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Mountain View, California *March 2011*

MONTA LOMA NEWS

Published and Distributed by the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association

The Monta Loma Neighborhood

Spring Fling



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

Saturday, March 19, 10:00 a.m. – Noon
Monta Loma School Multipurpose Room
Setup begins by 9:15 a.m.



Chat with old friends and meet new neighbors as you enjoy free Starbucks coffee, hot cider or chocolate, and baked goods. Pick up information about neighborhood activities. Engage in a craft project. Buy a Monta Loma tee shirt.

If you can help with this popular event or have a community activity you would like to share, please contact Helen Wolter now at helenwolter@yahoo.com or 691-1291.

Paper Shredding April 30

Neither the city nor the MLNA will offer paper shredding this year. However, the city encourages us to take advantage of the free paper shredding at the SMaRT Station in Sunnyvale on Saturday, April 30, from 8:00 to noon. You may want to arrange a carpool via the mln email list. Details are below, in the city's spring issue of *Resource* (mailed this week), and at www.mvrecycle.org (click on Events).

- SMaRT Station, 301 Carl Road (Caribbean Dr. & Borregas Ave.), Sunnyvale.
- Bring confidential paper documents only (no binders, binder clips, or media such as VHS tapes, CDs, or computer disks/drives).
- Limit of five banker's boxes OR five paper grocery bags per household.
- Proof of residency (utility bill, drivers license) is required.
- Volunteers will be available to provide assistance in off-loading your boxes.
- The next shredding opportunities are July 30 and December 3, 8:00 to noon.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR:

March 12 CERT Saturday Session, 9:00–11:00 a.m. (p. 2)
March 18 PTA used-book sale, 3:00–4:30 (p. 2)
March 19 MLNA Spring Fling, 10:00–noon (p. 1)
March 27 Bird walk at the Baylands/Shoreline, 7:30–9:00 a.m. (p. 5)
April 30 Paper Shredding at the SMaRT Station, 8:00–noon (p. 1)
April 30 Monta Loma School Beautification Day and Car Wash, 10:00–noon (p. 2)
May 14 Community Yard Sale at Rengstorff Park, 8:00–2:00 (p. 4)
June 9 MLNA General Meeting and Election, evening (p. 1)
August 28 MLNA Ice Cream Social, 3:00–5:00 p.m.

MLNA Board Election June 9

The Monta Loma Neighborhood Association keeps us informed on issues that affect our neighborhood and organizes social events to bring us together. Our association is one of the best in the area and has the ear of our city council and other associations.

The annual general meeting and board election will take place on Thursday evening, June 9; place to be determined. All the current board members are willing to continue, but all positions are always open for the election; see list on page 2. For descriptions of the positions visit www.montaloma.org or contact any board member.

We welcome hearing from anyone interested in joining the board as an at-large member. For more information or to place your name on the ballot, contact Marilyn Gildea so she can include you in the next newsletter (marilyn@gildea.com or 940-1606).

MLNA Board Members

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

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Helen Wolter, 691-1291
helenwolter@yahoo.com

Second Vice President
Bill Lambert, 988-0342
lambert_william@att.net

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c_schmittzeh@yahoo.com

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News from Monta Loma School

By Leane Reelfs

Annual Used-Book Sale: To help the PTA ensure that all children will find a book appropriate to their reading level, please send us your gently-loved but outgrown children's books. We accept books of all types and any language, from kindergarten through junior high level, but are especially in need of books for 3rd- to 5th-grade readers, picture books, and books in Spanish (all levels). Drop them off in the bin in the school office **no later than Friday, March 11**. Then drop by the school and browse on the multipurpose room's stage on Friday afternoon, March 18, 3:00–4:30.

Science Enrichment Week begins on Monday, March 28. If you love science, consider volunteering in one of our classes during this school-wide, week-long event.

Spring Campus Beautification Day and Car Wash is Saturday, April 30, 10:00–noon. This is a great opportunity to come out and support our kids and build community.

Kindergarten information nights were a big success at Monta Loma. If you missed the tours, please contact our principal, Cathy Baur, at cbaur@mvwsd.org or 903-6915 so she can arrange to meet you and show you around.

For more information, or to volunteer for Science Enrichment Week or to help at the book sale, contact Leane at reelfs@comcast.net or 255-4851.

CERT – Christchurch Earthquake a Warning

By Jim Cochran

Film footage of the earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand, reminds us what we'll face when "the big one" strikes. Monta Loma's CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) needs interested neighbors to join us to be better prepared for any 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 this coming **Saturday, March 12.** No cost or obligation! You may contact me at jimcoch@comcast.net or 207-5518.

We encourage you to take the city's free CERT course that begins on April 26, whether or not you join our neighborhood group. A link to info and registration is on the CERT page at www.montaloma.org.

Caltrain Proposes Schedule, Fare Changes

Have an opinion on Caltrain's proposed changes? They include eliminating the San Antonio stop and non-commute-hour service. Comments can be emailed to changes@caltrain.com; mailed to District Secretary, Caltrain, P.O. Box 3006, San Carlos, CA 94070; or telephoned to 1-800-660-4287.

Holiday Progressive Dinner

By Marilyn Gildea

The potluck dinner on December 11 was again a great success. Almost twenty neighbors enjoyed visiting with old friends and making new ones while enjoying delicious foods in the three host homes. We enjoyed it even more for having each contributed a check to the Second Harvest Food Bank. Thanks to hosts Ann Togasaki, Elna Tymes, and Debbie and Scott Cunningham, and to organizers Debbie and Elna.

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The MLNA Board continues to monitor the plans for the housing developments at the Mayfield and Middlefield/Alvin properties as they work their way through the approval process. Any news will be reported on the mln email list.

Stuffed Animals Table at Spring Fling

By Ellen Henson

Animal Beacons of Light gathers stuffed animals, freshens them, and gifts them to children around the world who need something to cuddle. Bring your donations to our table at the Spring Fling, or just stop by to chat.

We seek new or gently used soft-filled stuffed animals between six inches and two feet, made of faux fur, plush, or soft cloth. Bring cute, cuddly ones in good condition. Please find other homes for dolls, toys, or stuffies with batteries, moving parts, or commercial advertising.

For more information or questions about the suitability of stuffies you wish to donate contact Ellen at animalbeacons@yahoo.com or 961-8777.

Parents of Young Children Welcome Others

Parents of young children, a good way to meet other parents is to bring your toddler and some sand toys to Thaddeus Park between 9:00 and 12:00 or between 3:00 and 5:00. Another way is to join the new email list, MLkids, which enables parents of preschool children to communicate and plan park dates and play dates. To join the MLkids list, send an email to mlkids-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

So far, the group's members have discussed play dates and babysitting resources. They hope to plan some weekend events and perhaps even a weekly stroller walk. The group also wants to reactivate the Monta Loma babysitting co-op. If you're interested, subscribe to the babysitting coop yahoo group at mlbabysittingcoop-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Mobile Library



The library's mobile unit stops on Jane at Fay on these Fridays: March 25, April 22, May 20, and June 17 from 9:45 to 10:15. It stops at Redwood Villa (on Montecito) from 3:00 to 3:30 on alternate Thursdays: March 10 and 24; April 7 and 21; May 5 and 19; June 2, 16, and 30; etc. For more information or special requests, email Mobile.Library@mountainview.gov or call 526-7029.

Candidates Forum Report

Our candidates forum on October 23 attracted all six city council candidates and about 25 neighbors, who enjoyed chatting with the candidates before and after the formal forum.

Successful Food Drive at Monta Loma School

In December, Wouter used the neighborhood email list to request support for the school's holiday food drive. Neighbors responded generously to add to the many contributions from the school families and staff. Jim Cochran reports that, with the help of some school parents to load the van, he transported approximately 2,300 pounds of food to the Community Services Agency.

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
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

MONTA LOMA TEE SHIRTS

Show your pride in Monta Loma at the Spring Fling and elsewhere 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 for sale at the event, but if you contact Marilyn now at marilyn@gildea.com or 940-1606, you'll have your shirt in time wear it to the Spring Fling.

Plan a Block Party

The third annual Palmer/Lida block party last September was another a great success, with more than 50 attendees. It's not too early to begin planning your street's party. It's a great way to meet your neighbors, build camaraderie, and recruit a Neighborhood Watch (NW) Block Captain, if you don't have one.

To encourage Neighborhood Watch, MLNA will help pay for your party. If your block does not have a NW Block Captain, now is the time to volunteer or recruit one. To learn more, pick up an info sheet at the Spring Fling or visit www.montaloma.org and click on Neighborhood Watch and on Block Parties.

Fourth Generation on Aldean

By Evelyn McMillan

In 1958, Harold and Erma Nelson had been looking for a newly-constructed house for many months before they discovered the six unusual houses at the end of Aldean Avenue that a different developer had built in the midst of a sea of tract homes. The Nelsons chose the yellow one on the right, for its good floor plan and large back yard. They paid $21,000, and moved in with their teenage daughters. Evelyn finished eighth grade at Crittenden and Jeanette attended Monta Loma. The land hosted only a house and driveway, no fences, trees, or landscaping. The family spent every Thanksgiving Day for many years planting a garden and pouring a new section of patio.

Behind the house was a landscape-supply yard where huge piles of topsoil and sand were constantly moved around by bulldozers. The dirt blowing over the fences of the neighbors was a problem until one of the residents mounted a vigorous campaign to persuade the city that the business was a health hazard. The business moved elsewhere, and the vacant land was used for bike riding and messing around by Erma's and Harold's grandchildren until the Rosewalk complex was built.

An old farmhouse and barn sat at the corner of Alma and Mayfield Ave. The neighborhood kids liked to sneak into the empty barn to play, a feat made difficult by the vigilant elderly owner, wise to the ways of kids.

The San Antonio shopping center was already in business, with Sears supplying everything a young family could need, from appliances to socket sets. Rather incongruously, the Safeway parcel included a ice rink where the Scottish sport of curling was played.

Harold and Erma lived the rest of their lives in their yellow house on Aldean. Harold worked for Spectra-Physics running their prototyping shop and acting as a liaison between engineering and management. After her girls went to college, Erma took a job testing and archiving the medicines for Syntex, and eventually ran the department. After retiring, Harold ran various handyman and tool maintenance projects; the cash-register stands at the Milk Pail were made by him, with Erma's help, in the 1990s.

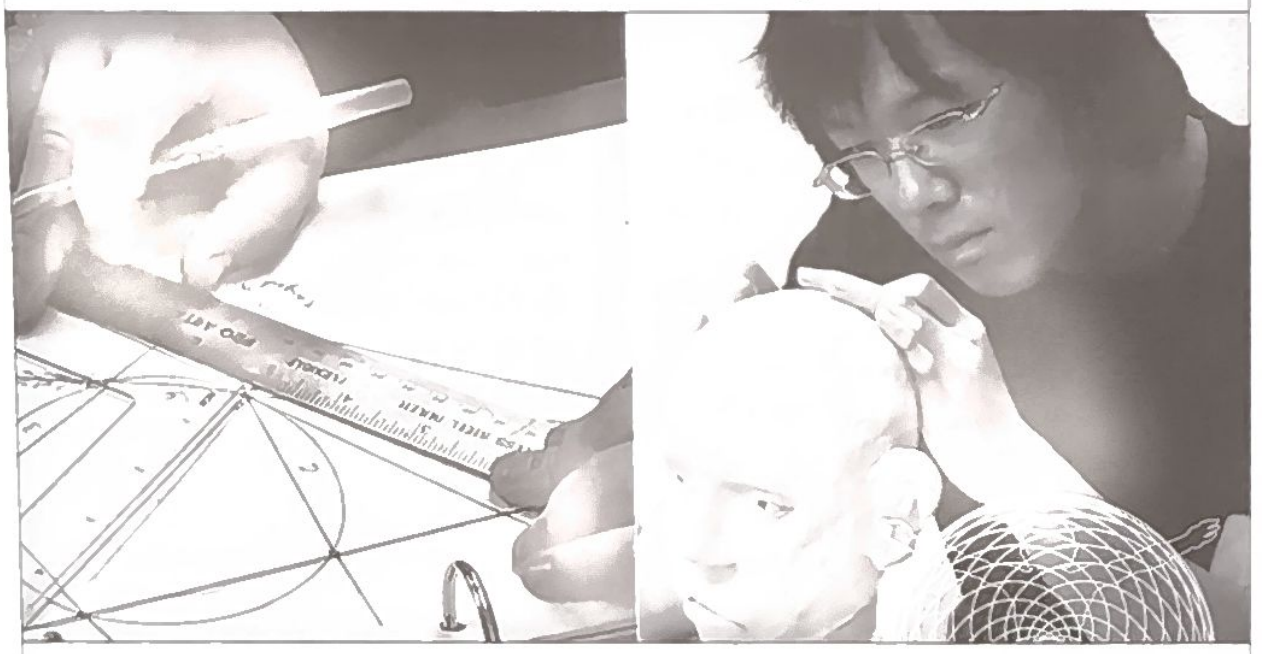
The house is now owned by their granddaughter, Ann McMillan, and her husband, Wouter Suverkropp, who enjoy living in a house where the presence of these two excellent people can still be felt. Their son, Sebastian, is the fourth generation to live there.

Community Yard Sale at Rengstorff Park on May 14

Due to other priorities, the City will not sponsor a Community Garage Sale at our homes this year, but the Community Yard Sale in Rengstorff Park will take place as usual at Rengstorff Park on Saturday, May 14, from 8:00 to 2:00. Browsing is free, but selling requires registration. See the City's Resource, mailed this week.

We're Coming to the Neighborhood!

Our Middle and High Schools are moving
to the campus at St. Athanasius Church
for the 2011-12 school year.



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Birding in the Monta Loma Neighborhood

by Dotty Calabrese



Birding at the Bay — Less Than Two Miles Away

We live very close to a beginning birdwatcher's dream, a place where 25–50 species of birds can be seen in less than two hours at any time of year, with most birds staying still long enough to get a good view through your binoculars. Even better, many of these birds are large. Just drive to the end of San Antonio Road, park on Terminal Blvd., and enter the baylands. You're at the Palo Alto Baylands/ Mountain View Shoreline border.

Shorebirds abound. There are very large ones with long legs and long bills: the Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, and Black-crowned Night Heron. Not quite so large, but also with long legs and bills are the Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Willet, and Marbled Godwit. Look up and you may see large predators or scavengers: the White-tailed Kite, Turkey Vulture, Common Raven, Northern Harrier, or Red-tailed Hawk.

A Ring-necked Pheasant may squawk loudly and scurry away through the grass. The many ducks include the Mallard, Canvasback, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, and Ruddy Duck. Also, you will usually see two really large birds, the ubiquitous Canada Goose and the prehistoric-looking American White Pelican. Many smaller, harder-to-identify birds also live there. E-mail your bird questions to me at dottycala@aol.com.

Bird Walk at the Baylands/Shoreline, Sunday, March 27, 7:30–9:00 a.m.

If you'd like to explore the baylands with me, meet me near the restroom at the corner of San Antonio Road and Terminal Blvd. Bring binoculars if you have them. Children who can pay attention quietly when we see a bird are welcome to attend. Expect to see 25–50 species. Rain cancels.

Fundraising

In April, I will again participate in the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society's Annual Birdathon, a fundraiser for environmental education in Santa Clara County schools. Last year, our team (Wild Women Birders) identified 108 bird species in one very long day. I personally raised over $4,800, including over $1,100 from Monta Loma neighbors. This year, I am attempting to raise even more money, so please consider sponsoring me. Your tax-deductible donation can be as little as $5. For more information, visit www.scvas.org. You can donate online by clicking on "Sponsor & Donate" on the left, then selecting my name in the "Select a Team or Member" box. Or mail a check payable to SCVAS to Dotty Calabrese, 2465 Richard Ct., 94043. (Or drop the envelope in my mail slot; it's the blue-gray Eichler across Thaddeus from Thaddeus Park.) Thank you!

Editor's note: Dotty hopes to win the top-fundraiser prize, a birding trip to Panama.

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Keeping Monta Loma Safe...

DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS; ADVICE FROM THE MVPD

By Marilyn Gildea

We've had a number of young solicitors recently who claim to live here or be related to a neighbor, so I consulted Liz Wylie at the police department. Here's her response:

"Many of the solicitors in our area are operating legally; it is not very difficult to obtain the necessary permits. That said, MANY of them are illegal.

"This type of call is low on our priority scale. We will send an officer as soon as possible. If it has been a while since the call came in, dispatchers may send out a general BOL [Be On the Lookout]. If we find the person(s), we will check to see if they are operating legally. If they aren't, we will check to make sure they aren't wanted for a crime. If they personally are clean, we usually give them a warning to stop soliciting. If they are repeated offenders, they are given a citation and released at the scene.

"If the solicitors are acting aggressively, trying to get inside your home, asking personal questions, or otherwise acting suspiciously, we need to know! That may make it a higher priority call with a faster response time. Call 903-6395, or if you feel threatened, 911.

"**Important**: You should NOT pretend to not be home when solicitors knock on your door. Instead, use your peephole to see who it is. Talk to solicitors through the door or a window. Do not feel that you need to open the door. If you are not interested in what's being offered, tell them without opening the door.

"Some burglars act as solicitors before burglarizing a home. They want to be sure no one is home before they search for an unlocked window or door. If you ignore their knock and they think you are not home, they may try to break in. It is dangerous to interrupt a burglar attempting to break into your home. And even more dangerous to confront one already inside your home."

IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION ADVICE

By Marilyn Gildea

The Identify Theft Investigator at the Hayward Police Department spoke to my church's seniors group recently. She got our attention when she said that at least one in every four people will be the victims of identity theft. At even higher risk because they're easier targets are seniors (one in three) and children. (Is someone using your child's SSN?)

All the info in her slideshow and handout can be printed from the "Don't Become a Victim" section at http://user.govoutreach.com/hayward/faq.php?cid=11973. This information is applicable anywhere, so share this site with family and friends.

* * * * *

When it was time to put my new auto registration in my car, I took it to the copy center with a small strip of sticky note covering my address and got a copy without the address for the glove compartment. I don't have my address or phone number on my checks.

I did a Credit Freeze five years ago, and I like knowing that no one can open a new account using my name or info. I've had to temporarily unfreeze it twice, but that wasn't difficult.

SPIDERS AND SKUNKS AND RACCOONS, OH MY!



The very large house spiders reported on the neighborhood email are harmless *Zoropsis spinimana*, from the Mediterranean. Less harmless, if your pet meets them, are skunks and raccoons. Discourage them by keeping pet food inside and compost enclosed.

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Thanks to Our Volunteers

Thanks to those who delivered the October newsletter: John Canata, Donna Clarke, Grant and Birgit Grundler, Maria Harnoto, Chuck and Cookie Henderson, Jessie Holombo, Paul Kostka, Allison McGill, Joan MacDonald, Shelly Ostman, Victoria Perry, Sumanth Rajagopal, Jeff and Helene Regan and children, Melba Reiling, John Thomas, Jen Wakefield, Elizabeth Wee, Wouter Suverkropp, 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.

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Keeping Monta Loma Clean and Green ...



YOUNG TREES NEED WATER

Once the winter rains are over, give your young trees a deep watering (10 gallons) near the trunk at least every two weeks until the rains begin again. If we help our newer trees become well established during their first five years, they'll be here to replace our original trees, which are now aging out.

WALKABLE SIDEWALKS

Is your sidewalk clear of creeping ground cover and overhanging bushes and trees, so that a mother pushing a double-wide baby stroller can pass without ducking or detouring into the street? If your greenery is too robust, please trim it back, and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

ABANDONED FURNITURE PICKED UP BY CITY

A neighbor called the City at 903-6329, option 6, to request the removal of a couch dumped on Thompson, and reports that the staff was very pleasant about it.

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Mariachi Band Wakes Neighbors

The mariachi band that woke neighbors living near St. Athanasius Church very early on Sunday, Dec. 12, was uninvited and unexpected. The church's annual celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe took place in front of and inside the church on Rengstorff. Church staff assured us that this unwelcome disturbance won't happen again.

A Valentine to Monta Loma

Dear Monta Loma residents,
We send you all love and appreciation this Valentine's Day. Thank you for making this a wonderful neighborhood: For sharing advice, resources, information and concern online, and free items curbside; for creating beautiful landscapes and well-maintained properties that pedestrians enjoy; for showing friendly faces and acts of kindness to neighbors; and for maintaining traditions and avenues for citizen participation. What a great community!

Judi Minter and John Ayers on Mardell posted this to the email list on Feb. 14

. . . . . .

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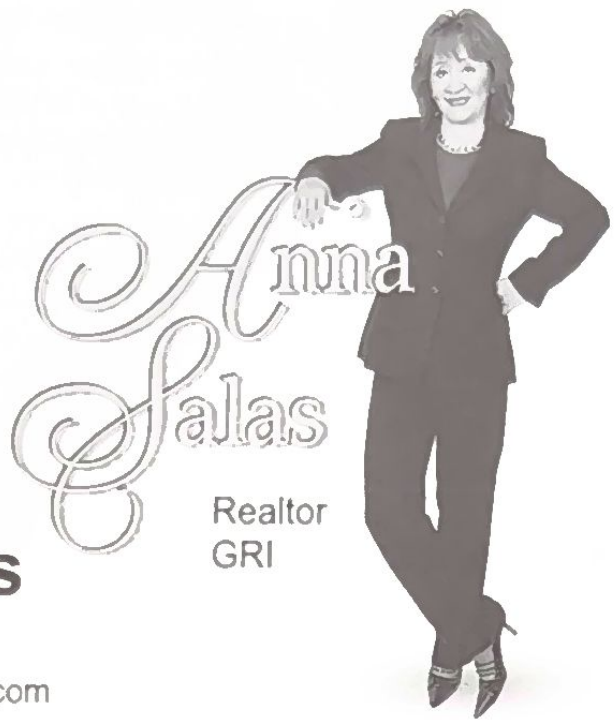
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