Mountain View, California *June 2010*

MONTA LOMA NEWS

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Monta Loma Neighborhood Association General Meeting

Thursday, June 10, 7:15 pm
Monta Loma School Multipurpose Room

- Meet and vote on the MLNA Board candidates (p. 2) and on the bylaws revisions.
- Learn about the plans to expand the school. *Those who use Monta Loma Park, as well as school parents, will want to hear Craig Goldman's presentation on the school-expansion plans, which may take land from the park.*
- See what's planned for Alvin at Middlefield.
- Hear how High-Speed Rail may affect Monta Loma.
- Open Q&A

Doors open for setup and refreshments	6:30 pm
President's update	7:15 pm
Presentation of candidates and voting	7:30 pm
Program	7:45 pm

MLNA Board Election

Please participate in the election on June 10 to vote on your board members and proposed revisions to the bylaws. The revisions were explained in the March newsletter and are at www.montaloma.org.

Most current board members (listed on page 2) have agreed to continue to serve, but due to other commitments, two must reluctantly retire. We are fortunate to have volunteers for their seats: Carolyn Schmittzeh for retiring treasurer Oliver Dittrich, and Adam Rakestraw for retiring member-at-large Andy Rose. (See page 2.)

Carolyn has already stepped into the treasurer's position, but all positions are always open for the election. We also welcome hearing from anyone interested in joining the board as an at-large member. For more information or to place your name on the printed ballot, contact Marilyn Gildea by **6 p.m. on Thursday, June 3.**

Need an Absentee Ballot?
If you need an absentee ballot, contact Randi Ross (randiaross@gmail.com or 965-7677) **by 6 p.m. on Monday, June 7.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR:
June 10: MLNA General Meeting and Election
July 24: Neighborhood Bird Walk (p. 7)
August 29: MLNA Ice Cream Social (p. 3)

Development at Alvin and Middlefield: Lower Density Likely

By Wouter Suverkropp

The vacant lot at Alvin and Middlefield may see development to a much lower density than previously planned. The owners of the land have preliminary plans for approximately 35 (instead of 75) mixed-use row houses, and some small retail such as a coffee shop. Tom Quaglia of Mission Peak Developers will join us on June 10 to briefly discuss his early plans. Come and share your insights regarding this project. We are actively engaged with the developer and the city's planning department, and we welcome your comments.

High Speed Rail

By Wouter Suverkropp

The plans to build High Speed Rail (HSR) tracks along the existing Caltrain corridor have raised concerns about noise, vibration, and visual impact. The City Council is hoping to hear a "clear community voice" on the alternatives: Over? Under? Ground level? (Read a relevant article at www.omvna.org/?p=1557.)

The HSR Authority has provided relatively little data on the project, which makes it difficult to form an opinion. Join us on June 10 for the latest update.

MLNA Board Members

President
Wouter Suverkropp, 968-3056
president@montaloma.org

First Vice President
Helen Wolter, 691-1291
helenwolter@yahoo.com

Second Vice President
Bill Lambert, 988-0342
blambert77@comcast.net

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Carolyn Schmittzeh, 962-1528
c_schmittzeh@yahoo.com

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Board Candidates: Carolyn Schmittzeh and Adam Rakestraw

Carolyn Schmittzeh generously responded to our plea for a treasurer to replace Oliver Dittrich, who had to resign due to increasing work and family responsibilities. Carolyn comes with impressive credentials: "I have an MBA and over 10 years of experience in finance, and have passed the CPA exam. I have the commitment to work for MLNA. I am a homeowner and have lived in Monta Loma for 19 years."

Adam Rakestraw volunteered to fill Andy Rose's member-at-large position. Adam is an electrical engineer who came to California in 2000. Wife Jill ran the PTA's used-book sale last year, but is less active now since having a second child. They lived in the area before moving into Monta Loma last year, and plan to stay for the foreseeable future.

Monta Loma: An Award-Winning Neighborhood

By Wouter Suverkropp

Now you can brag that you live in an award-winning neighborhood! The Monta Loma Neighborhood Association was honored by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation with an Elizabeth Anabo BRICC Award. See a photo of our award at www.montaloma.org. For information about the award, click on the photo.

The awards are given annually to only a few neighborhood groups in the county that have made outstanding contributions to their community. MLNA board member Bill Lambert and I accepted the award on behalf of Monta Loma on April 17.

I thank Bill for filling out the multi-page application, which required a detailed explanation of how we "mobilize broad citizen participation, address significant issues in our community, make creative use of available resources, provide opportunities for neighbors to take greater control of and responsibility for what goes on in their neighborhood, and inspire neighbors and others to take action."

The award includes a $1,000 grant, part of which we plan to use to recreate the U.S. and world maps on the Monta Loma school playground. Other suggestions are welcome.

General Plan Process Continues

By Wouter Suverkropp

The city's new general plan will determine what Mountain View will look like over the next 20 years, and what it will be like to live here. Council members and staff continue to hold outreach meetings and workshops to gather input from residents. I urge you to participate. Visit www.mountainview2030.com, and watch MLN email and the *Voice* for announcements.

Walk Around the Block Program

By Wouter Suverkropp

Monta Loma has an opportunity to join Mountain View's other two largest neighborhood associations, Old Mountain View and Wagon Wheel, in starting a Walk Around the Block program.

The idea is to organize neighborhood walks with a narrative, to entice us to walk through our own and other neighborhoods while learning about their history and special places. These tours could be either self-guided or with a local guide.

Monta Loma's tour could include Steve Jobs's childhood home, and the sites of the Native American burial mound at Mayfield and the former airstrip. Garden tours could focus on no-water natives, succulents, or vegetables. More suggestions are solicited.

If you are interested in working with others to set up a walk, please contact Maria Harnoto at mharnoto@juno.com or 960-1781.

Ice Cream Social; Volunteer Now

by Wouter Suverkropp, MLNA President

The MLNA Ice Cream Social, the biggest event of the year, is scheduled for Sunday, August 29, 3 to 5 p.m. It will feature the usual free ice cream and toppings, plus entertainment for the kids (face painting, balloon man, craft project, bike parade) and displays of neighborhood information. It's all designed to entice you to Monta Loma Park to meet your neighbors, which is its real purpose. City council and school board members will be invited and usually attend.

We always gets great neighborhood response for help for the day of the event, but we need help in advance to order food, organize activities, or make phone calls. We also welcome volunteers for other activities. Do you juggle? Perform magic tricks?

Please sign up at the June 10 MLNA meeting or contact me at 968-3056 or president@montaloma.org. *Editor's Note: Contact Wouter now, while you're thinking of it.*

Monta Loma Park Notice Board

By Wouter Suverkropp

The MLNA Board has had several meetings with the City Parks and Recreation staff, and I'm pleased to report that another of our requests was implemented. A community notice board has been installed on the restrooms building in Monta Loma Park. The board is for both city and community announcements and information. Thanks to Micah Laaker for taking responsibility for the board. We welcome your suggestions for what he should post. Send your ideas and any announcements you'd like posted to Micah at noticeboard@montaloma.org.

Spring Fling a Success

By Wouter Suverkropp

Thanks to all the volunteers and participants for our wonderful Spring Fling. We enjoyed and learned from Nadine O'Leary's paintings, Elna Tymes's quilt display, Animal Beacons of Light (Ellen Henson and Pat Jordan), CERT (Jim Cochran, Mary Lou Eastwood, Marilyn Yanicks, and Joan MacDonald), and CHAC (Joan MacDonald). Other attractions were the crafts, organized by Ann McMillan; Gary Heyman's balloon creations; Gloria Jackson and John Ari Stepp's cotton candy; the police information; and free snacks and drinks (Pat Jordan and Bill Lambert). And of course it's always fun to meet and chat with our neighbors and buy books from the PTA.

This event requires considerable advance preparation, so I especially thank Marilyn Gildea, Helen Wolter, Andy Rose, and Judy McHargue. Helping at the event were Alice Carter and Carolyn Len, among others. Vicki Lee and her family collected the lawn signs afterwards.

CERT – For When the Ambulance Isn't Coming

By Jim Cochran

At the April neighborhood meeting with city staff, Lynn Brown of the Office of Emergency Services urged us to take CERT training: "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."

Monta Loma's CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) needs interested neighbors to join us to be better prepared for disaster. No special skills are required, but if you are a retired doctor, nurse, and other medical professional, or have industrial ERT or ham radio training, you are particularly needed.

You can check out CERT at any of our 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 session is June 12. No cost or obligation! You may contact me at jimcoch@comcast.net or 207-5518.

The City of Mountain View will conduct free CERT training in June and October. We encourage you to take the course, whether or not you join our neighborhood group. For information contact Lynn Brown (Lynn.Brown@MountainView.gov; 903-6825) or visit www.mountainview.gov.

Neighborhood Resources

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
Jim Cochran, 207-5518
jimcoch@comcast.net

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
Open, please volunteer!

Activities Committee
Wouter Suverkropp, 968-3056
president@montaloma.org

Parents' Network and Babysitting Co-op
Verity Chase, 969-6735

MLN Neighborhood Email List
mln@yahoogroups.com
List owner: Peggy Manor
mamm@pobox.com
To get only official announcements, subscribe at www.montaloma.org.

MLNA Websites
www.montaloma.org
Referrals:
mlna.wikispot.org
Webmaster: Cheryl Jasper
webmaster@montaloma.org

Shredder Day: "Better Late Than Never"

Our third annual free shredder day on April 17 was marred by the failure of the shredding truck to arrive. Despite Wouter's reconfirming the arrangements just days before, evidently the driver was given incorrect instructions. When he failed to arrive, Wouter rented an enclosed truck, planning to take the paper to Shred-It on Monday. The Shred-It truck arrived ten minutes before our noon ending time, and a dozen people pitched in to quickly transfer over 1,000 pounds of paper from the rental truck to the shredder. All the paper was shredded on the spot into tiny pieces that will become new products.

The e-waste recycling was again very popular, and that large truck was filled completely. The materials will be sorted here in California; what is re-usable will be reused, and the rest recycled here in the U.S.

Helping Wouter were Maria and Toyo Harnoto, Marilyn Gildea, Silke Gurlich, Bill Lambert, Andy Rose, John Thomas, and Helen Wolter, plus many others who stayed for shorter times to help unload cars and load trucks. Vickie Lee and her kids placed and removed the street-corner signs, created by Andy. Thanks to all, we again saved Monta Lomans several thousand dollars in shredding and recycling fees, and made us less vulnerable to identity theft.

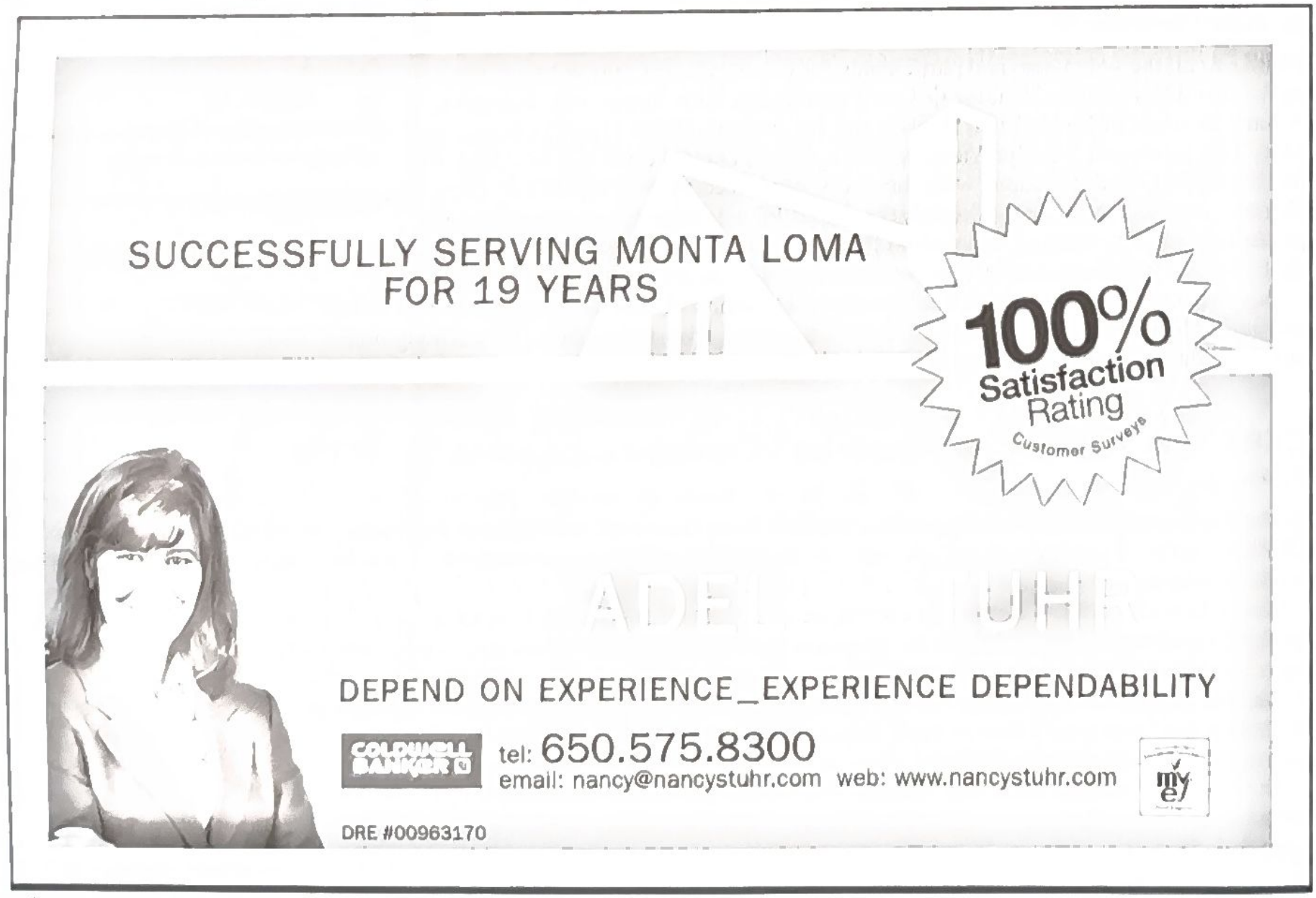
Meriwest Credit Union (www.meriwest.com) plans to open in Monta Loma Plaza in early fall and offer its members full financial services plus a cybercafé, Peet's coffee, and a coin machine.

News from Monta Loma School

By Judy McHargue for the PTA

Our first year of school-wide Community Enhanced Learning is winding down. Parent Leane Reelfs coordinated the efforts of the many families that agreed to volunteer a minimum of 30 hours. With more parents in the classroom and involved in science, math, and drama enrichment, all students benefited and our API scores improved by 20 points.

We thank all those parents and also neighbors Marilyn Gildea, Wouter Suverkropp, and especially Bill Lambert, who volunteered countless hours leading Math Olympiad each week for fourth graders. Their support strengthens our school and the bond with our neighborhood. Thanks also to the neighbors who supported our fundraisers and saved Box Tops for Education. They enabled us to continue chorus, implement an accelerated math program, provide field trips, and more. Email Leane at reelfs@comcast.net to get involved.



What Constitutes a Senior-Friendly City?

By Elna Tymes, Chair, Mountain View Senior Advisory Committee

Population projections agree that we (and the U.S.) are already being affected by a large increase in the proportion of residents over 65. These seniors aren't interested in the "senior ghettos" out in the boonies; most want to stay in active, interesting cities and towns, particularly where there are plenty of retail and cultural opportunities. And they want to live within walkable distance (a half mile) of stores.

Among the characteristics that some consider important are good public transportation, low crime rates, housing that's appropriate to aging bodies, parks and open space with benches, a good mix of retail and service options, and good cultural opportunities. Mountain View's Senior Advisory Committee is looking for ideas as to what constitutes a "senior-friendly city." Would these be on your list? What else would you consider important? Please contact me at Etymes@LTS.com or 969-6650 with your ideas.

Wiki: Monta Loma's Referral List

by Cheryl Jasper, Monta Loma Webmaster

I'm delighted that so many neighbors are using the MLN referral wiki (http://mlna.wikispot.org) to find and share recommendations. Remember that you can always find a link to it at www.montaloma.org and below all messages from the MLN email list. Instructions for opening an account to add to the wiki are in the first paragraph of the wiki's front page with links to make it easier.

Keep Cool This Summer

By Wouter Suverkropp

Keep your home cooler:

- Keep the sun off the windows and sliding doors that the sun hits by hanging outdoor blinds (available at OSH) or old bedsheets from the eaves. Closing the curtains inside helps, but not as much.
- Leave windows open at night if you can safely do so. You can block sliding windows and doors with PVC pipe. Open the window five inches and measure the distance from the back of the sliding pane to the window frame. OSH will cut ½-inch PVC tubing to size.
- Open windows and doors very early in the morning to let the cool air in. Use a fan or run your bathroom fan(s) (or kitchen fan if it leads to outside) to help pull in cool air.
- Close the house before it's warmer outside than in; this may be only an hour after sunrise.
- Turn off as many lights and electronics as you can (they all generate heat), and limit oven use.

Keep yourself cooler:

- Run your ceiling fan on slow; moving air can make you feel 10 degrees cooler than still air.
- Use a plant mister with (ice) water to cool your face.
- Visit air-conditioned libraries and stores in the afternoon, when your home is hottest.

Lower your energy bill:

- Increase the set temperature of your air conditioner a few degrees, and keep filters clean. Limit the use of AC between noon and 7 p.m.
- Replace your older large appliances with Energy Star models. Check PG&E.com for rebates.

Consider projects with bigger impact:

- Plant trees that shed their leaves in winter. They keep your home cool in summer but let in the sun's warmth when you want it.
- Insulate your roof, and/or have it painted white. If you've already insulated your roof, go for the walls and floor. PG&E offers rebates.
- Install double-paned windows to reduce heating/cooling costs and make your home quieter.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The library's mobile unit stops on Jane at Fay on these Fridays: June 18, July 16, and August 13 from 9:45 to 10:15. It stops at Redwood Villa (on Montecito) from 3:00 to 3:30 on alternate Thursdays: June 3 and 17, July 1, 15, and 29, and August 12 and 26. For more information or special requests, email mobile.library@mountainview.gov or call 526-7029.

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Keeping Monta Loma Safe...and Clean...and Green

Buy Meat from a Truck?
Every several weeks people try to sell meat from a truck in Monta Loma. When asked for a permit, they say they have one but don't show it. Elna wonders who would buy meat that is possibly uninspected and may come from dubious sources. Wouter recommends calling the police.

Seems Suspicious? Report It!
A recent break-in burglary reminds us to report anyone or anything suspicious. Call either 911 or the police non-emergency number, 903-6395, depending on the circumstances. Describe the looks and clothing of the person(s). If a vehicle is involved, you'll be asked for the license number and the make, model, year, color, how many doors, and any distinctive features. If you don't already have 903-6395 programmed in your cell phone, now is a good time to do it.

Walkable Sidewalks
By Marilyn Gildea
Recently I saw a mother trying to push a double-wide baby stroller on a sidewalk made too narrow for it by overgrown bushes. I sometimes have to duck to pass under low-hanging branches. If your greenery is too robust, please trim it back, and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Watering Our Trees and Lawns
By Marilyn Gildea
Trees: Young trees need care until they're established, 3 to 5 years for most. Deep-water them not more often than weekly during the hot months. A soaker hose works well; leave it on overnight, on a setting that is low enough so there is no run-off. Watering too much or too often will displace the air in the soil and can allow fungi to enter weakened roots. Mature trees probably need no supplemental summer water, but needs vary with species, so consult Sunset Western Garden Book.
Lawns: If you set your watering timer to finish before sunrise, you'll lose little water to evaporation. Mine runs not more than twice a week for 6 minutes at 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, and 5:00 a.m. That timing allows the water to soak into my clay soil.

Plan a Block Party
Several block parties are already planned, some for Memorial Day weekend and some for later in the summer. It's a great way to meet your neighbors, build camaraderie, and recruit a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain, if you don't have one. To encourage Neighborhood Watch, MLNA will help pay for your party. Pick up a flyer with the details at the June 10 meeting or visit www.montaloma.org and click on Neighborhood Watch and on Block Parties. Scroll to the bottom of the Block Parties page and click on "printable version."

For copies of safety handouts from the MVPD and other neighborhood information to make available at your party, contact Marilyn at marilyn@gildea.com or 940-1606.



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THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS
Thanks to those who delivered the March newsletter: John Canata, Donna Clarke, Jim and Alice Cochran, Birgit Grundler, Maria Harnoto, Chuck and Cookie Henderson, Isabella Hill, Paul Kostka, Bill Lambert, Vickie Lee, Joan MacDonald, Allison McGill, Shelly Ostman, Victoria Perry, Melba Relling, Wouter Suverkropp, John Thomas, Elizabeth Wee, 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.

BIRDING IN THE MONTA LOMA NEIGHBORHOOD: THE BEWICK'S WREN

by Dotty Calabrese

The small, chubby Bewick's Wren is delightful to watch as it hops and forages on the ground and fences, and climbs along tree trunks and branches, looking for insects and spiders. All the while, it makes low buzzy sounds and harsh scolding notes. This melodious songbird is gray-brown above and white below, with a long white stripe above its eye, a thin bill, and a relatively long, barred tail with a white tip. It holds its tail up, sometimes over its back.

A cavity nester, the male will build many partial nests, filling nearby cavities. If you find your birdhouses full of nesting material with no real nest, it was probably done by a male Bewick's Wren. It is believed he does this to discourage other birds from nesting nearby. The female finishes one nest, lays a clutch of 4–11 eggs, and raises their young.

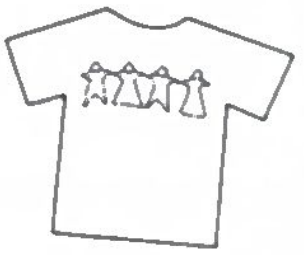
Thank you to the many Monta Loma neighbors who donated to our Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Birdathon. I raised over $4,600, including over $1,100 from Monta Loma neighbors. You are the best!

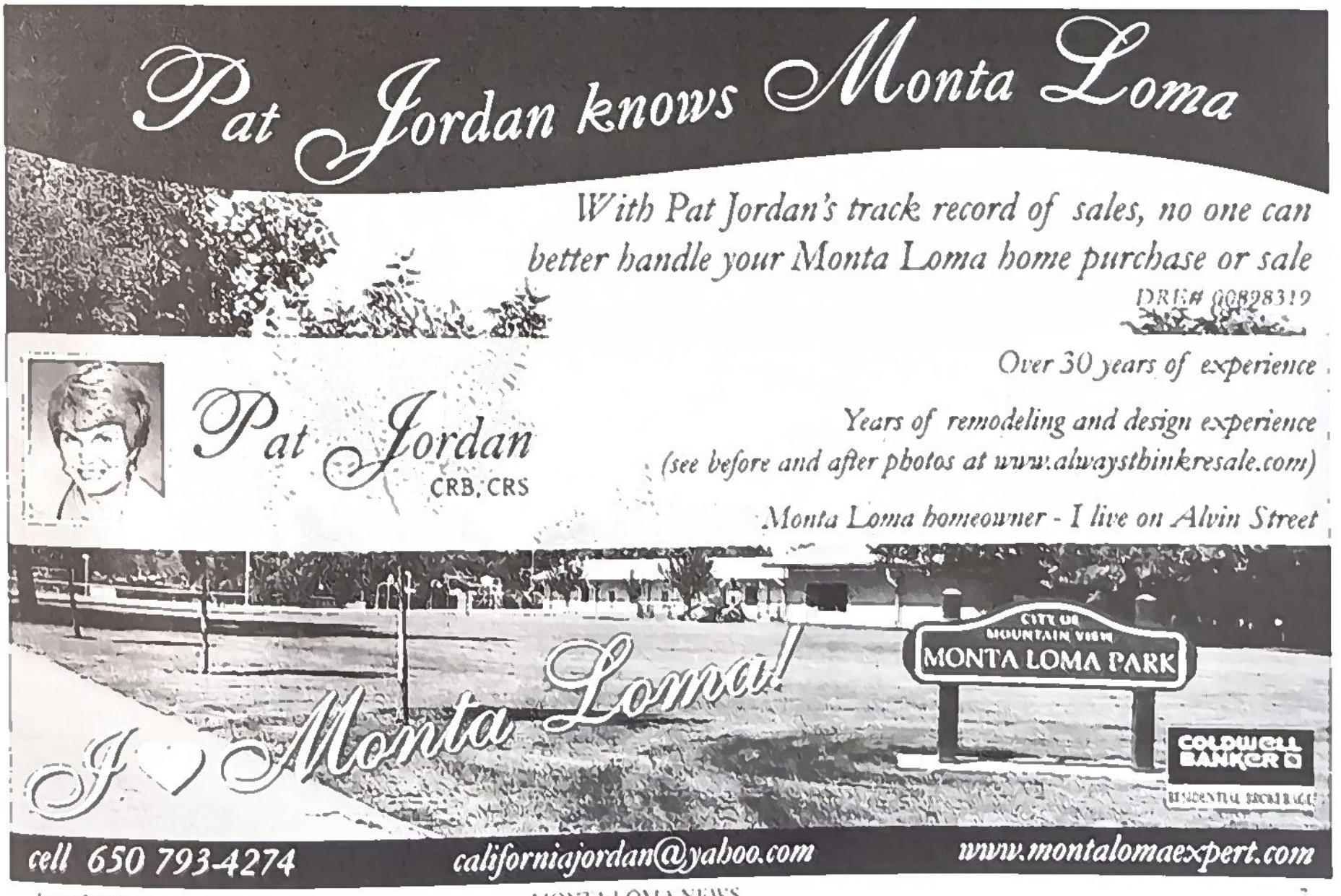
Neighborhood birdwalk, Saturday, July 24. Meet at Thaddeus Park at 7:30 a.m. Bring binoculars if you have them. Children who can pay attention quietly when we see a bird are welcome. Expect to see 8–15 species. Rain cancels. Email your bird questions to me at dottycala@aol.com.

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Monta Loma Tee Shirts

Show your pride in Monta Loma by wearing a Monta Loma tee shirt. The shirts have our "dancing people" logo and the words Monta Loma Neighborhood and sell for $10. They'll be available at the annual meeting on June 10, but contact Marilyn at marilyn@gildea.com or 940-1606 if you want one now for your block party or for your kids to take to camp.



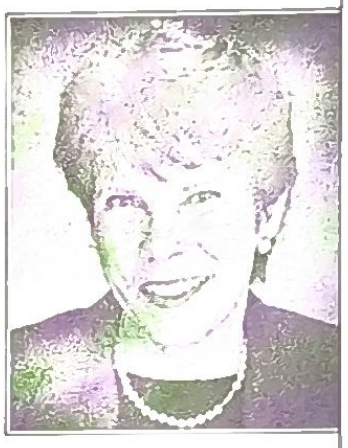


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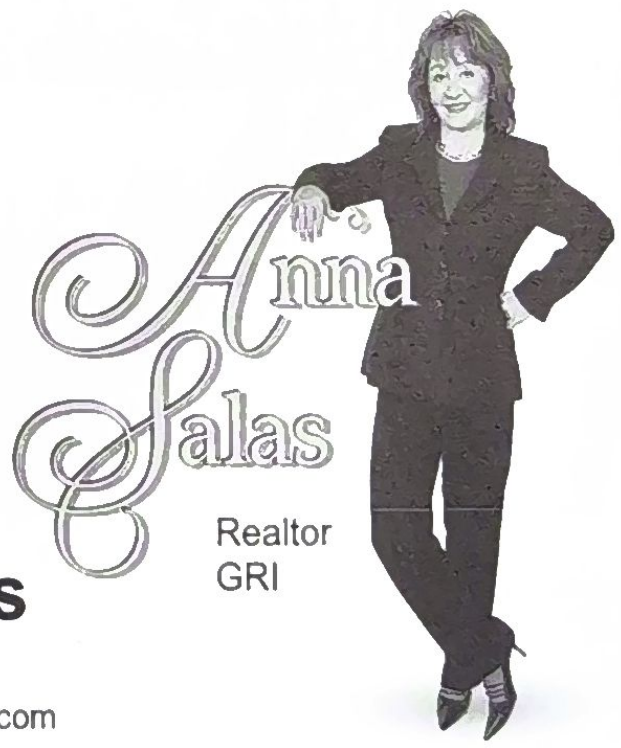
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