



MONTA LOMA NEWS

PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE MONTA LOMA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Monta Loma Neighborhood Association General Meeting

Thursday, June 15, 7:15 pm

Monta Loma School Multipurpose Room

Vote on the MLNA Board candidates and on revisions to the bylaws to allow absentee voting (see article this page).

Discuss the results of the HP/Mayfield public hearings held on May 17, 24, and 31, and the status of the other developments affecting the neighborhood.

Volunteer to help with the Ice Cream Social in August (see page 4).

Doors open at 6:30 for setup and refreshments; announcements at 7:15; presentation of candidates and bylaws revisions at 7:30.

MLNA Board Election, Bylaws Revisions

The board election will take place at the general meeting on June 15. At press time, the slate was President, Elna Tymes; First Vice President, Wouter Suverkropp; Second Vice President/Newsletter Editor, Marilyn Gildea, Treasurer, Kathy Fitzpatrick; Recording Secretary, Jeremy Siegel; and Corresponding Secretary, Andy Rose. Gregory Frank will remain on the board as Past President. Current Past President Nola Mae McBain goes off the board but will remain actively involved with the HP/Mayfield project.

Remember that all positions are always open. If you would like to place your name on the ballot, please contact Jeremy Siegel (694-1476) immediately. Nominations may also be made from the floor, with the consent of the nominee.

If the proposed revisions to the bylaws are approved at the meeting, the Corresponding Secretary will become the Second Vice President, and the Newsletter Editor will remain on the board. The Recording Secretary will assume the duties of the Corresponding Secretary and the title of Secretary.

Bylaws Revisions

The primary impetus of the bylaws revision is to allow for absentee voting for succeeding elections (Revision 1 on the flyer distributed in mid-May). Revision 2 reduces the period of advance notice for modifying the bylaws from 30 to 20 days. Revision 3 separates the position of Second Vice President from the Newsletter Editor, as the editor's job is quite enough responsibility for one person. Revision 4 would allow Marilyn (a professional editor) to correct minor typographical and grammatical errors in the bylaws.

We will vote on each proposal. A few copies of the flyer will be available at the meeting, but plan to bring yours with you.

Coming Events

Mark your Calendars!

Tuesday, June 27:
City Council re Mayfield, p. 3

Sunday, August 27
Ice Cream Social, p. 4

Saturday, October 28
Candidates Forum

Dates to be Confirmed.

MLNA Board Members

President

Gregory Frank, 694-7898
kokopelli@stanfordalumni.org

1st Vice President

Elna Tymes, 969-6650
etymes@lts.com

Newsletter Editor/2nd Vice President

Marilyn Gildea, 940-1606
marilyn@gildea.com

Treasurer

Kathy Fitzpatrick, 961-3016
kathyfitzpatrick@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary

Jeremy Siegel, 694-1476
jasiegel@pacbell.net

Corresponding Secretary

Dave Jensen, 969-9733
slacdave@comcast.net

Past President

Nola Mae McBain, 938-6034
nolamae.mc Bain@gmail.com

MLNA Newsletter

*Deadline for the next
issue is early July.*

Editor

Marilyn Gildea, 940-1606
marilyn@gildea.com

Advertising Manager

Sumanth Rajagopal, 967-9967
sumanth_r@yahoo.com

Layout

Joseph Mitch, 903-0644
plasticland@netzero.com

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Board Highlights

At March 19 Meeting

Approved a candidates forum in October for city council and school board candidates. Marilyn will initiate organizing. Proposed for Saturday, Oct. 28, 9:30am–12:00pm.

Finalized plans for March 22 General Meeting on the proposed NorthPark development with Craig Champion and Dennis Martin from Centex. [Martin Alkire and Linnie Melena from the city's planning department also attended.]

Discussed the Activities Committee's need for more members and a new chair; decided to solicit a chair for one event at a time. [Yoni "John" Novat volunteered at the March 22 meeting.]

Discussed statements to be made at the March 21 City Council HP/Mayfield Study Session on Caltrain access and parks. The MLNA position is "We support an improved at-grade crossing, but still have serious concerns about safety," and listed specifics.

Discussed parks. More graphics being prepared that emphasize the imbalance in park space distribution. Agreed on a preference for more (if less developed) space. Statement will be "We support any option that maximizes the land acquired for park space, even if that means it must remain undeveloped until funds are available for improvements."

Agreed on a statement of support for the Mayfield Coalition, and the need for the City Council to seriously consider its concerns as representative of area residents.

Discussed possible candidates for Nominating Committee and for board for the June 15 election.

Ratified reimbursement to Neighborhood Watch Committee for NW signs.

At April 25 Meeting

Agreed that the bylaws revisions, if approved at June 15 general meeting, will take effect on July 1.

Ratified email votes to reimburse Webmaster Cheryl Jasper for cost of website registration, and to renew membership of UNSCC (it provides our event insurance).

Planned June 15 general meeting and discussed the Ice Cream Social.

Appointed Nola Mae McBain as MLNA's Civic Affairs Liaison, an off-board position initially tasked with checking City Council and Planning Commission agendas for items relevant to MLNA.

Discussed upcoming Planning Commission meetings concerning HP/Mayfield, and our relationship with the Mayfield Coalition.

Call for Articles—Early July is the deadline for submitting material for the August issue. 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.

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HP/Mayfield Update

By Elna Tymes, MLNA 1st VP

Come to the general meeting on June 15 to discuss the May meetings and learn what happens in June.

As the newsletter went to press, members of the Mayfield Coalition and other interested residents were recovering from digesting the *Final Environmental Impact Report* and the *Response to Comments*, each the thickness of a telephone book, and then participating in the Environmental Planning Commission public hearing on May 17. By the time you read this, many of them will have also attended review meetings on May 24 and 31.

The MLNA Board had asked the city for more time to study the EIR documents and then to study the amendments to the General Plan and the new Mayfield Precise Plan (scheduled for an EPC hearing on May 31) to allow a reasonable amount of time for neighbors to review them and formulate appropriate responses. The request was denied.

Next is the City Council meeting for EIR Certification and approval of General Plan amendments and the Precise Plan. It's scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, and your participation is strongly encouraged. Copies of these documents are available from the city's Community Development Department; at www.mountainview.gov under "City Documents and Archives"; or from coalition members.

The Mayfield Coalition comprises individuals in Monta Loma, Greenmeadow, Rosewalk, and San Alma who are interested in influencing local government on the disposition of the Mayfield site. They communicate mainly by email to review and comment on each other's statements and letters. See "Online Resources" article (page 6) or contact me at etymes@lts.com or 969-6650.

Ice Cream Social on Track

by Dhananjay (DJ) Ragade

The Ice Cream Social, the biggest event of the year and scheduled for Sunday, August 27, was in jeopardy of being cancelled for lack of a chair, but Yoni (John) Novat has graciously volunteered to head the organizing committee. Yoni says that he is pleased to coordinate this year's ice cream social and looks forward to being involved with our wonderful neighborhood.

Yoni is new at this, so he needs your help. The Activities Committee always gets great neighborhood response for help for the day of its events, but really needs a few more people to do the advance organizing. There are generally only two planning meetings, scheduled far enough in advance that the tasks (ordering food, organizing activities, making phone calls) can be fit into your schedule.

Please sign up at the June 15 MLNA meeting or contact Yoni (John) Novat (yonidnovat@yahoo.com or 625-3169), or me (dragade@gmail.com or 625-1570).

MLNA and Neighborhood Watch Promotes Block Parties

By Gregory Frank, MLNA President

Block parties provide a chance to meet your neighbors, build camaraderie, and have a good time. Neighborhood Watch (NW) is an important aspect of a safe and secure neighborhood. Combined, they help make Monta Loma a better place to live. To encourage these goals, MLNA will help pay for your party. Pick up a flyer with the details at the June 15 general meeting or contact any board member.

If your block does not have a NW Block Captain, now is the time to volunteer, nominate, or otherwise choose one. To learn more about our Neighborhood Watch and our block captains, visit www.montaloma.org/watch.shtml.

CERT in Monta Loma

By Jim Cochran

Are you interested in working with your neighbors to be better able to assist others after the big shake? The Monta Loma Community Emergency Response Team

(CERT) is a group of neighbors who are trained and equipped to be of assistance when professional responders are busy elsewhere. We encourage you to join us.

We particularly need medical professionals: doctors, nurses, EMTs, and PAs. Medical professionals don't need to do much, just join the team so that we can give you an ID badge to allow you to help without delay when the big day comes. Contact me at jim-coch@comcast.net or 207-5518.



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Watering Our Trees

By John Ari Stepp, Arborist

Many of us have new trees; here's how to care for them.

Newly planted trees need to be well irrigated at the time of planting; this usually involves filling the basin created for this purpose a minimum of three times.

Mulch the base of the tree. A 2- to 4-inch layer is good, but keep it an inch or two away from the base of the tree to prevent decay.

Until they're established (3 to 5 years for most), trees need supplemental watering during the dry season. Deep-water a new tree not more often than weekly during the hot months the first year it's planted, but don't wait until it begins to wilt. A soaker hose works well; leave it on overnight, on a setting that is low enough so there is no run-off.

Break down watering basins during the rainy season, or create drainage. When you repair the basin after the rains pass, refresh the mulch in the basin, but not deeper than three inches, and keep it away from the trunk.

Watering too much or too often can be as harmful as not enough or too seldom. If our clay soil is not amended, drainage will be poor. When water fills the space between soil particles, it displaces the air that tree roots need to breathe, and can kill them if not allowed to drain. Overwatering also allows systemic fungi to gain entrance through weakened roots. Creating an un-irrigated, mulched area under the canopy will discourage this problem.

Mature trees probably need no supplemental summer water, but watering needs vary with species, so consult the *Sunset Western Garden Book*.

Police Update

By Josef Kachman, Community Action & Information Unit, MVPD

The number of crimes, especially property-related crimes, has increased citywide recently. Monta Loma has had its share, but having more crimes reported is actually positive; it means that more people are observing what's happening in the neighborhood and reporting it.

However, we still hear about incidents that are not being reported. We strongly encourage you to call 9-1-1 during any in-progress incident, or 903-6395 to report incidents that have already occurred and do not require an urgent police response.

Because Monta Loma is bounded by major thoroughfares (Rengstorff and Central) and many people use Thompson Avenue as a shortcut, many non-residents frequent your neighborhood. To keep your families, homes, and property safe

- * Secure doors and windows when leaving your residence, even for a short time.
- * Leave NOTHING in your vehicle at night.
- * Ensure adequate motion-sensor lighting around the perimeter of your home.
- * Never open the door to anyone you don't know. Have solicitors leave materials on your doorstep.
- * Call 9-1-1 if you think a crime may be occurring. If you're not sure, call us and we'll sort it out.

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Online Resources for Monta Loma

By Kam McCowan <kam@personalcomputersupport.com>

Did you know that our neighborhood not only has a webpage (www.montaloma.org, which includes a wiki for business and service referrals), but we also have a number of email discussion lists?

The main email list, mln, is a forum for neighborhood discussion. Go to the group's main page, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mln>. Not part of MLNA, it is provided by Chris Hoover to facilitate communication among neighbors. Topics are limited to the Monta Loma area. Topics that reach beyond our neighborhood belong on another list, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mln-discuss/>. A third list focuses specifically on the development of the HP/Mayfield site: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Mayfield_Coalition.

How to Access Mailing Lists

To subscribe set up a Yahoo groups account by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com>. Under "Don't have a Yahoo ID?" in the right-hand column, select "Sign Up" and follow the directions. At the mailing list's main page (i.e., <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mln>) select the button on the right that says "Join this Group!" A message goes to the list moderator asking to add you to the list. Once you're added, you'll receive email sent to the list and can post messages.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Thanks to those who delivered the March newsletter and/or the Bylaws flyer: Diana Anderson, Julie Baher, John Canata, Jim Castelli, Jim and Alice Cochran, Martha Elderon, Marilyn Gildea, Grant Grundler, Silke Gurlich, Maria Harnoto, Chuck and Cookie Henderson, Janet Kenney (2), Paul Kostka, Wally McDonald, Shelly Ostman, Vickie Palmer, Herb and Victoria Perry, Melba Reiling, Joan Ryan, Carolyn Siegel, Cheryl Smith, Wouter Suverkropp, Judy Walden, Alan and Roberta Whitaker.

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.

Birding in the Monta Loma Neighborhood

By Dotty Calabrese

The Bushtit

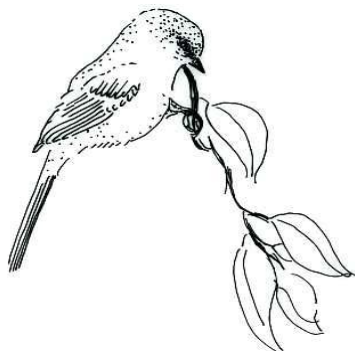


Illustration by Bonnie Bedford-White

The bushtit is one of the tiniest birds in the United States. With its long tail, stubby bill, short wings, dark brown cap, whitish underparts, and dull gray plumage, the 3½-inch bushtit is difficult to confuse with any other bird in our area. The *Sibley Guide to Birds* describes it as “a disheveled-looking, long-tailed ball of fluff.”

Nearly always seen in flocks, twittering, fast-moving bushtits are a delight to encounter in our neighborhood trees and bushes as they feed on insects, larvae, insect eggs, spiders, and a bit of plant material, or in birdbaths as they drink and bathe. Sometimes chestnut-backed chickadees and oak titmice flock with the gregarious, social bushtits.

You might come across the hanging, jug-shaped nest of a bushtit as low as 4 feet in a dense shrub or tree. Both parents build the 7- to 12-inch nest of everything from cocoons

to flowers, leaves, lichen, grass, feathers, and moss. They secure it with twigs and often

hang it with spider webs. Together they incubate the tiny 5 to 7 white eggs, and roost together in the nest at night. Once they hatch, the female broods the young bushtits during the first days. As they grow, both parents feed the young for the 12 to 14 days it takes them to fledge. E-mail your bird questions to me at dottycala@aol.com

The advertisement for The Girls' Middle School features a black and white group photo of five smiling students. Below the photo is a large, stylized logo of a girl jumping or running, with the school's name 'The Girls' Middle School' and a trademark symbol. A starburst seal on the right side of the ad reads 'Accredited by WASC' and mentions a 2004 rating. The school's motto is printed below the logo, and contact information is at the bottom.

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See www.birds.cornell.edu/bow/bushti/ for pictures and www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/id/framlst/i7430id.html for its buzzy, twittering sounds.

Fundraising

In April three friends and I again participated in the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society's Annual Birdathon, a fundraiser for SCVAS's environmental education programs serving Santa Clara County schoolchildren. We identified 114 bird species in Santa Clara County in one *very* long day. I have raised \$3,657 so far, including \$670 from generous Monta Loma neighbors. Thank you!

Neighbor Relations

In response to a query on mln on how to avoid ill will between neighbors, Wouter Suverkropp recommends *Neighbor Law: Fences, Trees, Boundaries & Noise* by Nolo Press (www.nolo.com).

Anna Salas - Fine Home Specialist

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