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Mountain View, California *June 2011*

MONTA LOMA NEWS

Published and Distributed by the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association

Monta Loma Neighborhood Association General Meeting and Board Election

Thursday, June 9, 7:15 pm
Monta Loma School Multipurpose Room

- Meet and vote on the MLNA Board candidates.
- Hear an AT&T representative explain plans for placing cell phone transmitters on utility poles in Monta Loma.
- Discuss potential traffic mitigation measures for Monta Loma. (See enclosed insert.)

Doors open for setup and refreshments	7:00 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 9 to vote on your board members. The current board members (listed on page 2) have agreed to continue to serve, but all positions are always open so do feel free to volunteer to run. The positions are described at www.montaloma.org.

We also welcome hearing from anyone interested in joining the board as an at-large member. Nominations may be made from the floor at the election (with the consent of the nominee), but to place your name on the printed ballot, contact Marilyn Gildea (marilyn@gildea.com; 940-1606) by **6 p.m. on Sunday, June 5.**

Relay for Life Cancer Walk June 4

By Mara Fojas

Our Monta Loma Neighborhood Team will take turns walking or running around the track at Cuesta Park for 24 hours to raise money and awareness to help the American Cancer Society create a world with less cancer and more birthdays. The Relay for Life event begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 4. Please support our efforts by joining our team or making a donation. Visit tinyurl.com/mlnrelay or contact me at 614-787-0716 or maranoelle@gmail.com

Need an Absentee Ballot?

If you need an absentee ballot, contact Alicia Crank at mizcrank@gmail.com or 605-3418 **by 6 p.m. on Monday, June 6**.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR:

June 4: Relay for Cancer Walk (p. 1)
June 9: MLNA General Meeting and Election (p. 1)
June 11: CERT Second Saturday (p. 2)
August 28: MLNA Ice Cream Social (p. 3)

Mayfield and Middlefield Developments Proceed

By Wouter Suverkropp

The MLNA Board continues to monitor the plans for nearby housing developments as they advance through the approval process, and I report news on the mln email list. The Mayfield Development is scheduled for final approval by the City Council on Tuesday, June 14.

The developer of Middlefield Terraces at Alvin/Middlefield presented his latest plans to Monta Loma residents on March 29. The entrance to the complex is on Alvin Street. Increased traffic in Monta Loma was the main concern expressed by those who attended. On May 4 representatives of Summit Land Partners presented the latest plans for the Mayfield development. Again, increased traffic was a concern of the attendees.

For Middlefield, no EIR (Environmental Impact Report) was conducted, but traffic studies show apparently insignificant traffic impact. For Mayfield, the EIR showed no traffic impact that exceeds thresholds or requires mitigation.

I encourage you to **attend the June 9 meeting** to discuss the traffic situation.

MLNA Board Members

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wsuverkropp@yahoo.com

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helenwolter@yahoo.com

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Small Stuffed Animals Needed

By Ellen Henson

The Animal Beacons of Light project needs more new or gently used soft-filled stuffed animals. This time we are seeking ones 6 to 12 inches in size. We take ones made of fake fur, plush, or soft cloth, that are cute, cuddly, and in good condition. Please find other homes for dolls, toys, or stuffies with batteries, moving parts, or commercial advertising. You may drop them off either with me (2451 Tamalpais) or Pat (2458 Alvin).

Please put a note on the bag/box so we'll know who they are from. Questions? Contact me at animalbeacons@yahoo.com or 961-8777.

Welcome Letter for New Neighbors

Thanks go to MLNA First Vice President Helen Wolter for creating our new "Welcome to Monta Loma" letter. On the home page at www.montaloma.org scroll down the to the "welcome letter" link, then print a copy for your new neighbors.

CERT – Are We Next?

By Jim Cochran

"Will the Ring of Fire Earthquakes in 2011 continue on to North America?" asks blogger Kevin Stoda. First Chile, then New Zealand, then Japan, all in only 11 weeks. Kevin wonders if this series of devastating quakes is the result of normal activities on the Ring of Fire (the borders of the Pacific Ocean's major tectonic plates, where 80% of the world's largest earthquakes occur) "or whether something more ominous is at work."

On a happier note, Lynn Brown, head of the city's Office of Emergency Services, mentioned at Spring Fling that each of his CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) classes has a number of people from Monta Loma. A link to info and registration for his next series is at www.montaloma.org on the CERT page.

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 **Saturday, June 11**. No cost or obligation! You may contact me at jimcoch@comcast.net or 207-5518.

Mobile Library

The library's mobile unit stops at Hobbledehoy (at Jane and Fay) on these Fridays: June 17, July 15, and August 12 from 9:45 to 10:15. It stops at Redwood Villa (on Montecito) from 3:00 to 3:30 on alternate Thursdays: June 2, 16, and 30; July 14 and 28; and August 11 and 25. For information or special requests, call 526-7029 or email Mobile.Library@mountainview.gov .

For information on the kids' summer reading program, call 903-6897.

Monta Loma Tee Shirts



We'll place our once-a-year tee shirt order in July. To order exactly the size, color, and style you prefer contact Marilyn at marilyn@gildea.com or 940-1606.

The shirts on hand will be available at the annual meeting on June 9. The shirts have our "dancing people" logo and the words *Monta Loma Neighborhood* and sell for $10.

"Postcard" Charities

By Jill Rakestraw

Before I put out a bag of donations I looked up the charity that sent the postcard solicitation. The California Attorney General deems these people professional fundraisers, who sell your items to thrift shops. Almost all of the postcard charities listed in the AG's report give only 28% to 1% to charity. In contrast, Goodwill spends less than the 35% cap on administrative expenses, and provides needed jobs within the community.

Editor's note: www.charitynavigator.org is a well-known site for information on charities' spending.

Spring Fling a Success

By Wouter Suverkropp

Despite the rain, our Spring Fling was deemed a great success by the 200 people who came. Most popular was the youth string quartet, This End Up. Byron Binns displayed some CDs and promotional material from his recording studio and band, and made a live recording of the quartet which he shared on mln. Leah and Tori Heyman helped kids do crafts. Holly Thenn painted faces, and Girls Middle School students showed their handmade entrepreneur products. Gary Heyman's balloons and Gloria Jackson and John Stepp's cotton candy were again popular. Pat Jordan and Monica Hauptjahn staffed the Animal Beacons of Light table, shared with a representative of Relay for Life (cancer walk). Jim Cochran, Carolyn Schmittzeh, and Hal Taylor staffed the CERT table, and Silke Gurlich sold Monta Loma tee shirts. Thanks to all for their contributions.

Thanks also to Starbucks for the coffee discount, to school principal Cathy Baur for opening and closing the room, and Lorraine Kostka for extending the PTA's book sale, which was very popular. We are grateful to the Monta Loma PTA for its continued support of our mission, and their help with this event.

This event requires considerable advance preparation, so I especially thank Helen Wolter for organizing it, and Bill Lambert, Marilyn Gildea, Alice Carter, and Carolyn Schmittzeh for setting up. Pat Jordan bought the food. Helping during the event were Vania Dias, Maria Harnoto, and Carolyn Len, among others. Adam Rakestraw and Georges Dupret helped clean up. Kaitlyn and Michael Krautkramer Lee placed and collected the street-corner signs.

Should We Change the Time of Spring Fling?

Some people can't come on Saturday morning, so we're considering changing it to Sunday or Saturday afternoon. If you have a preference, please contact Marilyn at marilyn@gildea.com or 940-1606.

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Neighborhood Resources

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

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
Open, please volunteer!

Activities Committee
Wouter Suverkropp, 396-7561
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

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Thanks to those who delivered the March newsletter: John Canata, Henry Chase, Donna Clarke, Jim and Alice Cochran, Martha Elderon, Harry Gordon, Maria Harnoto, Marianna Harvey, Chuck and Cookie Henderson, Isabella Hill, Paul Kostka, Vicki Lee, Allison McGill, Vania Mendonca, Shelly Ostman, Sumanth Rajagopal, Leane Reelfs, Jeff and Helena Regan and children, 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.

Monta Loma Neighborhood Traffic Opinion Survey

The Monta Loma Neighborhood Association Board is interested in your thoughts about traffic in our neighborhood. Please fill out and return this survey to help us determine the level of neighborhood interest. We'll discuss the responses at the MLN General Meeting on Thursday, June 9, so please plan to attend.

Please return this survey by Sunday, June 5th to Helen Wolter, 511 Emmons Dr, Mountain View, CA 94043.

1) Do you think cut-through traffic is a problem in Monta Loma? No ____ Yes ____
2) Would you like to see steps taken to reduce the numbers of cars passing through Monta Loma? No ____ Yes ____
3) Do you think speeding is a problem in Monta Loma? No ____ Yes ____
4) Would you like to see steps taken to slow traffic through Monta Loma? No ____ Yes ____

5) Please rate these options that could be used for traffic calming in Monta Loma. Photos and descriptions of most of them are at www.TrafficCalming.org.

	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neutral	Support	Strongly Support
Stop signs	O	O	O	O	O
Yield signs	O	O	O	O	O
Traffic circles	O	O	O	O	O
Speed humps (already on Thompson Avenue; meant to slow cars to 15 mph)	O	O	O	O	O
Speed bumps (commonly used in parking lots; meant to slow cars to 5 mph)	O	O	O	O	O
Speed tables (an elongated speed hump)	O	O	O	O	O
Median strips/barriers in intersections (as at Dell/Nita and Thompson/Alvin)	O	O	O	O	O
Stripes (creates an optical illusion that vehicle is going faster so driver slows)	O	O	O	O	O
Bulb-outs (curb extension to make street narrower)	O	O	O	O	O
Neighborhood entry gate; does not close	O	O	O	O	O
Half street closures (partial closures, one way closures)	O	O	O	O	O
Street closure (some have suggested closing Thompson at Laura or Thompson at Central)	O	O	O	O	O

6) (Optional) On which street do you live? _____ Nearest intersection? _____

7) (Optional) Your name and contact information: _____

8) Feel free to make additional comments concerning traffic in Monta Loma. Use additional paper if necessary.

9) If you feel that traffic is a problem in Monta Loma, please mark the map on the reverse with the problem area(s) and specify the problem (speeding, congestion, failure to yield, etc.). Also mark where you would like to see action taken, and what type (stop sign, bulb-out, traffic circle, etc.).

Please return this survey to Helen Wolter, 511 Emmons Dr, Mountain View, CA 94043 by Sunday, June 5.

News from Monta Loma School

By Leane Reelfs

We want to take this opportunity to recognize one of our neighborhood volunteers, Bill Lambert, who has gone above and beyond our expectations. Not only does Bill volunteer every week to lead our Math Olympiad program (and our mathletes), but he facilitated Science Enrichment Week for 16 of our classes. Bill came in for several hours a day that week to teach lessons on lemon batteries and mixtures. We had lots of parent support, but this couldn't have happened without you, Bill, so thank you!

We are also pleased to announce a partnership with the YMCA to provide after-school childcare at Monta Loma next year. Enrollment is now open and space is limited, so you may register at the YMCA at 2400 Grant Road or call Saadia Aurakzai at 429-1344 with questions.

Waldorf School Coming to Monta Loma

The Waldorf School of the Peninsula is moving its middle and high school programs to the St. Athanasius campus this summer, replacing the Girls Middle School, which is moving to Palo Alto.

"We're looking forward to becoming involved in the Mountain View community and participating in local service projects," says Lucy Wurtz, the school's development director. "Our high school recently performed a concert to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Athanasius. We also hope to start a community garden on the campus."

Afterschool Program Grows

Monta Loma School will expand its afterschool care program this fall from the current 15 students to about 100 as the result of the closing of the Peninsula Day Care center. The neighborhood can expect additional traffic from 5 to 6 p.m. on school days.

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. Have you seen the two new categories, Who to Call and Visitors Information?

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.

If you posted a referral some time ago, please update or remove it, as appropriate.

Too Much Fruit?

Rather than watch the squirrels strip her fruit trees, Leane Reelfs on Dell calls Village Harvest. Their volunteer gleaners will come, pick all the fruit, and take it to the local CSA (Community Services Agency of Mountain View and Los Altos) food pantry. Fresh fruit is hard to come by at many food pantries, so consider sharing your bounty with people who need it. Contact Village Harvest at 888-378-4841 or www.villageharvest.org.

Food donations are also welcome at the food pantry located at the back of the St. Athanasius Church building on Rengstorff. Canned and dry goods (pasta, rice) are welcome; outdated or opened food is not, nor are clothes or household goods. Drop-off times are Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 3–4 p.m.; Fridays, 4–5 p.m.; and Saturdays 8–9 a.m. Non-perishable food donations can also be placed inside the church at the back left hand side before or after masses (mass times are at www.saintathanasius.com).

Anna Panadero Ortiz on Benjamin can provide further information or help (215-8722 or anna.panadero@gmx.net).

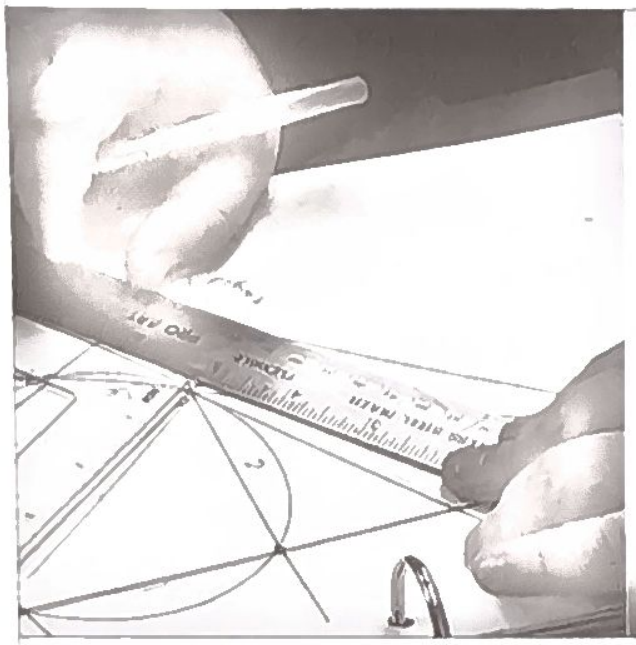
NEXT PAPER SHREDDING JULY 30
Arrange a carpool via the mln email list!
Visit www.mvrecycle.org for more information: click on Events.

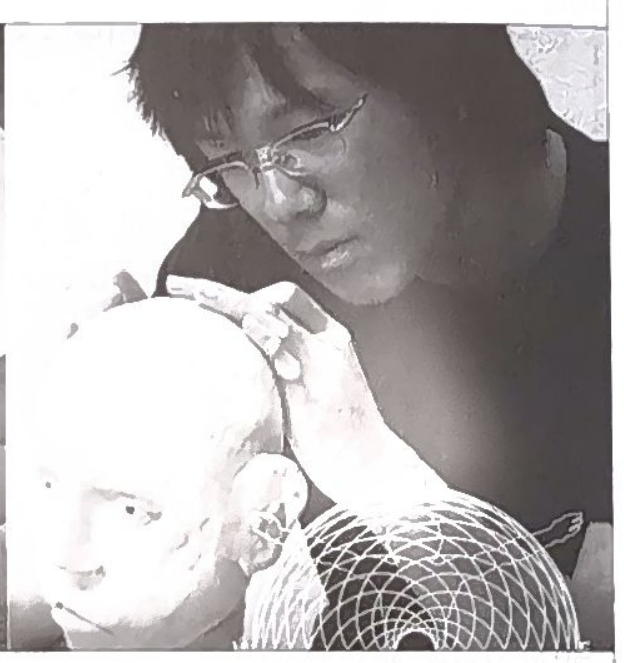
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Followup to "Fourth Generation on Aldean"

By John Dischler

I enjoyed reading Evelyn McMillan's article "Fourth Generation on Aldean" about days gone by in Monta Loma. The curling rink was situated across Mayfield Avenue from the shopping mall, and the street was originally Curling Avenue. The ice rink was situated at the far end of the parking lot, closer to Whitney. I skated in that rink and played in those fields. My mother bought vegetables from the man who farmed the Mayfield Mall site when it was still farm land. My warmest regards to the Nelson family from a second-generation original owner.

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 28, 3 to 5 p.m. It will feature the usual free ice cream and toppings, plus entertainment for the kids 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.

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 9 MLNA meeting or contact me at 396-7561 or eventcoordinator@montaloma.org.

Editor's Note: Contact Wouter now, while you're thinking of it.

Burglar Advice

Cookie Henderson shared an email titled "Things a burglar won't tell you." Here's a compilation:

"I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions or offer to clean your gutters. Sometimes I carry a clipboard; sometimes I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook. Two things I hate are loud dogs and nosy neighbors. If you don't answer my knock, I'll try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

"I may break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll go back to what he was doing; it's human nature. I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet. I almost never go into kids' rooms.

"Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it. If you announce your vacation on Facebook it's easy to look up your address.

"To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay for an alarm system and leave your house without setting it?"

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

Recycling Theft

From Liz Wylie, MVPD: "We are required by law to actually witness the theft occurring in order to take enforcement action. It is important that you call when the person(s) is actually stealing the recyclables. Call our non-emergency number (903-6395) and give the dispatcher as much information as you can: license plate, descriptions, clothing, direction of travel, and method of collection (bag, cart, car). We will send an officer to the area, if he/she is not otherwise busy."

One deterrent is to wait until Wednesday morning to put your recycling out. Pat Jordan further discourages bin looting by keeping the non-saleable items aside to put on top of the saleable bottles and cans.

Use Your Car Key Panic Button

This tip came from a Neighborhood Watch Coordinator: If your car key has a panic button, it can serve as a security alarm system that requires no installation. Just put your key beside your bed at night. If you hear a suspicious noise outside or someone trying to break in, press the panic button. The horn will sound until you turn it off or the car battery dies. Odds are that an intruder won't stick around.

Also remember to carry your keys when walking in a parking lot, so you can activate the alarm if you feel threatened. The car alarm could even be useful for other emergencies, such as a heart attack, when you can't reach a phone.

Young Trees Need Water; Lawns, not so much

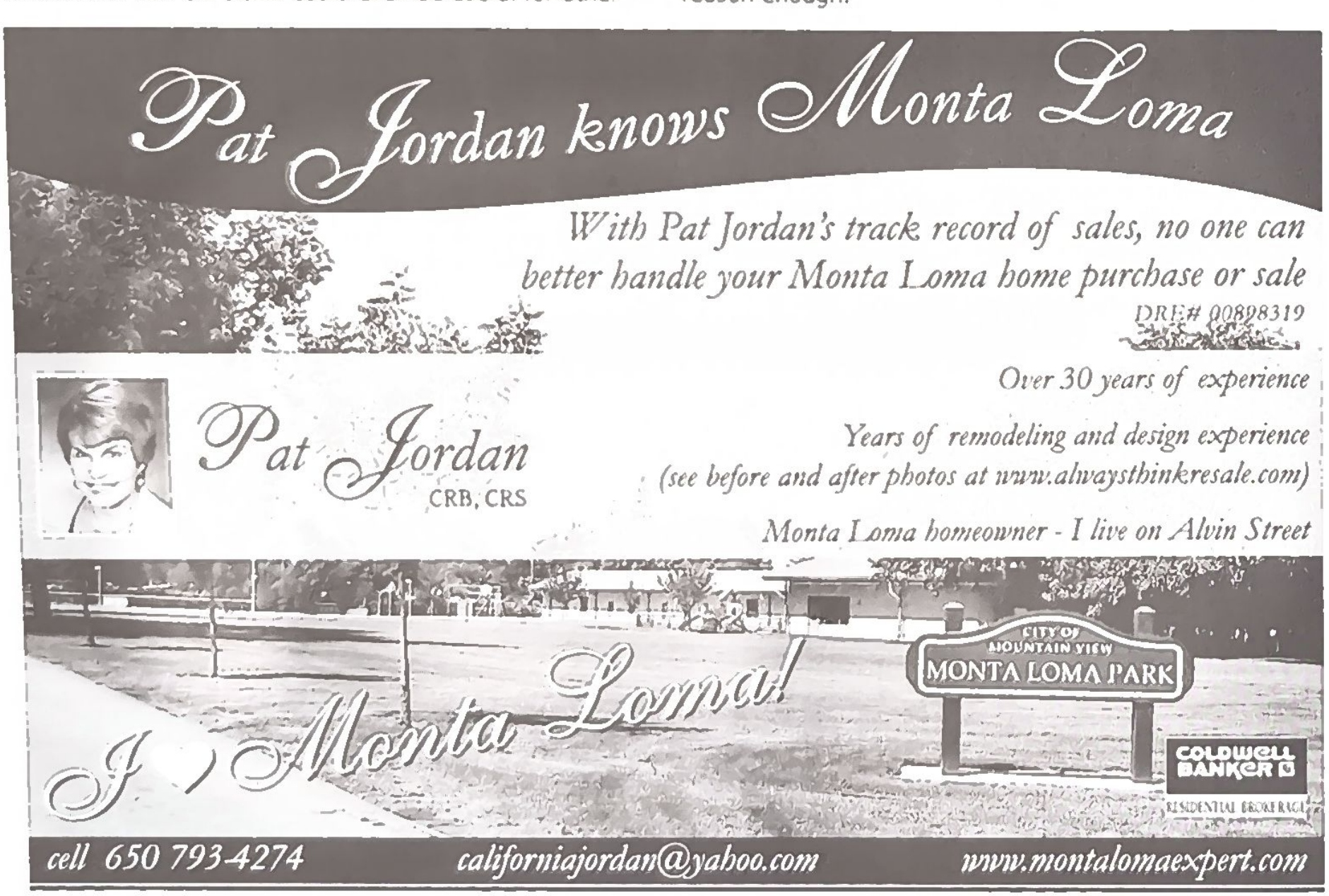
By Marilyn Gildea

Thanks to the City for the many trees newly planted in Monta Loma. To help them become well established, mark your calendar to remind you to give your young tree a deep watering (10 gallons) near the trunk at least every two weeks until the rains begin again.

Our lawns probably don't need as much water as they're getting. Last summer I always waited to water until the grass got a bluish cast. Then I would turn the sprinklers on for one night only, to run for six minutes at 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, and 5:30 a.m. With no breeze or sun, all the water soaked in, the roots went deep, and I needed to water only every five to seven days. I stopped after the first rain in October and my lawn stayed green until mid-April, weeks after the rains had stopped.

Scoop the Poop

A neighbor submitted ten reasons to scoop your dog's poop. There isn't room to print them all but the fact that roundworms, hookworms, Giardia, Salmonella, and E. coli can be transmitted to humans and other animals should be reason enough.



Birding in the Monta Loma Neighborhood: The American Robin

By Dotty Calabrese

Nearly everyone knows the American Robin. Male robins are brighter than the females, but their markings are the same: black head, gray back and wings, yellow bill, and rusty-red breast. This 10-inch year-round resident can be seen in parks and on lawns scratching the ground for insects and earthworms, or in trees and bushes, eating berries, fruit, beetles, and grubs. Robins have a characteristic behavior of running and stopping along the ground while looking for food.

A member of the thrush family, robins have adapted well to sharing neighborhoods with humans. In winter, they flock together to feed. By spring, they pair and become territorial. Robins will sing their melodious song from before sunrise until after sunset. One of the earliest birds to nest in the spring, American Robins usually raise two or three broods from April to July. A new nest is built each time in a shrub or a tree, with three to five beautiful robin's-egg-blue eggs in each clutch. With luck, you might see a juvenile robin in the spring or early summer. The same size and color as its parents but with a heavily spotted breast, it follows the parents continuously, loudly begging for food.

Although uninterested in birdseed, robins will fly onto your fence and overhead wires, into your trees and bushes, and will use your birdbath. If you have pyracantha bushes, you may witness a surprising behavior once the berries begin to ferment. Robins will eat the over-ripe berries and exhibit "drunken" behavior, like falling over while walking!

In bygone years, especially in the southern U.S., American Robins were hunted for their succulent meat. Now, the adult robin's most common predator is the housecat.

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

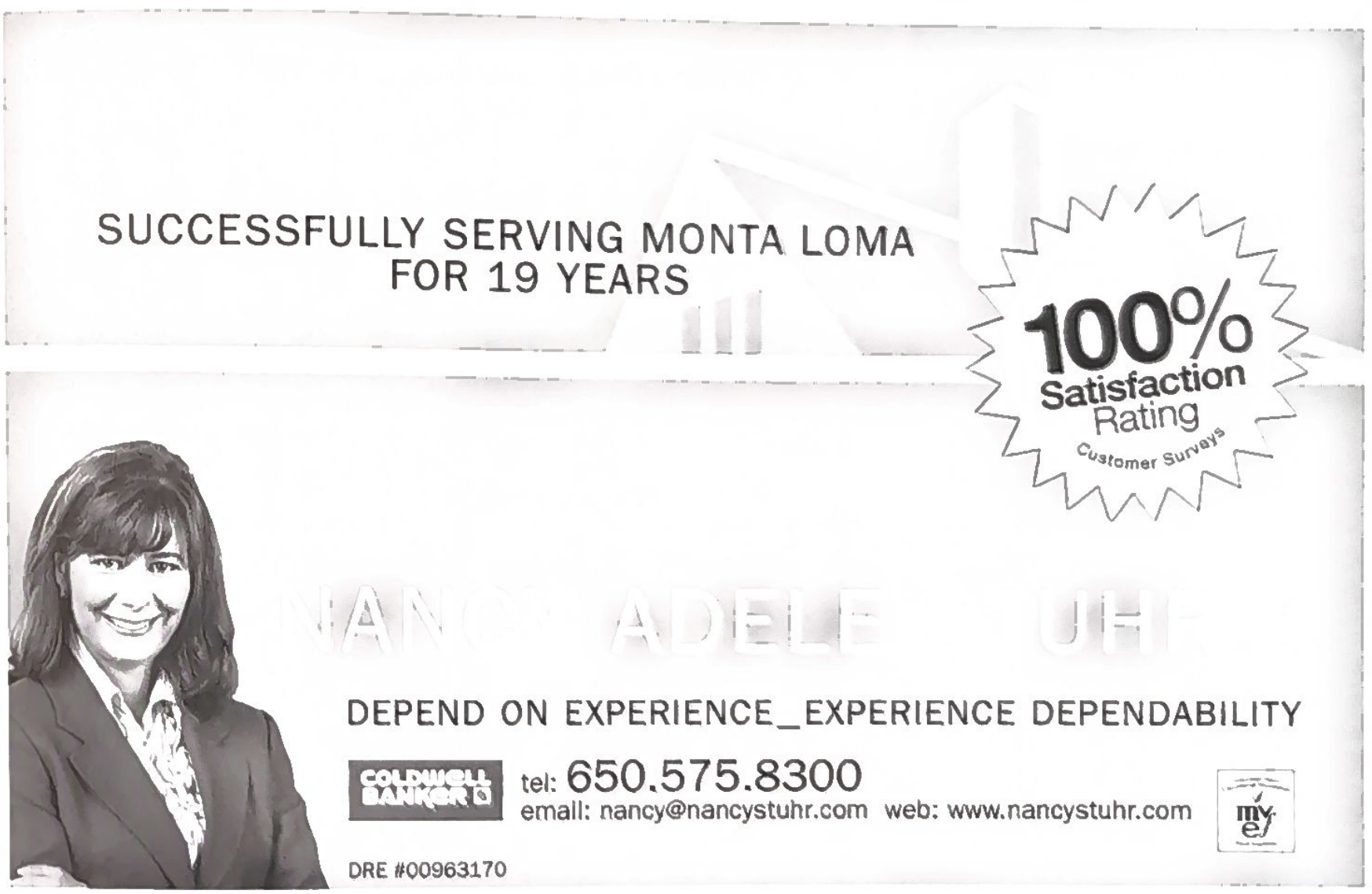
Thank you to the many Monta Loma neighbors who donated to our Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Birdathon. I raised $8,600, including over $1,400 from Monta Loma neighbors. You are the best!

The money supports environmental education in county public schools. In June, fourth graders at Monta Loma School will have an in-class wetlands learning activity and a guided birding trip to the Shoreline wetlands.

Plan a Block Party

Several block parties are already planned for this 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 an information sheet at the June 9 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.

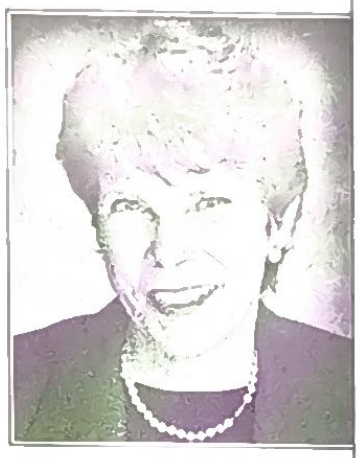


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Good news for sellers: 2009 ended with an increase in activity that has continued into January. Call for details.

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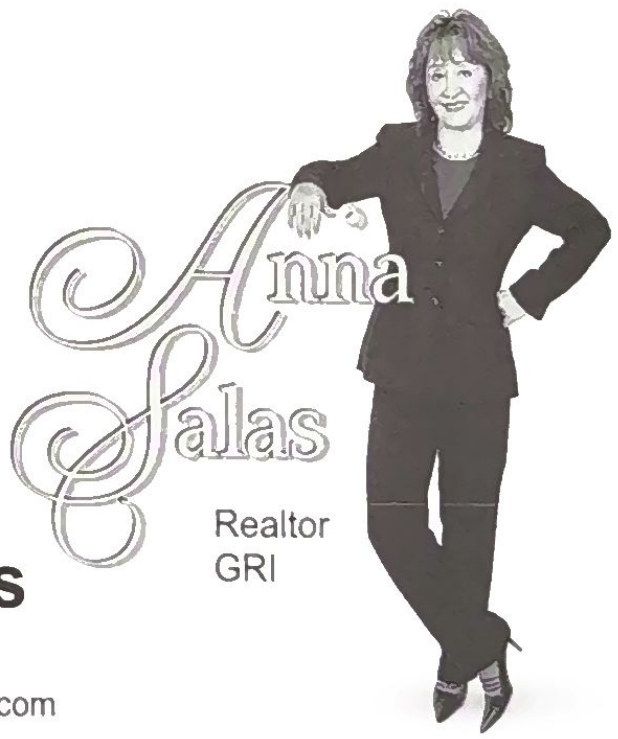
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