

MONTA LOMA NEWS



Eighth 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!



Saturday evening, December 5

- Hosts and guests bring a potluck dish and their preferred beverage to share. As before, this is a fundraising event for the Second Harvest Food Bank and your donation will probably be matched (doubled) again.
- You must register in advance with your donation of \$25 per person. Space is limited, so contact Debbie Cunningham now at <dinner@montaloma.org> or 964-5677.

Note: The deadline for reservations and payment is Friday, November 20.

* * * * *

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

Monta Loma School extends an invitation

By Maren Whitson, Preschooler Network, <preschooler@montaloma.org>

Do you have a child who will enter kindergarten within the next three years? Are you curious about what our local elementary school, Monta Loma Elementary (MLE), is really like? Principal Angela Lyon will host an information session and campus tour for our Monta Loma families at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, November 13. Come learn about MLE from Principal Lyon and current parents. We'll also have a tour of the campus, including a short peek into the kindergarten classrooms in action. This is an ideal way to learn about MLE in a small-group setting.

Check in at the office first and receive a visitor's badge. Parking is limited to the street or directly in front of the multipurpose room, so walk if you can.

MV Ed Fund challenge grant deadline December 11

By Adrienne Heiskanen, MVEF President

Google is partnering with the Mountain View Educational Foundation to offer a one-time challenge grant to support our schools. This generous grant will match all donations to the MVEF up to \$400,000 through December 11, 2015, allowing us to significantly expand high-quality art and music and our current environmental science offerings in all of our MVWSD schools. Donations from first-time donors will be matched 2:1, tripling the power of your gift. Donations from renewing donors will be matched 1:1, and donations made since August 1 will be retroactively matched. Visit mvef.org for details.

Prefer not to donate online? Pre-printed envelopes are available in the school office, on the pamphlet rack.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

November 14: CERT Second Saturday (p. 2)

November 14 & 15: Library book sale (mvlibraryfriends.org)

December 5: Holiday Progressive Dinner (p. 1)

March 5: MNLA's Spring Fling (p. 2)

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

Treasurer

Andre Valente, 310-986-3356
treasurer@montaloma.org

Secretary

Alice Hazelgrove, 204-5105
secretary@montaloma.org

Newsletter Editor

Marilyn Gildea, 940-1606
newsletter@montaloma.org

Member-at-Large

Macey Taylor, 339-9529
member-at-large@montaloma.org



MLNA Newsletter

Editor

Marilyn Gildea
940-1606
newsletter@montaloma.org

Advertising Manager

Sumanth Rajagopal
967-9967
ads@montaloma.org

Layout

Heidi Faith
386-6746
heidi@phoenix-designs.com
www.phoenix-designs.com

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Rengstorff/Central/Caltrain intersection

By Marilyn Gildea

I've watched as drivers turning left from westbound Central to southbound Rengstorff are forced to stop on the Caltrain tracks because they can't see that the traffic light at Leland (near Mi Pueblo) is red until they are on the tracks, so I contacted Ask Mountain View about the two lights' timing. City Traffic Engineer Sayed Fakhry responded that the light at Leland is programmed to turn green whenever a train is approaching, but he also warned "...if vehicles queue up they need to keep the track area clear till [southbound] Rengstorff at Leland is green."

Please continue to treat this 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 Rengstorff/Central intersection.

Fall leaf cleanup, street sweeping

To assist with leaf cleanup, yard trimmings will be collected weekly through December 18. Residents can set out their yard trimmings cart(s) on their regular trash collection day each week.

We can also help by moving our cars and trash bins off the street the evening before the street sweeper comes so the driver can make a clean sweep. For us, that's normally the second and fourth Thursday of each month. But because of the holidays, the only sweepings in November and December will be on the second Thursdays, November 12 and December 10.

New restaurant at Monta Loma Plaza

Kumino (Asian fusion) has replaced Bangkok Bistro and is getting excellent reviews from neighbors and on Yelp and Facebook. The young chef, Hou-chin (Howie), trained at Culinary Institute of America. Kumino is open daily except Sunday 11:00 – 2:30 and 5:30 – 9:30.

Landscape conversion rebates

The Water District's landscape-conversion rebate program will continue into 2016, but the current \$2.00 per square foot reimbursement rate will last only through December 31, 2015, unless the board decides at its December meeting to extend the funding. Restrictions apply, so call the Water Conservation Hotline at 408-630-2554 or visit valleywater.org/programs/waterconservation.aspx.

Spring Fling seeks exhibitors, entertainment for March 5

Mark your calendar now for Saturday morning, March 5. Spring Fling is our other big MLN social event. The purpose is to bring neighbors together to meet and chat, so plan to come, and also browse the PTA's used-book sale.

We're looking for entertainment and non-commercial exhibits such as displays of hobbies. Please contact any board member (see list on left) with offers or suggestions.

Are you ready for an emergency?

Having some emergency training is part of being a responsible citizen. You can check out Monta Loma's CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) at any of their Saturday sessions on the second Saturday of the month, between 9 and 11 a.m. at the trailer next to Monta Loma School. The next sessions are on **November 14**, December 12, January 9, and February 13. Questions? Contact Tim Slattery at CERT@montaloma.org or 964-6389.

CERT members encourage you to take the city's free CERT course, whether or not you join the neighborhood group. The 2015 class schedule filled early, so register now to be notified of the 2016 series. A link to info is on the CERT page at montaloma.org, under MLNA.

Fresh & Easy has been a good neighbor, donating funds to our schools and ice cream to our Ice Cream Social. Many people appreciated having a market within walking or biking distance and are sad to see it close.

Street trees — how to get one and how to care for it

By Bruce Hurlburt, City of Mountain View Parks and Open Space Manager

If you would like a street tree planted on your property by the City, call 903-6273 or email parks@mountainview.gov. Street trees play an important role in our community forest. Trees improve air quality, reduce energy consumption, provide habitat for wildlife, and increase the overall attractiveness of our community. The City will plant and stake the tree, and trim it periodically over its lifetime at no charge. Property owners are responsible for watering new trees, which require only 10 gallons a week to get established. Help keep the Monta Loma neighborhood looking its best with beautiful tree-lined streets.

Pruning street trees: Street trees are those planted five feet behind the back of the sidewalk. Property owners need permission from the City to prune their street tree if they don't want it pruned by the City at no cost. City staff is happy to allow a property owner to prune the street tree but needs to verify that the work will be done by a reputable licensed and bonded tree service. Proper tree pruning requires technical knowledge and understanding of tree structure.

The City cannot endorse private companies, but an online search for "Tree services, Mountain View" will bring up half a dozen licensed and insured tree services. Yelp can also give an idea of a company's customer-service record. The important thing is to get three bids for comparison, then either the property owner or the tree service can make contact with Forestry staff so we are in the loop. Email parks@mountainview.gov or call 903-6273 with any questions regarding your street tree.

Tree care for winter

Tree trimming is best done in fall/early winter. Water deeply after trimming. Gloria Jackson and Mountain View Trees (mountainviewtrees.org) both recommend Canopy.org's "Caring for Trees" page.

Fight allergies in your own yard

By Laureen Lam

Consider using the OPALS allergy scale to identify the high-allergy trees and plants in your yard and replace them with allergy-fighting ones. For more information, read *The Allergy-Fighting Garden* by Thomas Ogren, or contact me at solistide+AllergyWorkshop@gmail.com for handouts or if you are interested in a workshop specific to our neighborhood.

Ice Cream Social — bigger and better than ever

Thanks go to everyone, attendees as well as the many volunteers, who helped make this year's event such a huge success.

The root-beer floats and the Monta Loma History display were very popular again this year, as were the CERT team's presentation of their emergency equipment, toppings for the ice cream, face painting, cotton candy, balloon creations, and live music by Nathan Ho's string trio. The MVFD brought a fire truck. The Animal Beacons of Light and Monta Loma tee shirt displays were also popular. Attendees could sign up for the preschooler network and the PTA, and learn about planting an allergy-fighting yard and The View Teen Center. The Santa Clara Valley Water District handed out information and took signups for water-saving buckets and "Brown is the New Green" lawn signs.

Four city council and three school board members came, as did MVPD Chief Max Bosel, and several police officers. Chief Bosel stayed all afternoon and enjoyed watching his officers participate in a sack race and otherwise enjoy themselves. They all said that they appreciated the opportunity to meet Monta Loma residents, and their appreciation was echoed by the neighbors.

It took many hands to make this event such a success; thanks to everyone who helped.

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 August newsletter: John Canata, Donna Clarke, Jim & Alice Cochran, Hether Cowper, Harry Gordon, Birgit Grundler, Maria Harnoto, Marianna & Alex Harvey, Isabella Hill & Eli, Jessie Holombo, Paul Kostka, Vickie Lee, Shelly Ostman, Victoria Perry, Leane Reelfs, Jeff Regan & Helena Vervoort & family, 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.

Ernie's trains will run again

John Bianco, Ernie's son, will continue the tradition of running his model trains from Thanksgiving through Christmas Day. Weather permitting, five tracks will run trains every evening except Mondays at 2387 Adele from 6:30 to about 9:00.



The engines and cars change daily.

As many as 100 visitors a night — up to 300 on Christmas eve — come, including children brought by parents who themselves watched the trains when they were young.

Ernie also began the Christmas Eve tradition of curbside farolitos (candles in paper bags). Over the years, neighbors have added their own, so a row of the softly glowing lights now lines Adele and stretches around the corner onto Palmer, making the block a must-see on Christmas Eve.

Benches for walkers

Sarah and Dox Doxiadis have put a bench on the outside corner of Adele and Palmer, and Alice Hazelgrove has one at 254 Lassen. There is also a bench at 544 Thompson Ave. (facing Junction). Thanks to Anne Glynn for rebolting the loose seat slats on the bench at the corner of Whitney and Mayfield.

If you know of any other benches available to neighborhood walkers (i.e., close to the sidewalk) please email Marilyn at newsletter@montaloma.org.

Block parties; more and better than ever

Eight parties — a new record — were held between the July Fourth brunch on Mardell and the first-ever parties on the 2400 block of Alvin and on Devri (for Aldean, Dell, Devri, Marcelyn, and Marjorie neighbors) in September. Very successful parties were also held again on Anna, Benjamin, Jane, the 2300 block of Laura, and 2500 block of Alvin. The organizers reported that both newcomers and long-timers appreciate the chance to get together, and everyone's looking forward to a repeat in 2016.

Next year's parties will be enhanced by orange traffic cones and reflective Road Closed signs to help you safely block off your street.

Update on nearby developments

By Bill Cranston, MLNA President

New projects in the area around Monta Loma include a proposal to build a 7-story, 605-unit apartment complex on the former site of Dittmer's and Firestone, across from the San Antonio Shopping Center. Marriott Corp is proposing to build two hotels in the 700 block of San Antonio Road, across from the Greenhouse apartments. The City is taking the next steps toward the creation of new parks at 771 N. Rengstorff and at 2254 Wyandotte. The new Shoreline Athletic Fields with baseball and soccer areas will open soon at the north end of Rengstorff. Feel free to contact me at president@montaloma.org if you have questions.

Google Open Garage event

Google's Open Garage event for the Monta Loma neighborhood on September 26 was deemed a great success by the 800 attendees who toured the displays of the self-driving cars' technology. The 340 people who had a ride

experienced how the car avoided a pedestrian who stepped out in front of it, and a bicyclist who made a left turn into its path. Monta Loma residents thank those two and the 40 other Google employees who volunteered their time to make this event such a crowd-pleaser.

Google/neighborhood communications

If you have questions or concerns regarding our new Google neighbor, feel free to contact our neighborhood's representative to Google, MLNA President Bill Cranston, at president@montaloma.org.

Monta Loma School update

by Angela Lyon, Monta Loma School Principal

MLE is full of student scientists! Did you know that we are privileged to host a variety of science lessons and events throughout the year?

Lawrence Hall of Science Days: This year's theme for our two-day annual event was engineering. Students built suspension bridges, electronic coloring machines, and a variety of buildings and structures using directions and materials brought by Lawrence Hall of Science staff. Parent volunteers answered questions, provided support, and monitored safe choices.

Living Classroom: Students learn how to grow fruits and vegetables in their classrooms' gardens and eat their harvest. They also learn about native plants in the native-plants garden.

Science Is Elementary: Every class, K-5, is visited by SiE team members who teach a variety of scientific lessons in small-group format. SiE is a favorite amongst students and staff!

How to help Monta Loma School

- To donate financially, go to montaloma.mvwsd.org and click on Fundraising Opportunities; it's under Your Involvement. Vendors such as Amazon, Target, Fresh & Easy and eScrip all send a portion of your shopping dollars to the school.
- To help in a classroom or the school gardens, or at events, contact montalomapta@gmail.com or 903-6915.
- To keep kids safe from pets and their droppings, please refrain from bringing dogs onto campus and the park during school hours. These areas are closed during school hours. After hours, please clean up after your pet.

Monta Loma School PTA News

Our annual Winter Food Drive will take place December 1-11. Healthy, non-perishable items may be dropped off in the school office and will go to CSA for distribution.

Read Across America Week is the first week in March. If you can be a VIP reader and share a book with a classroom on March 4, please contact Debbie Chin at montalomapta@gmail.com or 796-1773.

We will also hold our annual used-book sale that week, and collect book donations for the two weeks prior to the sale. The book sale will culminate on Saturday, March 5, at the MLNA's Spring Fling.

Annual Financial Report

By Andre Valente, MLNA Treasurer

We've had a very successful year. The city grant enabled us to hold our signature events: the Spring Fling in March, the Ice Cream Social in August, and numerous neighborhood block parties. 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.

MLNA	Withdrawals	Deposits
Beginning balance 7/1/2014		6,744.66
City of Mountain View Grant		1,500.00
Ice Cream Social August 2014	137.69	
Block Parties 2014	696.93	
Spring Fling March 2015	650.33	
General Meeting June 2014	312.00	
Donations		201.50
Newsletter expenses/ad revenue	2,586.07	4,015.00
Miscellaneous expenses/revenue	781.63	404.00
CERT Expenses	50.01	
Total Withdrawals/Deposits	5,164.65	6,120.50
Ending balance 6/30/2015		7,650.51

Museum passes available

Go to tinyurl.com/mv-museum-passes to find out how to use your library card to get free or discounted museum passes.

Mobile Library schedule, Friends' used-book sale

The thrice-yearly used-book sale is next weekend, November 14 & 15. Details are at mvlibraryfriends.org.

The Mobile Library stops at Monta Loma School every Friday from 4:15 to 5:00 with the exception of the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's holidays, Nov. 27, Dec. 25, and Jan. 1. It won't make its monthly 9:45-10:15 stop at Jane at Fay during these months, either, but will come on Jan. 22 and Feb. 19. For information or special requests, call 526-7029 or email Mobile.Library@mountainview.gov.

Google bikes

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.

KEEPING MONTA LOMA CLEAN AND GREEN

Incontinent dogs should be walked in the gutter, not on sidewalks.

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 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 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.

Winter watering: Water deeply, very infrequently, and very early in the morning.

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

Egg cartons, either paper or foam, shouldn't go in the recycling bin.



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WALDORF SCHOOL OF THE PENINSULA

Birding in the Monta Loma Neighborhood: Birds of the Night — The Black-crowned Night-Heron

by Dotty Calabrese

One morning in September, while walking my dog in the neighborhood just before dawn, I heard loud squawking, "Wok!" approaching me overhead. A few seconds later, the silhouettes of two Black-crowned Night-Herons flew over, on their way toward the bay.

The most widespread heron in the world, the Black-crowned Night-Heron is a chunky bird, about 25 in. long, with a wingspan of about 46 in. It is dark gray on the crown of its head, back, and wings, with white below; bright orange-yellow legs and feet; and striking red eyes. Black-crowned Night-Herons spend most of their time near water. When hunting, they stand silently or walk slowly before grabbing mostly fish, but also crustaceans, mollusks, amphibians, rodents, small birds, eggs, and insects.

Black-crowned Night-Herons roost in trees and bushes during the day and part of the night. They usually hunt late afternoon through some of the night. Over the years, I have seen Black-crowned Night-Herons hunting (probably insects, rodents, or reptiles) late at night in both Thaddeus and Monta Loma parks, and roosting in various neighborhood trees during the night. If you are out at night and shine a flashlight or your headlights onto the grass of one of the parks, you might see a Black-crowned Night-Heron!

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



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.

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 Mountain View" on the bottom of the home page, mountainview.gov. 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.

Peninsula Storage offers U.S. mail services

As gift-mailing time approaches, remember that Peninsula Storage offers all USPS services except rental boxes. The office is at 2409 Leghorn Street; turn left (west) off Independence. Mon.–Fri. 9:00–5:00, Sat. 9:00–2:00. Mail collection is at 4:30; peninsulastorage.com; 968-7700.

Prevent mail theft

For safety, deposit your outgoing mail in one of these collection boxes: Alvin at Victory by 11:00 a.m. or Thompson at Laura by noon (both Monday/Saturday), or at Independence at Leghorn by 4:00 Monday/Friday.

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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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.

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650.793.4274

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spotvin@cbnorcal.com



Michael Sutton

CalBRE# 01916467

650.799.2253

michael.sutton@cbnorcal.com

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

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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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 276 members.

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