



Peaceful Mountain Monitor

Monte Sereno Spring 2020 Community Newsletter

Page 1 - Letter from the Mayor

Page 2 - What is PCI?

Page 3 - Police Chief Decena Writes

Page 4 - Fascinating Facts

Page 4 - Pledge Leaders

Page 5 - Fire Prevention

Page 6 - CERT Program

Page 6 - Youth Commission Update

Back Cover - Picnic in the Park

Back Cover - Who to Call



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Greetings Monte Sereno Residents,

I'm honored to be serving as Mayor of Monte Sereno in 2020 and I welcome you to continue reading our City's Spring edition newsletter, entitled "Peaceful Mountain Monitor." We hope you'll find our contents enjoyable and informative.

This issue of our publication appropriately contains articles about public safety and emergency preparedness. As of the date of this writing, Santa

Clara County has been ordered to shelter in place by the Santa Clara County Department of Health. As a result, we are employing a concept called "social distancing," which is necessary, but difficult to get used to.

However, I think of those who work in the hospitals; our police departments; our paramedics and our first responders; our faith-based organizations and our food banks; and delivery people and store employees.

I think of the efforts of all these people during this time of crisis to help us get through to better times. And when social distancing ends, I will want to shake their hands and hug and thank them.

And of course, we want to get back to normalcy ASAP. When we do, I look forward to events, like our city picnic, currently scheduled for Saturday, August 22 at Vasona Park.

Also featured in this issue is our new City of Monte Sereno website. It contains the latest City news and information, public safety and emergency prepared-

ness information, access to meeting agendas and government services, a new Monte Sereno History Section and a comprehensive Fiscal Transparency Center. Our Monte Sereno website is ADA compliant. The site is located at URL www.cityofmontesereno.org.

Thank you for reading. We look forward to seeing you in the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Mayor Liz Lawler

llawler@cityofmontesereno.org



GET READY...GET SET...Run for Monte Sereno City Council in 2020!



It's not too early to start thinking about running for a seat on the Monte Sereno City Council. This November, there will be two City Council seats up for election.

The nomination period for the November 2020 election opens Monday, July 13, 2020 and closes Friday, August 7, 2020, unless either of the two incumbents fail to file nomination documents by 5:00 pm August 7, 2020. Should this be the case, the nomination period will be extended to 5:00 pm Wednesday, August 12, 2020, during which time any candidate, other than the incumbent, may file for said office.

The nomination period is the period of time during which a potential candidate may obtain the necessary documents, gather nomination signatures and file the completed nomination packet with the City Clerk for the upcoming election. Potential candidates must be residents and registered voters in the City of Monte Sereno.

More information on becoming a candidate will be provided in the 2020 Election Guide, which will be available on the City's website, prior to the opening of the nomination period.

For more information, please contact the City Clerk, Andrea Chelemengos, by phone: 408-498-5281 or by email: andrea@cityofmontesereno.org.

WHAT IS PCI?

Ranging between 0 and 100, a PCI of 100 would correspond to a pavement at the beginning of its life cycle. A PCI of 0 would correspond to a badly deteriorated pavement with virtually no remaining life.

The City of Monte Sereno is responsible for the maintenance of about 13 miles of streets and roadways in the City. The replacement value of those streets and roadways is estimated at \$22.3 million. Currently, Monte Sereno's PCI stands at 69, up from 61 just three years ago. The City Council of Monte Sereno has adopted an annual budget funding to maintain, replace, and resurface Monte Sereno's streets to meet or exceed a PCI of 70.

According to the chart below, a PCI rating of 70 or above puts Monte Sereno in the "Good" category.

PAVEMENT CONDITION INDEX

In response to the 2016 Pavement Management Program - Budget Options Report Update (PMP), the City Council adopted a five-year financing plan to raise the overall condition of the City's roadway pavement from "Fair" to "Good" (PCI to 70). For the past three fiscal years, staff has used the schedule and treatment types called for in the 2016 PMP to develop the list of streets treated as a part of its annual street rehabilitation project. The 2019 PMP update indicates that the City's overall PCI has increased 6 points, from 63 in 2017 to 69 in 2019, which is in the upper range of the "Fair" category.





Chief of Police Decena Writes...

Dear Monte Sereno Community,

Spring and summer vacations are upon us as well as great weather and events we enjoy while living in the Bay Area. As we enjoy leisure time and long days, I would like to offer some helpful safety tips to residents, courtesy of The Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department:

- Communicate with subjects who approach your residence through a secured door and make your presence known. Burglars will often have a ruse (i.e., my car broke down) or pose as a business salesperson, solicitor or contractor, if contacted by residents.
- Strong Neighborhood Watch programs are essential to deterring crimes. Knowing your neighbors and their daily routines are some of the best ways to determine suspicious activity in your area. If something doesn't look right, call the police and provide a detailed description of what you have observed.
- Alarm systems and video surveillance camera systems are effective prevention measures. Please make sure they are working properly. Surveillance systems not only deter crime but provide invaluable investigative leads in the event a crime does occur. We encourage homeowners to register their systems at www.JoinOnWatch.com
- Be aware of your surroundings. Even in the safest communities, it is important to be aware. When in doubt, write down the license plate number of any suspicious vehicle. A vehicle description is also very helpful. A license plate number is an investigative lead that can be followed immediately.
- Going on vacation? Sign up for the "Vacation Check" program by calling the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department at (408) 354-5257. Officers and Volunteers from the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department will check your residence while you are on vacation!
- Most auto burglaries are crimes of opportunity. Lock your vehicles and don't keep items in plain view. Purses and laptops are prime targets for thieves! Also consider concealing your garage door openers.

- Burglary is a crime of opportunity. Make burglars' work risky and difficult, and you stand a good chance of stopping them before they get in.
- To a burglar, visibility means vulnerability. They hide behind fences and shrubbery. The key is to keep trespassers out while keeping your property visible. Keep hedges clipped down around waist level. Your best protection against an intruder is visibility: well-lit open spaces and yards keep the burglar in the spotlight.
- Light is a great crime deterrent. Light up all dark areas, especially doors and windows.

How should I report these incidents?

- Call **9-1-1** or the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department at 408-354-8600.
- Give your name and address.
- Explain what happened.
- Briefly describe the suspect(s): sex and race, age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, and any distinctive characteristics, such as a beard, mustache, scars, tattoos or accent.
- Describe the vehicle, if one was involved: color, make, model, year, license plate and special features, such as stickers.

And, here are a few more bonus tips to protect yourself and your property:

Don't leave your garage doors open all day and all night! Don't leave windows open on warm days, when no one is home!

Don't leave smart phones, backpacks, purses, laptops, or ANY valuables in your vehicles, even if only for a few moments! These days, burglars will break into your vehicle and search for hidden items in your trunk.

Don't post vacation photos or advertise you need a pet sitter or a house sitter online.

Do have your mail and packages held by the post office. Postpone online purchases and deliveries until you get home.

Do have newspapers or other subscriptions picked up by neighbors.

Create a Neighborhood Watch group on your street by contacting our Community Outreach Coordinator, Jackie Rose, at jrose@losgatosca.gov or 408-354-6853 to set up a presentation for your neighborhood.

Please feel free to contact the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department at 408-354-5257 with any questions. Thank you and have a safe and happy Spring and Summer!

Sincerely,

Peter Decena
Chief of Police
Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department

Fascinating Facts



Monte Sereno was once home to a fireworks company and a blasting powder company, located on Daves Avenue. The fireworks company was called Pacific States Fireworks Company and was operated by Fred Hitt and his brothers from 1920-1948.

Special effects provided by the Hitt family business were used in several famous movies, such as "Gone With The Wind," "All Quiet On The Western Front" and "What Price Glory."

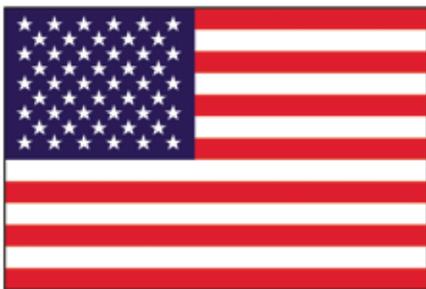
When the State of California ruled fireworks production too dangerous, the Hitt family continued their family business, selling a product called "Rodent Destroyer Bombs." The business also manufactured railroad signal flares.

Fred Hitt was quite a character. Fred performed aerial acrobatics and would land his biplane right in Monte Sereno's fields. Fred's biplane caught fire once while he was performing in an Oakland airshow, because he had loaded pyrotechnic flares on the wings of his plane.

In September of 1953, 5 of 15 buildings of the Hitt family business were destroyed by fire. In addition, a neighboring business, called Columbia Blasting Powder Company, exploded the same year.

For more fascinating Monte Sereno history, please visit: <http://cityofmontesereno.org/DocumentCenter/View/2661/Monte-Sereno-History-View>

Photos by Doug McNeil

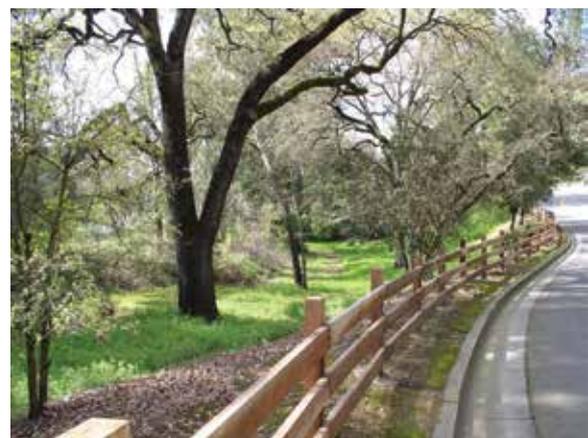


Call for Pledge Leaders

On March 3, 2020, the Monte Sereno City Council welcomed Ms. Philippa Alvis to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. The City Council of Monte Sereno proudly thanks Ms. Alvis for her participation in our community.

Do you know an outstanding student, youth commissioner, scout, child prodigy, athlete or young leader in the Monte Sereno community, who would like to share their story? How about a neighbor, senior citizen, volunteer, educator or model citizen?

The City of Monte Sereno is looking for residents who are interested in leading the City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance at their meetings. Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month (except in July) at 7pm. Please contact Andrea Chelemengos, the City Clerk, by email: andrea@cityofmontesereno.org.

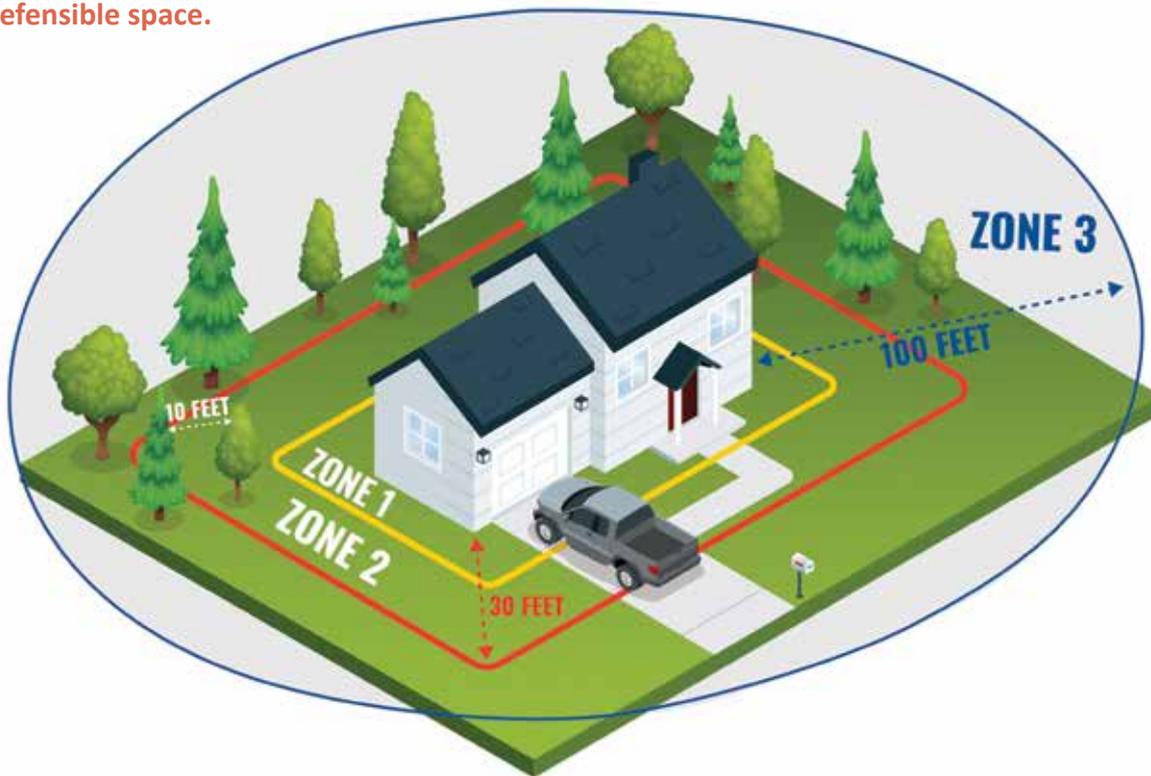


New Monte Sereno Website

On February 3, Monte Sereno launched a new City website. This revitalized website features a comprehensive Financial Transparency Center, ADA compatibility features and a News and Announcements section, which is updated frequently. In addition, easy access to all vital city services, codes, councilmember and staff contact information, meeting schedules and forms are available. Please visit www.cityofmontesereno.org.

FIRE PREVENTION

Three zones make up the required 100 feet of defensible space.



ZONE 1 extends 0-5 feet out from your house, garage and other structures.

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening.
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to block embers.
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows.
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors – mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles – anything that can burn. Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.

ZONE 2 extends 30 feet out.

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds (vegetation).
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.

- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
- Create a separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.

ZONE 3 extends 100 feet out.

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees. (See diagram)
- Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees. (See diagram)
- Dispose of heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris.
- Remove dead plant and tree material.
- Remove small conifers growing between mature trees.
- Remove vegetation adjacent to storage sheds or other outbuildings within this area.
- Trees 30 to 60 feet from the home should have at least 12 feet between canopy tops.
- Trees 60 to 100 feet from the home should have at least 6 feet between the canopy tops.



CERT Program

The Los Gatos/Monte Sereno CERT (the Community Emergency Response Team) is made up of Monte Sereno and Los Gatos residents, who are trained to take care of themselves and their communities in the aftermath of a major disaster. During emergency situations and disasters, our police and fire departments may be unavailable to respond to all emergency calls. These emergencies could be wildfires, earthquakes, terrorism, power shutdowns, etc.

In an emergency, these CERT-trained residents first ensure the safety of themselves and their families. They can then work outward to their neighborhoods, the communities, and beyond, until first responders arrive. We must be prepared for the emergencies and disas-

ters that threaten our communities. The CERT program is sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A 21-hour course offers training and the sessions include:

- Locate and turn off utilities.
- Extinguish small fires.
- Identify hazardous materials situations.
- Triage and treat victims.
- Set up a medical treatment area.
- Conduct searches and rescues in lightly and moderately damaged structures.
- Understand the psychological impact of a disaster on themselves and others.
- Organize CERT members and spontaneous volunteers for an effective and safe response.

Attend this interactive and fun learning experience and meet your neighbors. For more information, please contact Jackie Rose, Community Outreach Coordinator, for the Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department at (408) 354-6853 or register for the next CERT Training at: <https://www.sccfd.org/education-and-preparedness-overview/emergency-preparedness/community-emergency-response-team-cert>



YOUTH COMMISSION UPDATE

Each year in May, the City Council appoints 15 Monte Sereno Youth to serve on the Youth Commission. Youth Commission terms run from June to the end of May the following year. This past year's Youth Commission consisted of Co-Chairpersons Alex Nickel and Ariana Yamouti; Co-Vice Chairpersons Paige Craig and McCoy Buchsteiner; Youth Commission Secretary Katherine Mekechuk; and Commissioners Koosha Azim, Avania Costello, Jessica Guardino, Savannah Lin, Ajay Madala, Christian Nazzal, Kavya Narayan, Emily Nedom, Arushi Saxena and Rohan Varma.

Youth Commission members started off their year by traveling to Sacramento with Assembly Member Evan Low and staff to get a behind-the-scenes tour of our State Capital and to hear Assembly Member Low speak. Later that month, the Youth Commission hosted the ice cream sundae bar at the

City Picnic – always a popular treat at our annual event. In the fall, the Youth Commission hosted the “Things You AUTO Know” event in the City Hall parking lot. This workshop was conducted by a local, certified mechanic, who provided Monte Sereno youth and adults with helpful, hands-on information on car-related issues all drivers should be aware of.

On the first weekend in December, the Youth Commission participated in the annual Los Gatos Children's Holiday Parade. At their meeting on February 11th, the Youth Commission voted to take a position on Assembly Bill 1849 and send a letter in support of this bill. In March, Youth Commissioners Avania Costello and Paige Craig held a very successful tabling event to pre-register students to vote.

The Youth Commission meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Monte Sereno City Council Chambers; all are welcome. Visit the Youth Commission page on the City's website to learn more about this awesome group. Stay tuned for what the Youth Commission has planned next and how you and the youth of Monte Sereno can participate.

Youth Commission Recruitment

Applications for the 2020/2021 Youth Commission are now available on the City's website. The deadline for submitting an application to serve on the Monte Sereno Youth Commission is 5:00 pm, May 8, 2020. Appointments are scheduled to be made at the May 19th City Council Meeting.

Join the Youth Commission on Tuesday, May 19th, just before the City Council Meeting, for their traditional Ice Cream Sundae Bar, in celebration of Monte Sereno's incorporation.

Photo by Burton Craig



City of Monte Sereno
18041 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road
Monte Sereno, CA 95030-4299

Picnic in the Park

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 22, 2020**



Save the date for our annual picnic in Vasona County Park. RSVPs required; postcard invitations arriving mid-July.



Did you know there's an easy to use emergency notification service in Santa Clara County? The service is called AlertSCC. The service is **FREE** and can be accessed over telephone voice, email, and SMS text.

Subscribers can get emergency alerts for fire, earthquake, severe weather, neighborhood crime incidents and instructions during disasters.

AlertSCC is provided by the County of Santa Clara in coordination with all the cities in Santa Clara County, including your favorite city, Monte Sereno.

Sign up today at:
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/oes/alertscc/Pages/home.aspx>

WHO TO CALL AT CITY HALL

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

MAYOR LIZ LAWLER.....(408) 402-3048
llawler@cityofmontesereno.org

MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

SHAWN LEUTHOLD.....(408) 924-0132
sleuthold@cityofmontesereno.org

JAVED I. ELLAHIE.....(408) 579-1280
jellahie@cityofmontesereno.org

DANIEL LABOUE.....(408) 712-1705
dlaboue@cityofmontesereno.org

ROWENA TURNER.....(408) 887-9157
rturner@cityofmontesereno.org

CITY STAFF

All staff can be reached by phone at **(408) 354-7635**.

STEVE LEONARDIS, CITY MANAGER
steve@cityofmontesereno.org

ANDREA CHELEMENGOS, CITY CLERK
andrea@cityofmontesereno.org

GLOISY GONZALEZ-LANGARICA, ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK II
gloisy@cityofmontesereno.org

JEANNIE HAMILTON, CITY PLANNER
jeannie@cityofmontesereno.org

JESSICA KAHN, CITY ENGINEER
jessica@cityofmontesereno.org

MICHELE KWONG, ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK I
michele@cityofmontesereno.org

REYNOLD SAMORANOS, INTERIM FINANCE OFFICER
reynold@cityofmontesereno.org

ALI FATAPOUR, INTERIM BUILDING OFFICIAL
ali@cityofmontesereno.org

SERVICE PROVIDERS

POLICE.....**911**

Los Gatos - Monte Sereno Police Department
Business/Non-Emergency.....(408) 354-5257
After 5 pm(408) 354-8600

FIRE

Santa Clara County Fire Department.....**911**
Business/Non-Emergency.....(408) 378-4010

ANIMAL CONTROL/SHELTER

Silicon Valley Animal Control.....(408) 764-0344

GARBAGE & RECYCLING

West Valley Collection & Recycling.....(408) 283-9250

ELECTRICITY/GAS

Silicon Valley Clean Energy.....(844) 474-7823
Pacific Gas & Electric.....(800) 743-5000

ROAD OBSTRUCTIONS/ISSUES

City Streets.....(408) 354-7635
After Hours Emergency.....(408) 354-8600
Highway 9 (Caltrans).....(510) 286-4444

SEWER

West Valley Sanitation.....(408) 378-2407
After Hours Emergency.....(408) 299-2507

WATER

San Jose Water Company.....(408) 279-7900