

Peaceful Mountain Monitor



Monte Sereno Fall 2021 Community Newsletter

Page 2 - Fascinating Facts

Page 2 - Bee Water-Wise

Page 2 - Recognizing Outstanding Residents

Page 3 - Did You Know Hazardous Waste

Page 3 - Welcome New Employee

Page 3 - Monty Says

Page 4 - The Joy of Beekeeping

Page 5 - Become Living History

Page 5 - Hiking Monte Sereno

Page 6 - Little Leaks

Page 6 - Social Justice Contest Winners

Page 7 - Picnic in the Park Photos

Back Cover - SeeClickFix

Back Cover - Who to Call

Fascinating Facts

The American Red Cross



Residents may not know that the present location of Monte Sereno City Hall was once a location of the American Red Cross. As a matter of fact, the location which now serves as part of the Monte Sereno City Hall complex and Council Chambers was the first official location of the American Red Cross, located in Santa Clara County.

The Red Cross building groundbreaking occurred in 1961 and the building was completed in 1962. In the late 1980s, the City of Monte Sereno acquired the



building from the Red Cross and converted the spaces for city use in 1992.

In April 2021, the Monte Sereno City Council recognized the American Red Cross by issuing a proclamation, honoring them for National Red Cross Month. Monte Sereno is proud to recognize the services of American Red Cross volunteers and all first responders and frontline workers who continue to serve residents during the pandemic.



BEE WATER-WISE

As summer approaches and drought conditions continue, please join Monte Sereno in bee-ing water-wise. This means adjusting landscape watering schedules to a maximum of 3 days a week **and** scheduling watering times to be completed before 8:00 am or starting after 6:00 pm on scheduled days. Together, all residents can do their part to conserve Monte Sereno's most valuable natural resource.



RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING RESIDENTS BONNIE AND PHIL KNOPF



Phil Knopf and his wife, Bonnie, have called Monte Sereno home for 46 years. Although Phil and Bonnie are Monte Sereno residents, both have contributed to the greater community of Los Gatos/Monte Sereno youth in several capacities.

With Los Gatos Little League, Phil has been a dedicated commissioner, coach, maintenance person and league organizer for 40-plus years, stretching well beyond Phil and Bonnie's own children's sports careers.

Bonnie and Phil also have been committed to the Los Gatos Youth Park (LGYP). Phil has been serving as the

president of LGYP for 10 years. LGYP serves two Boy Scout Troops, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and other youth organizations. And there is the Lion's Club and the Annual Children's Holiday Parade, which both Bonnie and Phil were named as "Grand Marshalls" once upon a time.

Bonnie and Phil have invested significant time in the local community's most precious asset, the youth. Kudos to Bonnie and Phil for their enduring commitment to their community!

DID YOU KNOW HAZARDOUS WASTES?

Monte Sereno residents have two easy options when dealing with household hazardous waste (HHW) disposal. The paragraph below on the left highlights the County of Santa Clara's program. The paragraph below on the right is from West Valley Collection and Recycling (WVC&R). Please help keep Monte Sereno beautiful and safe by disposing of hazardous household items properly and safely.



County of Santa Clara Program:

Residents can schedule a free drop-off appointment for residential hazardous materials at www.hhw.org or by calling (408) 299-7300. In addition to the two drop-off program sites in San Jose and San Martin where all HHW materials are accepted, residents can take advantage of multiple drop-off locations for batteries, light bulbs, motor oil, paint, medicines, sharps, E-waste, etc. throughout the County without scheduling an appointment. The location of these sites and additional information can be found at www.hhw.org.

West Valley Collection and Recycling Program:

WVC&R offers a free drop-off site for Universal Waste items, such as water-based paints, computer monitors, motor oil, batteries and fluorescent bulbs at their Material Recovery Site, located at 625 Charles Street in San Jose. Please contact Customer Service at (408) 283-9250 to make an appointment. For fertilizer, oil-based paint and other chemicals listed as hazardous waste, please contact the Santa Clara County Hazardous Waste Facility at (408) 299-7300 or visit www.hhw.org.

MONTE SERENO WELCOMES NEW CITY PLANNER

Monte Sereno is pleased to announce the hiring of Diana Perkins as City Planner. Ms. Perkins has extensive experience and certifications, including a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from the University of San Francisco and more than 25 years of experience working in city government planning, building and permitting operations. In addition, Ms. Perkins has the following certifications:

LEED Accredited Professional 2008 ~ Current
ICC Certified Building Official 2005 ~ Current
ICC Certified Residential Building Inspector 2005 ~ Current
ICC Certified Building Plans Examiner 1999 ~ Current
ICC Certified Accessibility Inspector/Plans Examiner 2002 ~ Current
American Institute of Certified Planners Member (Previously) 2000 ~ 2017
Please welcome Ms. Perkins to Monte Sereno.



MONTY SAYS

It's been a while since I've made an appearance in our City newsletter. Earlier this year, the Monte Sereno Youth Commission held a "Name That Quail" contest. Out of 30 name submissions submitted by Monte Sereno residents, my official name was selected. I am now called "Monty" instead of "Monte." In May, the Monte Sereno City Council recognized me by resolution, making "Monty" my legal name.



THE JOY OF BEEKEEPING in MONTE SERENO by Lon and Mary Allan



Bees are good for all fruits and vegetables, they're great for the environment and best for one's mental health.

Lon and Mary Allan have four beehives that are alive and well. The Allans sit with their hives for morning coffee or in the afternoon with a glass of wine. They keep their windows and doors open to enjoy the hum in the gardens. They spin their own honey and make candles from the beeswax and the donation proceeds 100% benefit the Bay Area Youth Symphonies and San Jose Chamber Orchestra.

Mary is allergic to bee stings and has an EpiPen and yet has not been stung. Bees are not yellow jackets. For easy identification, bees have straight abdominal stripes;

yellow jackets have notched stripes. Yellow jackets are carnivores and have ruined lots of picnics.

For a list of bee-friendly plants, please contact Lon and Mary at LotsOfBbbz@gmail.com and they'll gladly share a list. The only tree that will kill everyone's hives is the native California Buckeye, so please don't plant it.

Before the Covid-19 Shutdown, the Allans would have kids over to take and eat honey (with the comb) right out of the hives. Monte Sereno has hive guidelines; for the benefit of co-living, please follow them and enjoy Monte Sereno's wondrous bees. Residents are never too young or too old to have the Joy of Beekeeping (Lon and Mary started beekeeping in their late 60s).



NEW CITY HALL FRONT LOBBY

This past spring, Monte Sereno relocated its front lobby to the rear of the main building near the main parking area at City Hall. Residents are now able to be served more easily and City Hall is now in compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

City Hall signage has been changed to direct residents to a new counter, where visitors can obtain permits for the Planning and Building Departments, request information, submit Public Records Requests or ask for any other information from the City of Monte Sereno.

Visitors will find the new location convenient and more user-friendly during their future visits to City Hall.

BECOME PART OF LIVING HISTORY



The City of Monte Sereno, in partnership with KCAT TV & RADIO, is excited to announce the **Monte Sereno Living History Project**. This film project will document Monte Sereno City history as told by Monte Sereno's residents, volunteers, community members, civic leaders, historians, curators, business owners and others.

Monte Sereno is thrilled to have Radio Hall of Famer, Lissa Kreisler, hosting the project and interviewing Monte Sereno residents. Along with gathering stories from the community, the City hopes to find people who can provide this project with in-depth knowledge about authors like John Steinbeck, artists like Thomas Kinkade, poets like Neal Cassady, city founder Admiral Thomas

Inglis and railroader Billy Jones, as well as businesses like the Claravale Dairy, the Hitt Brothers Family Fireworks Factory and many more.

Monte Sereno is a small city with a rich history and fascinating stories to share. Residents are encouraged to **join in the fun** and become part of this wonderful project by sharing their love and knowledge of Monte Sereno. Upon completion of this project, residents will receive links to the video(s) to share with family and friends.

To participate, schedule an interview or ask questions, please send an email to mshistory@kcat.org. The community looks forward to hearing everyone's stories.



HIKING MONTE SERENO by Anna and Jeffry Young



Anna Young, a local resident, sends a shout-out to the beautiful city of Monte Sereno, nestled in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The city is named Monte Sereno, which means "peaceful mountain," after Mount El Sereno, which rises over the city at a modest elevation of 2,800 feet. Anna and her husband, Jeffry, have lived in Monte Sereno for almost 35 years.

Since everything is so walkable from their home, they thought they would use the time during the early days of the pandemic to explore their city - all of it. Wearing masks with an enthusiastic chocolate Labrador Retriever by their side, they walked every street of Monte Sereno, 97 by their count.

They walked by the site where John Steinbeck wrote some of his masterpieces, passed by the former home of painter Thomas Kinkade and also the site of the original

Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad Ranch, where Walt Disney had been a frequent visitor. They walked by the newer homes built on the acres of the former Peak Claravale Dairy, where their son once did his own misguided science experiment to test if the electric fence was really electrified (it was).

They passed the home of Admiral Thomas Inglis, retired Navy Chief of Intelligence, who after serving in both World War I and World War II, in 1957 rallied for Monte Sereno to become incorporated and served as the first mayor. They hiked up and down the quiet, beautifully shaded streets, feeling so appreciative of this gem of a community where they live.

The city website has a wonderful section on the history of Monte Sereno, which Anna highly recommends. But mostly, she says, "Go out for a walk."



LITTLE LEAKS = DIRTY CREEKS

Cars cause air pollution and contribute to water pollution in the Bay Area. Every day, pollutants, like leaking motor oil or anti-freeze, grease, debris from tire and brake pad wear and particles from exhaust, build up on driveways, streets and parking lots. During rainstorms, stormwater runoff carries these pollutants into storm drains. This polluted water flows untreated directly into local creeks and the Bay and can harm plant and animal life.

How can residents help prevent water pollution?

1. **Change motor oil** on time.
2. **Fix leaks** immediately.
3. **Clean up leaks** and spills with an absorbent material, such as kitty litter.

4. **Recycle auto fluids** with West Valley Collection & Recycling's curbside pickup.
5. **Wash vehicles** only on unpaved surfaces or at commercial car washes.
6. **Cover loads** to prevent anything from falling or blowing off the back.
7. **Carpool** or use alternative transportation.
8. **Report** anything other than rain entering a storm drain by calling (408) 354-5385 or report online at www.cleancreeks.org.

Visit West Valley Clean Water Authority at www.cleancreeks.org for more information. Residents can also download the Watershed Watch Discount Card for participating car washes.



SOCIAL JUSTICE CONTEST WINNERS

The City of Monte Sereno extends congratulations to two outstanding Los Gatos High School students for being selected as co-winners of the 2021 Monte Sereno Social Justice Award. This year's co-awardees are junior Tatum Thomas and senior Alexa Kupor.

The Monte Sereno Youth Commission created the Monte Sereno Social Justice Award to establish an ongoing message for positive change regarding social justice matters in the greater City of Monte Sereno community by acknowledging students' efforts in creating a more equal and inclusive community. The winner is selected annually in the month of May by the Monte Sereno Youth Commission.

Tatum Thomas has worked in patient services at Good Samaritan Hospital, assisting those in need with financial aid and affordable resources, obtaining healthcare and the Discharge with Dignity program. Subsequently, Ms. Thomas initiated and launched an international nonprofit organization called Evolution Hope. In the past year, Evolution Hope has provided resources and educational enrichment to rural communities in Peru.

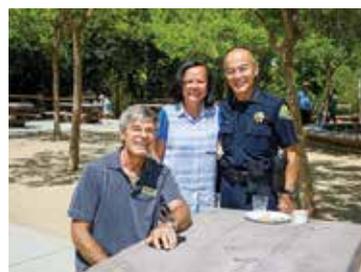
Alexa Kupor is co-president of Sexual Violence Free Los Gatos (SVFreeLG) and From Survivors, For Survivors (FSFS). Ms. Kupor volunteered at the first ever Los Gatos-based "Stand for Survivor Solidarity" event and participated in a silent march. These events and speaking during public comments at Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors meetings helped persuade the Board of Supervisors to change legislation and double their funding allocations. Ms. Kupor subsequently organized and joined forces with student-run organizations to publish and send articles nationally to voters about survivors' federal Title IX rights. Ms. Kupor is currently working for the Enough Is Enough Voter Project, supporting efforts to prevent online sex trafficking and ending spousal rape exception laws.

In recognition of their efforts, the City of Monte Sereno has donated \$1,000 to respective charities chosen by each co-awardee. Ms. Thomas' chosen organization is the Auxiliary of Good Samaritan Hospital. Ms. Kupor's charity is the Enough Is Enough Voter Project.



PICNIC IN THE PARK

On Sunday, August 22, 2021, Monte Sereno residents and agency partners were treated to a wonderful picnic at Vasona Lake County Park. For many, this event meant seeing friends and neighbors after 18 months of pandemic seclusion. A splendid time was had by all, with great food and great company. Monte Sereno looks forward to next year's event in August of 2022.





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

PRSR STD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 CAMPBELL, CA
 PERMIT #7009

Get Connected.
 Get Involved.
 Get Results.

SeeClickFix is the fastest, easiest way for you to submit non-emergency requests to your community, stay updated, and initiate change in your community.



SeeClickFix

The City of Monte Sereno has launched a new online and mobile application for a request management system, called “**SeeClickFix**,” to provide residents with an effortless way to participate in community-based reporting via their smartphones, other mobile devices, or from their desktop computers.

A resident may snap a picture of a problem and send it to the City via SeeClickFix. Issues will automatically be entered into the database system and channeled to the appropriate department to be resolved. SeeClickFix also allows residents to track submissions and engage other members of the community. The City will provide updates as submissions are acknowledged and resolved.

To download this free app, please go to the iPhone and Android app stores.

Graphic Designer: Michele Kwong

WHO TO CALL AT CITY HALL

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

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

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

BRYAN MEKECHUK.....(408) 354-7635
 bmekechuk@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

MICHELLE RADCLIFFE, CITY CLERK

michelle@cityofmontesereno.org

GLOISY GONZALEZ-LANGARICA, ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK II/DEPUTY CITY CLERK

gloisy@cityofmontesereno.org

DIANA PERKINS, CITY PLANNER

diana@cityofmontesereno.org

JESSICA KAHN, CITY ENGINEER

jessica@cityofmontesereno.org

MICHELE KWONG, ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK II/ ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER

michele@cityofmontesereno.org

REYNOLD SAMORANOS, FINANCE OFFICER

reynold@cityofmontesereno.org

ALI FATAPOUR, BUILDING CONSULTANT

ali@cityofmontesereno.org

JOE STRASSER, BUILDING INSPECTOR

joes@csgengr.com

CHARLOTTE ANDREEN, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFC

charlotte@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

STORM DRAIN SPILL REPORTING
 West Valley Clean Water Authority.....(408) 354-5385