if they choose. You can select which types of messages to receive, such as police alerts. At press time, montaloma.nextdoor.com had 266 members.

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Inventory Remains Very Low It Is Still a Seller's Market!

Monta Loma sales Jan. 1, 2014 through Sept. 15, 2014

- ♦ 9 sales (Multiple Listing Service only)
- ♦ 15 MLS sales in 2013 during the same period!!
- ♦ High Sales Price \$1,400,000
- ♦ Low Sales Price \$1,098,088
- ♦ Ave. List Price: \$1,069,011
- ♦ Avg. Sales Price: \$1,230,011
- ♦ Average Sq. Ft.: 1354
- ♦ Average \$/Sq. Ft.: \$926

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mountainviewpoliceblog.com

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MVPD collision report:
ecrash.lexisnexis.com