

Peaceful Mountain Monitor



Monte Sereno Spring 2022 Community Newsletter

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A Message from the Mayor

The year 2022 brings a new police chief to Los Gatos–Monte Sereno. Chief Jamie Field has been a sworn law enforcement professional for over 20 years and was the interim Police Chief of Los Gatos–Monte Sereno.

December 2021 saw the induction of five new police officers in the Department: Officers Riley Frizzell, Scott Floerchinger, Nicholas Kirst, Nathan Deli, and Darren Walker. It also saw the induction of Dispatcher Heather Cross. Police officers play a vital role in the community and the current environment provides additional challenges for them. I was honored to represent Monte Sereno at their induction and to welcome them into our family with the following message:

“Your undertaking to be a police officer is not just taking on a job; it is the most difficult job, performed under stressful situations. It would be better to consider it a calling. Being a police officer requires you to put your life on the line every day to protect strangers and to deal with the mentally ill. It also requires you to deal with domestic violence, counsel child molestation victims, save people from burning vehicles, and chase psychopathic 15-year-olds down blind alleys, knowing they may have a gun but no conscience.

Your goal was to be a police officer and you have now become one. A goal is a dream with a deadline. You have achieved your dream and I congratulate you on behalf of the City of Monte Sereno.

Your job will continue to a difficult one. You can make it easier by continuing your learning process, learning that involves staying on top of legal cases, such as *Map v. Ohio*, *Miranda*, *Terry v. Ohio*, *Though v. New Jersey*, and now with the new Supreme Court make up, you

can expect even more cases. All this requires you to know more about case law than attorneys.

You are also required to manage respirators and defibrillators, give CPR, and become an expert on computers to run IDs and vehicle checkups.

You are also required to become experts on drugs, such as methamphetamine, aeries, and as yet unnamed ones.

You also have to become experts on the weapons you carry, like the 9 mm side arm, tear gas, baton, radio, taser, flashlight, audio recorder, body camera, tactical knife, and pistol. In your car trunk, you carry a shot gun, patrol rifle, and a patrol bag, containing forms that you may be expected to fill out. I would suggest you add to this a plaque to remind you to be “Proud to Serve with Honor and Honesty.”

In short, today’s police officers must be lawyers, doctors, psychologists, and just plain heroes. Are you ready for the challenge? As Teddy Roosevelt said, “Nobody cares about how much you know, until they know how much you care.” **So, your real challenge is to care about the people you serve.**

As Mayor of Monte Sereno, it is my honor and pleasure to welcome you to your calling. Being a police officer, after all, is not just a job but a calling. Mark Twain remarked, “The most important days in your life are the day that you are born and the day you find out why.” Today is the day you find out why.

I also thank your family and friends, who have supported, encouraged, and helped you on this journey and who understand the formidable task you have taken on, as you agree to put your life on the line to protect complete strangers each and every day and on each and every shift. Now, go forth and make the world a better place than you found it. As Winston Churchill remarked, “We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.”

Wishing Chief Jamie Field the best, as she undertakes to guide the Los Gatos–Monte Sereno Police Department in the coming years.

Javed Ellahie, Mayor

Odds and Ends

When Suzanne and Don Werner’s two oldest granddaughters’ Christmas package arrived from being sent by their Kentucky ranching grandparents in December, the misspelled address gave all of them a smile: “Monte Serenity” instead of “Monte Sereno.” After giving it some thought, it seems like the grandparents really got it right after all.

Suzanne and Don Werner
Monte Sereno residents since 1976

The Housing Element



The Housing Element is part of the City of Monte Sereno's General Plan. It is a comprehensive policy document that identifies where, how, and how much housing Monte Sereno is mandated to plan to accommodate existing and projected future housing needs for people of all income groups. In accordance with State law, the City of Monte Sereno must update its Housing Element every 8 years. This is the sixth time the City will have updated its Housing Element and may also be referred to as the 6th Cycle Housing Element Update. This update will apply to the timespan of 2023-2031.

In this 6th Cycle Update, the City is required to plan for an additional 193 new housing units. With roughly 3,500 residents living in an area of 1.6 square miles with all residential zoning, the City expects that the 193 new housing units can mostly be accommodated through Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and other secondary housing units. With residents' participation and input, the City will plan for this growth while minimizing impacts on Monte Sereno's unique culture and character.

AtHomeinMonteSereno (www.AtHomeinMonteSereno.com) is the City's online community forum to engage in this project. This is a pivotal opportunity to shape the future of Monte Sereno. The website is the go-to place to learn about and be a part of the City's work on housing and to help guide decision makers on the direction of future housing. This online platform will be open and updated throughout the Housing Element Update process, ending in December 2022.

This site will be updated regularly with information on upcoming meetings, summaries of input and feedback received from the community, and overall project status. Please register to participate or subscribe to stay informed and receive the latest information on the update process.

Please join us for an online Community Workshop, scheduled for Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. The meeting Zoom link will be available at www.AtHomeinMonteSereno.com.

KITCHEN ORGANICS PAIL



Exciting news! Effective immediately, all Monte Sereno residents can place food scraps inside the organics/yard trimming cart. The residential yard trimmings cart is now considered the organics cart. West Valley Collection and Recycling (WVC&R) is in the process of delivering kitchen organics pails to all residents. The pails will be dropped off near mailboxes.

To use the pail: Keep the pail in the kitchen, fill it with food scraps, such as coffee grounds and paper filters,

tea bags, food-soiled paper, and paper towels, and empty the pail into the organics cart as needed. Do not place the pail outside or on the organics cart for weekly collection. Food scraps from the pail need to be inside the organics cart to be collected. Drivers will not empty the pails into the cart.

Find out more information at West Valley Solid Waste Management Authority (wvswma.org) and West Valley Collection & Recycling (westvalleyrecycles.com).

Never Drain Pools into Storm Drain



1 Don't drain into storm drains; this pollutes local waterways and can harm aquatic wildlife.



2 For most in-ground pools, use built-in line to drain through sanitary sewer cleanout.



3 If you don't have a cleanout, discharge onto a lawn or other area on your property that can hold the water without overflowing, ponding, or causing erosion.



Remember: Nothing but rain goes down the storm drain.

Learn more at www.bit.ly/3sHHgZF



West Valley
Clean Water Authority

Welcome JAMIE FIELD New Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Chief



After a competitive nationwide search, Jamie Field was appointed the next Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Chief. Recruiting firm Bob Murray & Associates ran the hiring process under the guidance of retired Walnut Creek Police Chief Joel Bryden.

The process included opportunities for the public and Police Department staff to provide input on the qualities they would like to see in the next Chief. A community meeting held in November 2021 involved residents and elected officials from both Monte Sereno and Los Gatos. Several meetings were held with Police Department sworn and civilian staff. Mr. Bryden also made himself available for phone conversations and email comments. This input was critical in the evaluation of the candidates. The candidates underwent rigorous panel interviews, including one panel consisting of three current Bay Area Police Chiefs. The finalists participated in an additional panel review.

Chief Jamie Field has been a sworn law enforcement professional for over 20 years. Chief Field has worked with the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department (LGMSPD) since 2019, starting as an Officer and successfully rising through the ranks to Captain. At the time of her promotion to Police Chief, she was serving as Interim Police Chief for the Department.

Los Gatos Mayor Rob Rennie said, "I am excited about Chief Field and have confidence in her leadership to guide the Department in its community policing mission with specific attention to staffing, training, and succession planning."

Former Chief Peter Decena resigned in early September 2021. Captain Clinton Tada assumed the duties of Interim Chief until early December to give Captain Field an opportunity to also serve as Interim Chief.



RECOGNIZING AN OUTSTANDING RESIDENT: LEE ACTOR



A Monte Sereno resident since 1992, Lee Actor is a composer and conductor who has won a number of awards for his compositions. He has received numerous commissions for new works which have been performed by more than 80 orchestras and bands in the United States and around the world. He is Composer-in-Residence and Assistant Conductor of the Palo Alto Philharmonic and will be conducting the premiere of his latest orchestral composition, "Concerto for Two Flutes and Orchestra," on April 2, 2022 in Spangenberg Theater at Gunn High School in Palo Alto.

A professional violinist with the Albany Symphony Orchestra while studying at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in upstate New York, Actor has advanced degrees in both engineering and music composition. Following a long career as a software developer in the video game industry, he retired from high tech in 2001, started a still-continuing association with the

Palo Alto Philharmonic, and began to write music full-time. To date, his compositional catalog includes three symphonies, ten concertos, and a number of other works for large and small ensembles. Commercial recordings of many of these pieces are available on seven different CDs. In 2018 he was invited to conduct all-Actor programs by two of the top orchestras in Turkey. Visit Actor's website at www.leeactor.com for further information, including full scores and audio excerpts from his works.

Concert details:

Palo Alto Philharmonic

8:00 pm April 2, 2022 (7:30 pm pre-concert talk)

Spangenberg Theater, Gunn High School

780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto, CA 94306

www.paphil.com for more information and to buy tickets



“Protect Your Pets and Help Keep Wild Animals Wild”

Urban Coyote Activity on the Increase

Coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem, helping to keep rodent populations under control. They are, by nature, fearful of humans. But if coyotes are given access to human food and garbage, their behavior changes. They lose caution and fear and become comfortable seeking food in suburban and urban neighborhoods. In these areas, coyotes may find it easier to target small domestic pets, such as cats and dogs, which are often found in yards or allowed to roam free. Domesticated pets are not accustomed to protecting themselves from predators.

Coyotes are very quick learners and will accept “hand-outs” from people in the form of table scraps, pet food, and garbage. **Remember: the promise of food is what lures coyotes into neighborhoods and into specific yards.** Purposeful or incidental feeding of coyotes (or other wild animals) is a recipe of conflict.

Implementing some of the following measures could help protect your pets and keep coyotes out of your neighborhood:

- Never feed or attempt to tame coyotes. The result may be deadly conflicts with pets or serious injuries to small children.
- Do not leave small children or pets outside unattended.
- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house.
- Trim ground-level shrubbery to reduce hiding places for rodents, coyotes, and bobcats that hunt where



rodents are most plentiful. (Creating a “defensible space” also helps offer fire protection.)

- Use garbage cans that have a locking mechanism on the lid, and use a rope or elastic cord to secure the can to a fence or other solid object so it cannot be tipped over.
- Pick up fallen fruit. Coyotes are omnivores and will eat the fruit, and fallen fruit attracts rodents and birds...prime prey for coyotes. Cover compost piles.
- Never leave pet food outside. Regularly rake areas around bird feeders to remove potential food for rodents and coyotes.
- If followed by a coyote, make loud noises. If that fails, throw rocks in the animal’s direction.

To report sightings, call Vector Control at **408.918.4700**. And to “**Help Keep Wild Animals Wild,**” visit www.keepmewild.org for additional information.

CONSTRUCTION HOURS

As a friendly reminder, the hours for construction activities in the City of Monte Sereno are **Monday through Friday from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**. On **Sundays and holidays, NO** construction activity is allowed.

Residents are encouraged to be mindful of these hours so all Monte Sereno residents may enjoy their beautiful neighborhoods.

For questions or concerns regarding Monte Sereno’s noise and construction ordinances or to report a violation, please call the City of Monte Sereno at (408) 354-7635 Monday through Friday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

To report a violation outside of these hours, please call the Los Gatos Monte Sereno Police Department non-emergency number at (408) 354-8600.

Poet's Corner

Natalye Road

I was shocked the other day
To hear our fine Mayor say
"A project's on its way"
on Na TALL' ee ya.

I've lived on this fine street
For thirty-four years or more.
But rarely have I heard this street's name
Said that way before.

How could this possibly be?
Natalye said another way -
With such authority.

Does Natalye rhyme with - **Bat'** a flea
or, like - Not **ALL'** uh ya?

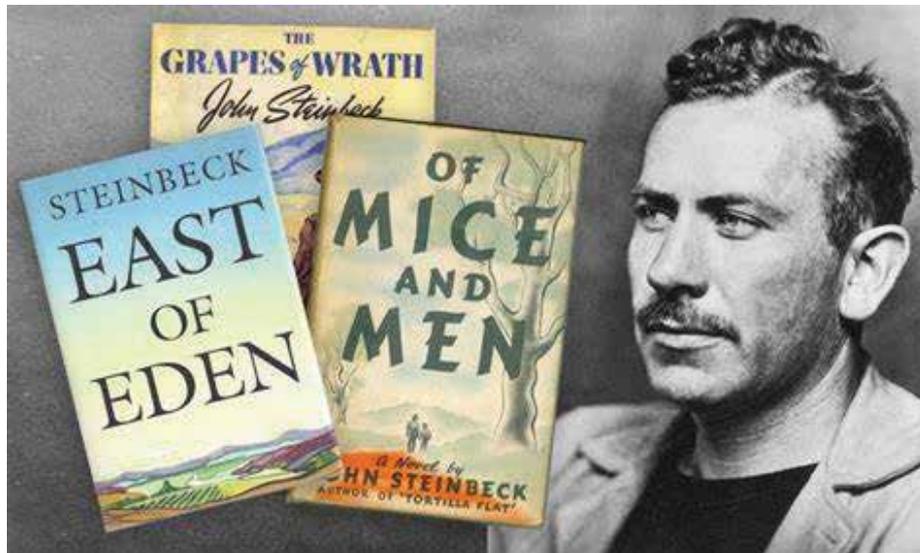
So of course I Googled our street's name
Then to my great surprise
I find, before my very eyes -

Natalye means Christmas!
Spelled Kinda of like a Russian would,
If a Russian did not spell so good.
I search some more and deeper go,
etymological fine points find,
linguistic derivations,
girls names from ancient times.

I lose myself in roots of words
And find at last - Hooray!
Natalye could mean - Birthday!

So here we are on Christmas Road
and/or Birthday, if you choose
Nat **al'** ee a or **Nat'** al ee
Doesn't matter which you use.

Linda King
Natalye Road
Monte Sereno Resident



Fascinating Facts

JOHN STEINBECK

Did you know world renowned author and Nobel Prize winner, John Steinbeck, once resided in Monte Sereno? Carol and John Steinbeck purchased a 1.639-acre plot of land in what was then Los Gatos (now Monte Sereno) in 1936.

In the summer of 1936, Carol and John's 1,452 square foot home was built. A carved wooden plaque which read "Arroyo del Ajo" or "Garlic Gulch" was placed at the entrance gate.

Steinbeck completed "Of Mice and Men" and all 464 pages of his Pulitzer Prize winning work titled "The

Grapes of Wrath" whilst residing in Monte Sereno. Subsequently, "The Grapes of Wrath" became a feature film in 1940. The film was directed by legendary Hollywood director John Ford and the part of the book's lead character, Tom Joad, was played by Henry Fonda.

Carol and John Steinbeck moved from Monte Sereno in 1938 as they began to lose their privacy due to John's success as a great American author. Subsequently, the Steinbeck home was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989.



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

PRSRST STD
US POSTAGE
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CAMPBELL, CA
PERMIT #7009



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.

City Newsletter Statement of Purpose

This is the official city newsletter to communicate current issues, services, and activities in Monte Sereno to the residents of the city — to facilitate, encourage, and improve interaction between the residents and the city government. The newsletter is published twice a year.

Graphic Designer: Michele Kwong

WHO TO CALL AT CITY HALL

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- MAYOR JAVED I. ELLAHIE**.....(408) 579-1280
jellahie@cityofmontesereno.org
- MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**
- BRYAN MEKECHUK**.....(408) 354-7635
bmekechuk@cityofmontesereno.org
- LIZ LAWLER**.....(408) 402-3048
llawler@cityofmontesereno.org
- SHAWN LEUTHOLD**.....(408) 924-0132
sleuthold@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
- JOSE MARTINEZ, BUILDING INSPECTOR**
josem@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