

MONTA LOMA NEWS



Spring Fling 2016



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

Saturday, March 5, 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. Chat with our CERT members. 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. Help Brownie Scouts collect pet-care items for the Humane Society.

Some people think that Spring Fling is just for families, but it's for everyone in Monta Loma. We provide activities for the children 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 Macey Taylor now. She can be reached at maceyw@yahoo.com or 339-9529.

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 have assumed additional commitments, so we are seeking a few members to help share the board's responsibilities. We meet only every six weeks for about an hour and a half.

The annual general meeting and board election will take place on Thursday evening, June 2, 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 or the Mountain View Whisman School District's plans. If you have a preference or a suggestion, please contact a board member ASAP. (See list on page 2.)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

March 5 MLNA Spring Fling & PTA used-book sale (p. 1)

April 2 School playground makeover (p. 4)

May 14 Citywide garage sale (p. 5)

June 2 MLNA General Meeting and Board Election (p. 1)

August 28 MLNA Ice Cream Social, 3:00–5:00

Also see the list of Community Events on p. 5.

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 popular series, 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, February 29**. Then stop by the school and browse on the multipurpose room's stage on Saturday, March 5, 10:00–noon. Questions? Contact Shanna Bengston at shannamaybe@gmail.com or 602-799-7828.

MLNA Board Members

President

Bill Cranston, 949-1838
president@montaloma.org

First Vice President

Jennifer Coogan, 963-9811
vp1@montaloma.org

Second Vice President

John Potter, 237-9485
vp2@montaloma.org

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Caltrain/Rengstorff/Central intersection

By Marilyn Gildea <marilyn@gildea.com>

Perhaps tired of my reports of southbound vehicles stopping on the Caltrain tracks when the traffic light at Leland (by Mi Pueblo) is red, and of Dolf Starreveld's complaints about the Leland light causing traffic-impeding backups on Central, City Traffic Engineer Sayed Fakhry suggested that we meet there with some of the county's traffic engineers. Between 5:30 and 6:45 p.m. on December 7 we observed three occasions when the Leland light is red while vehicles were turning left from westbound Central across the tracks onto southbound Rengstorff; once was as a train approached. The train's approach did force the Leland light to go green, allowing the tracks to clear, but not until after the crossing gates began to lower, causing a backup in Central. The green-light/red-light situation also occurred twice for southbound Rengstorff traffic, once as a train approached, causing another backup.

There is no easy solution to the several problems at this intersection; contact Dolf or me for his full report. The trains pass only 30 seconds after the warning lights begin to flash, so please continue to treat the crossing with extreme caution. Don't drive onto the tracks unless you can drive past them, and anticipate that you or other drivers may need to stop in the intersection.

Neighborhood Watch – prevent package theft

By Tom Purcell, Monta Loma Neighborhood Watch Captain

As might be expected, package theft spiked over the holidays. For the MVPD's theft-prevention tips visit goo.gl/CUkeab. If you suspect that a package was stolen, filing a report with the MVPD helps them establish a pattern of activity, prosecute suspects, and reunite people with their possessions. To file a report, go to goo.gl/VxJgNl and click on File a Police Report. To see what the MVPD has recovered visit goo.gl/HfN2Li.

If you have home security cameras, include in the coverage area any area where you expect packages to be left. Cameras may not act as a deterrent, but they may confirm that your package was stolen, and may provide police with clues to the thief's identity. See goo.gl/s8db5U for photos of the December theft on Hamilton.

See something suspicious? Call it in

By Tom Purcell, Monta Loma Neighborhood Watch Captain

Several break-ins or package thefts may have been prevented recently when alert neighbors called the police when they spotted suspicious activity while walking or driving in the neighborhood. The police urge us all, "If what you hear, see, or smell makes you uncomfortable, CALL IT IN. Your safety comes first, so observe and call, rather than confront, or not report it."

For emergencies and in-progress incidents, call 911 from a land line or a cell phone. For non-emergencies, suspicious circumstances, service calls, or crimes that have already occurred, call the police non-emergency number, 650-903-6395. This number is also the best for emergency calls from cell phones to ensure that the call goes to the MVPD dispatch center. The MVPD recommends programming this number into your cell phone and having it on speed dial or in your favorites.

To print a copy of Keeping Monta Loma Safe for your refrigerator or other handy spot, see the first paragraph at montaloma.org/mlna/neighborhood-watch/.

Meet our new mayor

Mayor Pat Showalter invites residents to meet with her informally at Le Boulanger Cafe, 650 Castro St. Chats with Pat are normally on the second Tuesday of the month 11:00 a.m. to noon, and on the last Saturday of the month 3:00-4:00 p.m. The next Saturday one is February 27th. Due to travel, the March Tuesday Chat with Pat is moved to the third Tuesday, March 15.

CERT comes to you on Saturday, March 5

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 9, May 14, and June 11, between 9 and 11 a.m. at the trailer next to Monta Loma School. Questions? Contact Tim Slattery at CERT@montaloma.org 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 June 2**. 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."

Fire on Lassen Avenue

When two homes burned on November 30, Alice Hazelgrove reported on the mln email list that neighbors suggested a fundraiser to help the families who had lost everything in the fire. Alice set up a GoFundMe page with the goal of raising \$2,500, but more \$6,000 was contributed. Approximately 50 neighbors attended a get-together in Alice's driveway on a sunny Sunday morning in December to offer support to the burned-out families and to thank the fire department personnel, several of whom attended.

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. 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. More information is at localwiki.org/montaloma/Stuffed_Animals.

Bring your donations, labeled with your name, to the Spring Fling, or contact Jenise at animalbeaconsoflight@gmail.com or 954-8443. Please do not leave donations at Ellen's home.

Can you vote in this year's elections?

You can check your registration at www.sos.ca.gov or 1-866-430-8683 (toll free) by entering your birthdate and house number. If you need to register, during that phone call you can request that a form be mailed to you, or print one from the web. Don't delay, especially if you want a mail-in ballot sent.

Holiday Progressive Dinner a success

Thanks to organizers Debbie Cunningham and Maria Harnoto, the eighth annual Holiday Potluck Progressive Dinner on December 7 was again a warm and festive success. The 32 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. Having the dessert course at adjacent homes enabled those who see each other only at this event to visit, too.

The generous hosts were Linda and Pat Harvey, Macey and Paul Taylor, Adrienne and Vesa Heiskanen, Ann Togasaki, Beth Ericksen and Chuck Shih, and Debbie and Scott Cunningham. Contributions to Second Harvest Food Bank totaled \$850, enough to provide hundreds of holiday meals.

Weather stations in Monta Loma

Visit montaloma.org/weather-stations for very local weather information, plus sunrise, sunset, moon phase, and more.

Offering something on the mln email list? Rather than send your photo or flyer as an attachment, please post it on a file-sharing site and include the link in your message.

Neighborhood Resources

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Tim Slattery, 964-6389
CERT@montaloma.org

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

Tom Purcell, 224-5110
MontaLomaNBC@gmail.com

Activities Committee

Alice Hazelgrove, 204-5105
secretary@montaloma.org

Preschooler Network

Maren Whitson, 450-6354
preschooler@montaloma.org

MLN Neighborhood Email List

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

MLNA Websites

www.montaloma.org
Referrals:
localwiki.org/montaloma
Webmaster: Hien Do
webmaster@montaloma.org

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to those who delivered the November newsletter: John Canata, Donna Clarke, Jim & Alice Cochran, Bill Cranston, Martha Elderon, Harry Gordon, Birgit Grundler, Maria Harnoto, Marianna & Alex Harvey, Chuck & Cookie Henderson, Vickie Lee, Shelly Ostman, Mary Partlan, Victoria Perry, Leane Reelfs, Macey Taylor, John Thomas, Sarah & Tom Tidwell, 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.

Scout food drive

By Jeff Mills, Webelos II Den Leader

The members of Cub Scout Pack 84 thank all who donated food to our Scouting for Food drive in November. In the past three years collections in Monta Loma have gone up each year from 549 pounds of food in 2013 to 865 pounds in 2015. This fall, area scouts collected 14.9 tons of food, equivalent to 21,308 meals, for Second Harvest Food Bank.

Preschooler Halloween parade report

The Monta Loma Preschooler Network's costume parade on Halloween morning was enjoyed by 25 children, their parents, and a few grandparents. Thanks go to organizer Christy Wood, who already "has big ideas" for the next one. If you have children under 6 and want to meet other neighborhood families, contact Maren Whitson at preschooler@montaloma.org or 450-6354.

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 mountainview.gov and click on Advisory Bodies under City Council.

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. Visit chambermv.org/leadership or contact Paul Saiedi at 968-8378 or paul@chambermv.org.

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.)

Ernie's trains ran again

John Bianco, Ernie's son, continued the tradition of running his model trains evenings between Thanksgiving and Christmas. More families than ever before came to view them, with the biggest crowd on Christmas Eve, when Kate Shih played Christmas carols on her trumpet and Elna Tymes's daughter-in-law, Kelly McCoy-Prael, sang. Visit tinyurl.com/Erniestrains to view the *San Francisco Chronicle* article on the train display. Neighbor Donna Tensuan's son James took the photos.

Block parties; more and better than ever

Last year a record-setting total of eight parties were held between July Fourth and late September. Both newcomers and long-timers appreciated the chance to get together, and everyone's looking forward to a repeat this year. For updated how-to information, go to montaloma.org and click on Block Parties under Events.

≈ SCHOOL NEWS ≈

Tutors needed at Crittenden

By Julie Scott

If you have an hour a week, volunteer to be a tutor in the JustREAD/JustMATH program at Crittenden Middle School, just a short walk or bike away on Rock Street. No special qualifications are needed. You will get the training and materials you need to help students make great progress. Reading tutors are needed Tuesday and Thursday mornings 8:45–10:30. Math tutors are needed almost any time on Mondays–Thursdays. Visit justreadcenters.org 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 19 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 5. Questions? Contact Adrienne at 996-6729 or adrienne_heiskanen@yahoo.com.

VIP Reading Day scheduled for March 4

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 Friday, March 4, contact Debbie Chin at montalomapta@gmail.com or 796-1773. Thank you!

Playground makeover on April 2

Volunteers are needed to help give Monta Loma School's playground a makeover on Saturday, April 2, between 9:00 and 2:00 to paint game courts, an obstacle course, and much more. This event is a partnership between Playworks and Americorp. Please contact ashley.tipton@playworks.org to volunteer.

Support Monta Loma School's Walk-a-Thon

The annual Walk-a-Thon on Friday afternoon, May 6, 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.

The Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School on San Antonio will hold its Purim outdoor celebration on March 24 from 9:00 to noon. (Weather permitting.)

🌿 COMMUNITY EVENTS 🌿

Library used-book sales: Feb. 20 & 21; May 14 & 15.
mvlibraryfriends.org.

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

City of Mountain View Spring Family Parade: Saturday, April 23, 10:00. Register by April 1 by phone at 903-6331 or visit mountainview.gov/parade.

Paper shredding April 30

The next shredding opportunity is on Saturday, April 30, 8:00 to noon at the SMaRT Station, 301 Carl Rd. in Sunnyvale. You may want to arrange a carpool via

the mln email list. See mvrecycle.org and click on Events, or call 903-6311.

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

Citywide garage sale: Saturday, May 14, 8:00–2:00 at homes. Register free March 1–April 25. Call 903-6311 or visit mvrecycle.org. (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 21, 8:00–2:00 at Rengstorff Park. Register (\$20) March 1–April 25. Spaces fill quickly. Call 903-6331.



Swim at Greenmeadow's pool

Memberships are available for the Greenmeadow Community Association pool, located within easy walking/biking distance via the Nita/San Antonio crosswalk. This community swim club offers lap swimming, swim team, swim lessons, water exercise, and family events for all ages. Info at greenmeadow.org.

Free bus service

Remember that the Mountain View Community Bus stops on Rengstorff at W. Middlefield and at Jewel/Montecito. Visit MVCommunityShuttle.com for information.

Google bikes

Google bikes are intended for Google employees to travel around campus or from one campus to another without polluting the environment. Even Googlers are not supposed to take them off campus unless it's to another nearby Google campus.

If you see a multicolor Google bike where it probably shouldn't be, report its location and the time spotted to Google Security (253-5353) and they will pick it up. Some bikes have that phone number in the basket, but it's easy to remember.

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, is monitored by its owner, Peggy Manor, as a community service, and has over 700 members. 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 under MLNA at montaloma.org. To get only 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.

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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KEEPING MONTA LOMA CLEAN AND GREEN

Dogs: Monta Loma Park fields and school grounds are off limits to dogs during school hours. Pick up dog messes deposited at other times. Please don't deposit doggie bags in neighbors' trash cans after they've been emptied. Incontinent dogs should be walked in the gutter, not on sidewalks.

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

MLN Referral Wiki

You can find information on dozens of topics on the MLN Referral Wiki. Look for it under Quick Links in the black area at the very bottom of montaloma.org or under Resources. Please add your own recommendations to the wiki, and notify webmaster@montaloma.org if you notice outdated information. Also at montaloma.org/resources is a link to Businesses Owned by Neighbors.

Mobile Library schedule, Friends' used-book sales

The Mobile Library stops at Monta Loma School every Friday from 4:15 to 5:00, and also on Jane at Fay on March 18, April 15, and May 13 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 20/21 and May 14/15. Details at mvlibraryfriends.org.

Bulky trash: Go to goo.gl/Ka9Que for On Call Plus pickup info.

Street sweeping: Help the sweeper clean your gutter by moving your vehicles and trash bins off the street the evening before the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

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

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



Ask Mountain View

Using Ask Mountain View on the city's website is a very effective way to get a response to any inquiry or request. Click on the words "Ask MV" on the bottom of the home page, mountainview.gov. If you can't find the appropriate topic, someone at City Hall will forward your message to the right person.

If you're not already signed up with Ask Mountain View, you will be asked to provide contact information for a response, or to click on Remain Anonymous. If you are registered, remember to log in first.

Prescription medication disposal

You can dispose of unwanted medicines in a permanent medication disposal bin in the lobby of the Police/Fire building at 1000 Villa St. Visit tinyurl.com/medbin for details.

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NEW NEIGHBORS?

Scroll down the home page at 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 1vp@montaloma.org or 963-9811.

Your Monta Loma Team –

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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 urgent alerts from the City and police. At press time, montaloma.nextdoor.com had 403 members.

Connect with
Mountain View Police
and never miss a social beat!

Emergency: 9-1-1

Non-Emergency:

650-903-6344

www.mvdpd.gov
mountainviewpoliceblog.com

Recieve MVPD alerts via text/email:
local.nixle.com/mountain-view-police-department

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MVPD collision report:
ecrash.lexisnexis.com

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Monta Loma year over year sales (MLS, Single Family)

Jan. 1 through Sept. 30, 2014 vs 2015:

	2014	2015
# of Sales	11	12
Avg. List Price	\$1,094,281	\$1,299,917
Avg. Sale Price	\$1,253,190	\$1,528,208
Avg. Sq. Ft.	1,313	1,297
Avg \$/Sq. Ft.	\$972	\$1200

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