

MONTA LOMA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Bike the Living Classroom Garden Tour, attend our second annual Plant Exchange, visit a new local popsicle shop, or support the neighborhood school annual Walk-A-Thon.

Details for all these events and more in this newsletter.

Living Classroom Garden Tour by Bike



Join a free guided bike ride from Monta Loma to Crittenden and Theurekauf schools. Participate in garden activities at each stop and learn more about our Living Classrooms. The tour begins and ends at Monta Loma School, 460 Thompson Ave.

To register, scan the QR code or go to tinyurl.com/biketour4-26.

Bring your own bike and helmet, or contact Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC) to rent one. SVBC will be providing snacks and light refreshments throughout the ride. People are welcome to bring a sack lunch and eat during one of the garden tours.

Can't join the ride? Stop by the gardens to enjoy the activities.

Sunday, April 26
10:00am – 2:00pm

Scan to Ride!



Mia's Mexican Ice Cream

An ice cream and popsicle shop, Mia's Paeteria y Neveria, has received rave reviews from several neighbors. It's at 120 N. Rengstorff, Suite A, back in the corner of the plaza between NCFIT and Rincon Sabroso.



According to its website, miaspaleteriyaneveria.toast.site, Mia's offers Mexican ice cream and frozen treats made fresh daily.

Also new in that center is that what was the popular Dumpling Garden is now Super Bao, at 106 N. Rengstorff. superbaoca.com

More information about neighborhood stores is on the Local Businesses page at montaloma.org/monta-loma/local-businesses.

INTERVIEW

Hello Monta Loma! I'm Jasper, a senior at Woodside Priory and a Monta Loma resident on Lida Drive.

For my school's Senior Project, I'm interviewing and photographing senior citizens aged 75+ to create a digital book of portraits and life stories to share with our community. If you're interested, or if you know a Monta Loma resident who might be, please reach out at jherman26@priorypanther.com or 650-602-4036. Thanks for your help!

IN THIS EDITION:

Neighborhood Author	p. 2
Dog Leash Laws and Off-Leash Parks	p. 3
A Library of All Things	p. 4
The Yellow-Rumped Warbler	p. 5
Monta Loma and California Senate Bill 79	p. 5

President

Rotating Board Member
 president@montaloma.org

First Vice President

Vacant

Second Vice President

Vacant

Treasurer

Andre Valente
 treasurer@montaloma.org

Secretary

Natalia Chuprakova
 secretary@montaloma.org

Members-at-Large

Tricia DelGaudio
 Robert Engelmann
 Marilyn Gildea (communications)
 Silke Gürlich
 Cheryl Smith

**MLNA Newsletter****Editor**

Cheryl Smith
 newsletter@montaloma.org

Layout

Tricia DelGaudio
 newsletter@montaloma.org

Advertising

Tricia DelGaudio
 ads@montaloma.org

Illustrations/Photos

If interested in contributing, please email the editor with content ideas. Submissions of relevant cartoons also welcome.

© 2026 by the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association. All rights, including electronic posting and distribution, reserved. Individual article rights revert to the authors, and permission must be obtained from them to re-use their articles in any way.

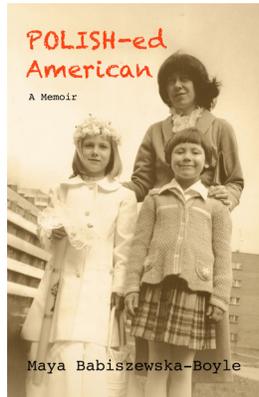
Polish-ed American

By Maya Babiszewska-Boyle

Monta Loma has been my home for fourteen years now. Even before we lived here, my American husband and I used to walk through the neighborhood just to admire it. The matching houses, the neat lawns, the quiet streets—it felt like stepping into another time. It reminded me of *The Wonder Years*, a show I watched growing up in Poland and fully believed was exaggerated American fiction.



Author Maya Babiszewska-Boyle



Back in late 1999, I crossed the ocean with one suitcase to start over in California. As an artist, I was completely taken by my new surroundings. My paintings became a way of capturing those first impressions, before everything felt ordinary and before I started complaining about traffic. And I never imagined I'd be raising a Polish-American daughter who now corrects my English daily.

When I was pregnant, I suddenly felt a strong need to honor the memories of my life in Poland. I ended up writing a memoir—mostly for my daughter, but honestly, a little for me, too. It's about leaving one life behind, building another, and finding humor somewhere between two cultures, two generations, and two identities.

After moving to Monta Loma, I met a neighbor while walking with a stroller. We bonded immediately and ended up raising our children together. The park became our backyard, and the kids turned into neighborhood siblings. Motherhood felt completely different—and better. These are my own *Wonder Years*, and I'm grateful for them every day. I've learned that this is where I found my home.

The book is available on Amazon, at the Mountain View Library, and even floating around the Monta Loma Little Free Libraries.

Block parties

Eleven block parties were enjoyed last year between June and October, with a total attendance close to 470. One change in 2025 was the Dell/Betlo/Marjorie party; a new one organized by Leane Reelfs. Another was that the first party was on June 1, held by Severine Heneveld before she moved back to Germany.

It's not too early to contact a neighbor and set a date for yours. For how-to information, go to montaloma.org and click on Block Parties under Events.

Second Harvest Fundraiser

Karla Valente again organized the annual fundraiser for Second Harvest of Silicon Valley (shfb.org). Online donations totaled \$1,971, well above her \$1,000 goal. Thank you to everyone who participated.

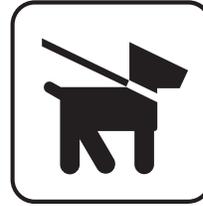


Dogs Leash Laws and Options

By Donna Clarke

Mountain View has clear regulations when it comes to leash laws. "Dogs and other domestic animals must be restrained by a leash, cord, or rope." These requirements are codified in Mountain View Municipal Code § 11.04.180.

However, the city provides several well-maintained dog parks where dogs can safely run free and socialize. These areas are fenced and designed for the safety of both pets and people.



Mayfield Dog Park

On Google property, directly behind 2483 and 2489 Mayfield Avenue

Shoreline Dog Park

2869 N. Shoreline Blvd.

Village Green Dog Park

555 San Antonio Road

City of Mountain View Dog Park

N. Shoreline Blvd. and North Road

Refer to Dogs in City Parks tinyurl.com/MtnViewDogs for information about hours and rules for the off-leash dog parks.

Non-adherence to the leash law is becoming a growing concern for public safety. Off-leash dogs, even friendly ones, can pose serious risks. They can startle toddlers, knock down elderly residents, and attack other dogs. Not all dogs are social or predictable, and a moment of distraction can lead to injuries or frightening encounters. Responsible dog ownership means respecting leash laws and understanding that they exist to protect both people and pets. Following the city's leash laws helps ensure that our neighborhoods remain welcoming, safe, and enjoyable for all.



Welcome Team update

By John Canata

Happy March to everyone from the Monta Loma Welcome Team. Team members Nirvana Nwokidu, Andrea Thomas, and myself meet quarterly to brainstorm ideas to welcome all new residents.

One way is our quarterly Meet and Greet at Starbucks. The next Meet and Greet will take place on **Saturday, March 21, from 10:00am to 11:30am at our local Starbucks** in the Monta Loma Plaza. Jennifer Pascua, the store manager, has been so kind to always allow us to be there to set up a table with information about our wonderful neighborhood. We hope to see you there.



Our next team meeting will be on Wednesday, April 22. If you are interested in becoming a part of our great team, please contact at John at canata350@comcast.net or 650-269-5646.

Neighborhood Resources

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Tim Slattery, 650-964-6389
CERT@montaloma.org

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

Tom Purcell, 650-224-5110
MontaLomaNBC@gmail.com

Traffic/Parking Liaison

Alan Whitaker, 650-279-3375
traffici liaison@montaloma.org

Stay Connected with MLN

Subscribe to the email list at montaloma-post.org

Find Monta Loma on

NextDoor.com

MLNA Website

montaloma.org
Webmaster: Việt Hoà Dinh
webmaster@montaloma.org

Thank you to the November newsletter delivery volunteers

Jun Ru Jian (Lulu), Nirvana Nwokidu, Tracey Ostebo, John Thomas, Cindy Tseng, Linda Powers, Olga Bright, Andre Valente, John Canata, Maria Harnoto, Diane McCleary, Silke Gurlich, Paul Kostka, Maria Nelson, Dave McCleary, Chuck & Cookie Henderson & Griffen Ackland, Herb & Victoria Perry, Martha Elderon, Grant & Birgit Grundler, Andy Coe, Leane Reelfs

Also, thank you to Bill Cranston for printing the newsletters.

Do you have an hour to spare? We welcome new volunteers, even if you can help only occasionally. It's a great way to get to know your neighborhood and get an hour's exercise.

Contact Linda Powers at lindapowers.007@gmail.com

Monta Loma Plant Exchange

By Olga Bright

We (Olga Bright, Vivek Chopra, Maria Harnoto, Nirvana Nwokidu, and Jim Zaorski) are hosting the second Annual Plant Exchange. It will be held on Sunday, May 3, outside the homes of Jim Zaorski and Vivek Chopra.



We want to share our enthusiasm for gardening with you. Come and learn new gardening tips and join in the fun! We invite you to bring your seedlings and plants and pick up some of the vegetables and annual-flower seedlings that our team is growing. For the water-conscious, we'll have succulent cuttings. Lemonade and snacks will be offered. Open to all ages!

Sunday, May 3, 11:00am–1:00pm
2361 and 2362 Laura Lane

Save the Dates

Annual Meeting

The Monta Loma Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting and Board Election will be held on **June 3**. It's a good opportunity to meet your neighbors and discuss local issues. More details will be shared on the [montaloma.org](http://montaloma.org/mlna/mln-email-lists) website, and on the neighborhood email list. Visit montaloma.org/mlna/mln-email-lists for information on the email lists.

Ice Cream Social

The annual ice cream social is scheduled for **August 30**.

Snow in Monta loma - 50 years ago

By Robert Engelmann

On February 5th, 1976, it snowed in Monta Loma and the wider Bay Area for the only time in living memory. It was a school day, and we kids couldn't wait until recess time. Another snow shower added to the overnight accumulation. By the next day, the magic was pretty much gone. My father, Reinhart Engelman, took this photo of me and my younger brother, Arnold, in the snow in our front yard on Benjamin.



Free Access to the Eye-Opening "Library of Things"

By Sarah Doxiadis

In addition to providing print, audio, and video resources, the Mountain View Public Library maintains a collection of backpacks, tools, and instruments, any of which you can check out for free with your library card.

If you want to explore possible hobbies, enjoy some exercise, explore our wonderful state parks, and more, you can get started for free.

Currently, the Mountain View Public Library offers the following for free checkout:



- Backpacks for bird watching, hiking (see below), visiting California State Parks
- Bicycle repair kits
- Stargazing kits (left)
- Step counters
- Ukulele kits



Each kit includes a Celestron StarSense Explorer DX 100 AZ Refractor telescope, tripod, stool, compass, flashlight, field guides, and much more.

Each of the backpacks or kits includes information and items to enhance your experience. One of the most popular "things" is the backpack for visiting state parks (photo below). Here's an overview:

When you're planning on visiting a California State Park, check out one of the backpacks with a park pass. Each backpack includes a California State Parks Pass vehicle hangtag, compass, and field guides for trees, wildflowers, and wildlife.



For more information on the backpacks and kits, call (650) 903-6887 or visit the Mountain View Public Library today. tinyurl.com/2uhb864d

BIRDING IN MONTA LOMA

The Yellow-Rumped Warbler

By Dotty Calabrese

The beautiful Yellow-rumped Warbler winters farther north than any other warbler species. It is one of the few birds that can digest the wax that coats many berries growing in more northern climates.

From October through March, Yellow-rumped Warblers are found in our neighborhood. You might see small flocks of them fluttering and feeding on small insects or berries in trees and bushes. They can also be seen foraging on the ground for the insects and berries that make up its diet. They especially like the Chinese Pistache tree berries that abound in our neighborhood, and can be found foraging in these trees.

Although one of the larger warblers (5"-6" long), the Yellow-rumped is still one of the smaller birds in our neighborhood. Gray with black mottling (females may look more brownish

than gray) the winter Yellow-rumped Warbler has some white striping on its wings, a bright yellow rump, pale yellow or buff throat patch, and yellow streaks on its sides. Viewed with binoculars, you may notice a thin, broken, white eye-ring.

Until 1973, the Yellow-rumped Warbler in the United States was considered two separate, but closely related, species, the Audubon's Warbler (mostly western) and the Myrtle Warbler (mostly eastern.)

Have a bird question? I'd love to hear from you! dottycala@aol.com

Photos by Tom Grey - reproduced with permission



Male Yellow-Rumped Warbler



Female Yellow-Rumped Warbler

California SB-79 Affects Monta Loma

By Jim Zaorski

California Senate Bill 79 (SB-79), also known as the "Abundant and Affordable Homes Near Transit Act," was signed into law on October 10, 2025. SB-79 is a law that overrides local zoning ordinances to mandate higher density and greater building height limits near train stations and express bus stops. Taking effect on July 1, 2026, the law establishes state-wide minimum zoning standards for residential, mixed-use, or commercial sites located within a half mile of qualifying transit-oriented development (TOD) stops.

Because of Monta Loma's proximity to the San Antonio Caltrain Station, some of the neighborhood is expected to experience impacts because of this legislation. Under the bill, Mountain View must allow:

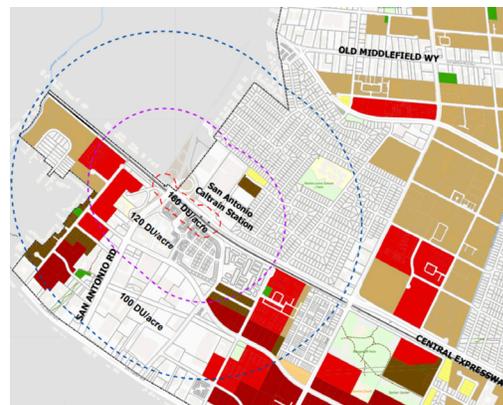
- Properties located within a half mile of the entrance to Caltrain Stations to be zoned for building heights of 65 feet (approximately 5 stories) and density standards of no less than 100 units per acre.
- Properties located within a quarter mile of the entrance to Caltrain Stations to be zoned for building heights of at least 75 feet (approximately 7 stories) and density standards of no less than 120 units per acre.

For comparison, the average density of Monta Loma's single-family homes is seven per acre.

For further information, see the Mountain View Voice articles of August 27, 2025; November 10, 2025; and January 28, 2026. Links to them are tinyurl.com/SB79-9-15-25, tinyurl.com/SB79-1-28-26, and tinyurl.com/SB79-11-10-25.

A Monta Loma Community-constructed website contains the text of the legislation and other details. View it at civiccommunity.ca/sb79/mountain-view.

The Monta Loma Neighborhood Association (MLNA) is gathering feedback on this legislation. Please fill in the survey by visiting tinyurl.com/MLNA-SB79 or by scanning the QR code.



Mountain View's map showing the parcels in Monta Loma that could be impacted by SB-79.



MONTA LOMA ELEMENTARY

Monta Loma Elementary PTA Update

By Amanda Odette, Communication Chair



The PTA has had a busy and successful winter. We held our annual Winter Clothing & Food Drive in December and supported local charities. We also hosted the kids' favorite Movie Night, where students watched Elio with their friends and family while

enjoying complimentary food and drinks.

Up Next: Come support Monta Loma at our annual Walk-A-Thon on Friday, March 27, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Grab some tasty treats and enjoy our resident DJ, Adam, pumping up the jams for our students to walk their laps and raise money for Monta Loma Elementary.

All the funds raised from the festival go towards field trips, supplies, equipment, and books for the school. Thank you for supporting Monta Loma Elementary!

Neighbors can help sponsor the event at tinyurl.com/mlwalkathon.

Bookmobile schedule

The Bookmobile will visit Monta Loma Elementary School from 2:45pm to 3:45pm on these Tuesdays: March 17, April 21, and May 12. You can obtain a library card, pick up your prearranged holds, and borrow and renew library materials for all ages. More information is at

library.mountainview.gov/connect/bookmobile-service.

You can search the catalog at librarycatalog.mountainview.gov to request books to be put aboard for you. It's wise to do it the week before so the staff has time to find them for you.

Look for Bookmobile under Hours & Location at library.mountainview.gov.



What's happening at the Mountain View Whisman School District?

Both Superintendent Jeff Baier and new Board President Charles DiFazio publish very readable newsletters to keep us informed of the district's struggles to educate our children within budget limitations. You can join their respective mailing lists by sending a request to supt@mvwsd.org and to difazio@mvwsd.org.



A Shared Space, a Shared Commitment

By Meghan Jinguji, Monta Loma Elementary Principal

Our school is proud to be an engaged partner in our Monta Loma community, and we are grateful for the opportunity to partner with our community to balance student safety with shared access to field spaces.

As part of this partnership, our campus fencing is designed to designate outdoor areas for student use during the school day while still preserving open space for the public during school hours. The grass field that is adjacent to the school is open to public use during the instructional day unless we have a special event that requires the use of the field space (i.e., emergency drills, PTA Walk-a-thon (March 27), or other special events).

To support student safety, campus gates are locked during the school day. No public access is permitted during the school day.

These gates provide a layer of security for students while honoring our commitment to being good neighbors and stewards of shared space. We value this partnership and look forward to continuing to work together to keep our campus safe, welcoming, and accessible.

For more information and diagrams, visit mvwsd.org/montalomafield.



Free CERT course begins on April 9

Having some emergency training is part of being a responsible citizen, so we encourage you to take the city's free CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) course, whether or not you join our neighborhood group. The Spring course begins on April 9. Visit montaloma.org/mlna/cert for a link to course-registration information.



You can check out Monta Loma's CERT 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 meetings will be on March 14, April 11, May 9, and June 13. Questions? Contact Tim Slattery at CERT@montaloma.org or 650-964-6389.

REALTOR® & NOTARY PUBLIC

NIRVANA NWOKIDU

(650)435-2349

nirvana.nwokidu@gmail.com

Contact Me Today!

DRE#02142853

kw BAY AREA
ESTATES
KELLERWILLIAMS.



A PROUD MONTA LOMA RESIDENT SINCE 2002



YOUR LOCAL BIKE SHOP

RECNER LUGARDO MENDOZA

RECSBIKES@GMAIL.COM

740 SIERRA VISTA AVE. SUITE C
MOUNTAIN VIEW CA 94043

(650) 695 5101

Serving Monta Loma for More than 40 Years

COMPASS



Lynne Mercer

Certified Home Marketing Specialist

DRE #00796211

Lynne.Mercer@compass.com

650-906-0162



Caleb Fenner

Proud Monta Loma Resident

DRE #02202525

Caleb.Fenner@compass.com

408-482-6487

Maximize Demand and Value
for Your Home Sale

Call us to discover our
flexible marketing strategy,
Customized specifically for You!

Lynne Mercer & Caleb Fenner

The Monta Loma Specialists

TASTE *what's* TRUE

We're a local Monta Loma family bringing you award-winning extra-virgin olive oil from our family grove in the Dardanelles.

Why Choose True Olive

- Small-batch and unblended for the purest taste
- Naturally rich in antioxidants and heart-healthy polyphenols
- Harvested and pressed within hours for unmatched freshness
- Gold Award Winner – NYIOOC World Olive Oil Competition

Local pickup available right here in Monta Loma — perfect for gifts and to treat yourself!

Order online at trueolive.co

Pacific Ballet Academy

Ballet Instruction & Performance Opportunities for Children & Adults

WE OFFER FREE TRIAL CLASSES TO YOUTH STUDENTS!

Come to our next production:
Giselle @ The MVCPA!
May 30th-31st, 2026!

pacificballet.org pacificballetacademy295@gmail.com 650-969-4614
295 Polaris Ave, Mountain View

 **TROYER & CABOT GROUP**

We manage the entire home prep process for you.
Stress free, on time, and on budget.

IN NEED OF A TROYER & CABOT TRANSFORMATION? CALL DAVID AND MIKE!

DAVID TROYER & MIKE CABOT
DAVID@TROYERCABOT.COM
 650.440.5076
TROYERCABOT.COM
 LIC#01234450

BAIDRA MURPHY, Managing Broker
 PROUD MONTA LOMA RESIDENT
 650.383.7201
BAIDRA@TROYERCABOT.COM
 LIC#01216142

INTERO
 A Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate

Successfully serving Monta Loma for more than 35 years.

 **Nancy Adele Stuhr**
 650.575.8300
nstuhr@sereno.com
www.nancystuhr.com
 CalDRE# 00963170

CHRISTIE'S
 INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
 SERENO

sereno
1% For Good
 CHARITABLE FOUNDATION