



MONTA LOMA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

THE SCOOP: ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Monta Loma Ice Cream Social is planned for Sunday, August 25th, from 3:00–5:00 p.m. in Monta Loma Park.

Catch up with neighbors, check out information tables, enjoy cotton candy, balloon animals, and more.

This event can't happen without neighborhood volunteer support!
E-mail eventcoordinator@montaloma.org if you can help out.

What to see and do at the Ice Cream Social

By Marilyn Gildea

The MLNA Ice Cream Social is our biggest social event of the year, and your best opportunity to meet your neighbors. Please visit the welcome table first and sign in; our insurance requires it. Write your name and street on a name tag so your neighbors can meet you.



In addition to a free frozen treat, you will find much to see and do. Provided by your neighbors: "Gizmo Gary" Heyman and his daughters will twist balloons. Our CERT members will display equipment and information to help us stay safe during a disaster. Nirvana Nwokidu promises games. Wouter Suverkropp will drive the robot buggy. Alan Whitaker is bringing endangered-butterfly information and some "starters" of the plants that support them. The Garden Club is hosting a plant-and-seed-exchange table (free plants). Tom Purcell displays Monta Loma history items. Gloria Jackson's cotton-candy machine will begin spinning at 4:00 p.m..

City staff-members are bringing information on recreation programs, the Biodiversity Strategy and Urban Forest Plan, and Sustainability and Resiliency. The Multicultural Engagement Program offers information in Russian and Chinese. Recology Zero Waste will bring recycling information.



The Mountain View Historical Association's Robert Cox will again offer books and stationery.

The Monta Loma Elementary and Crittenden Middle School PTAs will offer information and membership signups. Living Classroom will be represented.

Other invitees, including the police and fire departments, had not confirmed by press time, so check montaloma.org for updates as August 25 draws near.

The city manager, members of the City Council, and the members of the Mountain View Whisman School District and the Mountain View Los Altos High School District boards have been invited so you can meet them. MVWSD's Rebecca Westover responded, "We'll be there!"



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ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOW UP

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

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Mayor and City Manager speak to Monta Loma at Neighborhood Annual Meeting

by Marilyn Gildea

At the Annual Meeting on May 30, guest speaker Mayor Pat Showalter showed slides as she explained how the City works, stressing that the key is the long tradition of civility, within the City Council and with the staff. The council members take turns filling the positions of mayor and vice mayor, a year at a time. The “top-notch” staff carries out the policies the Council decides, and the advisory boards make recommendations to the Council. Each council member also represents the City on a range of other local and state boards and commissions. Pat mentioned the council’s seven Strategic Priorities, and then addressed the three topics that the MLNA Board had requested.

– The **Rengstorff Avenue Grade Separation Project**. After 20 years in the planning, work will begin in 2026 to lower Rengstorff Avenue to pass under the Caltrain tracks. The project will be very disruptive for two years, but will improve traffic flow and safety. The City has made plans to minimize the disruption, and residents will know who to call to report immediate problems.

– The **future park at 538 Thompson Ave**. The City is well aware of the shortage of park space in Monta Loma. Residents will be invited to participate in the design, scheduled for 2025-26. The City would like to purchase adjacent properties to enlarge it. *(In June, the purchase of one adjoining property, 2231 W. Middlefield Rd., was approved.)*

– The **San Antonio Corridor Plan**. Mountain View residents are welcome to participate in Palo Alto’s planning process.

Mayor Showalter ended with reminders to make use of the city’s website; to use the Ask MV button to ask questions or report problems; and to stay connected with the City. Visit, mountainview.gov/whats-happening for the list of its publications.

City Manager Kimbra McCarthy accompanied Pat and also spoke, mentioning again that civility is a hallmark of Mountain View. More park space for Monta Loma is a priority with the City. The City mailed a questionnaire earlier this year asking residents to rank priorities for a potential revenue measure. The **Rengstorff Park Aquatics Center** will be finished this summer.

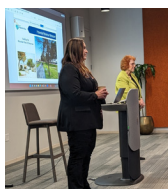
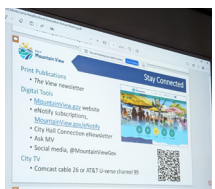
During the question period, Pat answered many questions about traffic and traffic mitigation. Incoming MLNA President Olga Bright asked her to explain the sea-level rise mitigation at Shoreline Park, which Pat did by describing how the former salt ponds are being turned into marshes and other climate-resilience plans and maps.

Another audience member recommended the city’s Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan.

2024 Annual Meeting and Board Election

By Marilyn Gildea

The meeting on May 30 was the best one in recent memory, with at least 45 attendees. The Google X meeting room is an ideal site, with large projector screens and comfortable chairs. Tricia DelGaudio used newsletter file photos for a slide



show that ran on a continuous loop before the meeting. Outgoing MLNA Board President Nirvana Nwokidu had prepared slides illustrating what the neighborhood association does, and the many ways that residents contribute to the neighborhood. She began by introducing Andrea Thomas of the Welcome Team, who in turn asked the new residents to stand and introduce themselves. The three couples had been greeted at the welcome table in the lobby by putting gold stars on their name tags so they could be welcomed by all.

Nirvana named the ways in which residents are kept informed (the quarterly newsletter; the email list; and the website, montaloma.org) and encouraged to meet their neighbors (the neighborhood garage sale in May, block parties, and the ice cream social), plus Neighborhood Watch and CERT.

She thanked retiring board members Anish Morakhia, Alan Whitaker, and Baidra Murphy, and, because the election was not contested, asked for a voice vote to confirm the election of the candidates (page 2, column 1). The new board took office on July 1.

Welcome the New Board for 2024-2025

by Olga Bright, MLNA Board President

As the incoming board president, I would like to thank retiring board members Anish Morakhia, Alan Whitaker and Baidra Murphy for their contributions, and express my appreciation for the continuing board members. We have a great team. Nirvana Nwokidu did an outstanding job during her two years as President, and it will be a challenge to step into her shoes. I am delighted that she has agreed to continue on the Board as First Vice President. Secretary Cheryl Smith keeps us organized and on target with the goals and responsibilities for our board meetings. Without the diligence and commitment of Treasurer Andre Valente, we would not have the funds for the Ice Cream Social and block parties that our vibrant community enjoys. I am delighted that Jennifer Dell-Ernstrom and Tricia DelGaudio will continue as the newsletter team. It's a very big job to gather and edit the articles, plan the layout, and organize the production to send each issue to the printer on time. In addition, Tricia has recently taken on the additional responsibility of managing the ads. We are indebted to them for their hard work and professionalism. Marilyn Gildea is our Communications Coordinator, and she is truly outstanding in her commitment and diligence. We have all come to depend on her hard work and planning. We look forward to the participation of Caleb Fenner, who joined the Board this spring and now fills the Second VP slot.

I look forward to the coming year, and hope to meet our whole neighborhood at the Ice Cream Social on August 25th.

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

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MLNA Websites

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



Thanks to those who delivered the May newsletter:

Karima Pezzini, Leslie Zeisler, Tracey Ostebo, Donna Clarke, Marian Grocholski, Linda Powers, Olga Bright, Dave Erskine, John Canata, Maria Harnoto, Diane McCleary, Leanne Reelfs, Paul Kostka, Maria Nelson, Dave McCleary, Chuck & Cookie Henderson, Griffen Auckland, Herb & Victoria Perry, Martha Elderon, Andy Coe, Nirvana Nwokidu, Jennifer Dell-Ernstrom

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

Block parties — is yours scheduled?

At press time, two parties had been held, and eight more are scheduled. If you haven't yet planned your party, the after-summer-vacation season is a good time to hold it. A block party is a great way to meet your new neighbors, build the friendships that help keep our neighborhood safe, and compile a list of contact information to share. To promote these goals, the **MLNA will help pay for your party**, and, thanks to a recent increase in the grant, up to \$200, depending on the number of neighbor attendees.

For how-to information, go to montaloma.org and click on Block Parties under Events. Find "printable version" at the bottom of the page. Note that to block off a street you must obtain a permit. Allow 30 days for it to be processed, though it can be done faster.

Our Neighborhood Watch Captain, Tom Purcell on Alvin, would be happy to attend your party. Contact Tom at MontaLomaNBC@gmail.com or 650-224-5110. To invite a police officer to stop by, request it on your permit application. To invite city council members, email them all at citycouncil@mountainview.gov or individually under Council Roster at mountainview.gov.

Neighborhoods Committee awards grant to MLNA

The city's Neighborhood Grant Program provides annual grants "to help resident-based groups carry out programs and activities designed to improve participation and neighborhood conditions." The Neighborhoods Committee (CNC) members awarded the MLNA the amount of \$2,625. The grant helps pay for block parties and the Ice Cream Social, and the CNC urges neighborhood associations to spend the money. We receive the funds after MLNA Treasurer Andre Valente submits original receipts. For details on how to plan your block party, see Block Parties at montaloma.org.



Neighbors enjoy chance to chat and sell items during May garage sale event

By Marilyn Gildea

Due to rain on May 4, the event was postponed one week, to a sunny Saturday. Almost 50 neighbors registered their addresses, sale hours, and items. Many more residents set their no-longer-needed items out when they saw how many "shoppers" were coming by.



Comments included "We had so much fun!!!" "What a wonderful neighborhood. We are a multicultural group with people from all over the world. We met, we talked, ..." "It was a great way to socialize with our neighbors and feel a deep sense of community. I look forward to doing this every year." "Loved the grid with location, times, and types of goods!"

Happy anniversary to Jim and Alice

Jim and Alice Cochran on Thaddeus Drive celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in June.

While being interviewed for the summer issue of its newsletter, Jim told Mountain View Historical Association Vice President Robert Cox that what he is most proud of during his 1989-1996 term on the City Council was the revitalization of Castro Street and the completion of CityHall and the Performing Arts Center.



Find the complete article about Jim in Newsletters at mountainviewhistorical.org/.

Makers of Monta Loma summer update

By Jeff Kaiser

We had a light turnout for the June meet up due to the beautiful summer weather. We plan to meet up in the fall in the courtyard of my home at 247 Diablo Avenue when the cooler weather comes. An email announcement with more details will be sent a few weeks before the event. Snacks to share are welcome. Stay tuned!

Join us at a Monta Loma Music Share

Gather with fellow teens and adults in Monta Loma to share a piece (or two or three) of acoustic live music with a friendly audience of neighbors. All levels are welcome. A piano is present onsite; bring any other instruments. Email lindsay@lindsaysterling.com for updates.



Upcoming dates (all Saturdays) from 2–4 p.m.:
Oct. 12, Jan. 18, April 19
290 Laura Lane

Support fellow Monta Lomans in bands playing in the area

Saturday, September 7, 5-7 p.m.

Lindsay Sterling plays in a classic rock band
In the park behind Greenmeadow Pool and Community Center
303 Parkside Drive, Palo Alto
turningpointband.org

Saturday, September 14, 1 p.m.

Pete Sommer plays as a songwriter in the round
At Cooper-Garrod Winery Nashville Round
22645 Garrod Rd, Saratoga
winery@garrod farms.com

Sunday September 22, 6 p.m.

Pete Sommer plays as a songwriter in the round
At The Cats Best BBQ and Drinks
www.thecatslosgatos.com

Saturday, September 28, 3-4 p.m.

Lindsay Sterling plays in a classic rock band
American Cancer Society's Relay for Life
Burgess Park, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park
relayforlife.org/midpeninsulaca

Saturday, November 23, 5-8 p.m.

Lindsay Sterling plays in a classic rock band
Kelly Brewing Company
70 East 4th Street, Morgan Hill
www.kellybrewco.com

New neighbors welcomed at Meet and Greet in June

By John Canata

At our last Meet and Greet on June 22, we welcomed two new residents and also chatted with several others from outside the neighborhood. Thanks to Andrea Thomas and Nirvana Nwokidu for being there to talk with all who wanted to learn more. Thank you to Jennifer Pascua and the Starbucks team for giving us the opportunity to have our meet and greet at our local Starbucks.



We welcome anyone who knows of new residents to please send us an email at welcome-team@montaloma.org or call me at 650-269-5646 so that the welcome team can provide them with a personal welcome.

The next meet and greet will be Saturday, September 21, 10:00–11:30 a.m. at our local Starbucks.

The neighborhood notice board has been repaired

Thanks to the City Parks Department, our neighborhood notice board has been repaired. For those of you who haven't noticed it, the picture shows where it is located in Monta Loma Park, near the baseball field restrooms. Check it out to find out City and MLNA information, including the latest newsletter.



New parent meetup information

By Ella Gille

The Monta Loma Parent meetup is moving to once a month in Monta Loma Park on the first Saturday of the month from 4:30–5:45 pm. Please feel free to message Ella Gille (ella.gille14@gmail.com) if you have any questions. The next meetups are on September 7th and October 5th.



Fire safety tips

By Cheryl Smith

Now, during warm weather, is a good time to prioritize fire safety. Whether you're grilling outdoors or going about your daily routines, fire safety should always be top of mind. Here are some tips to safeguard your home:

Install smoke alarms: Make sure your home is equipped with smoke alarms on every level, including inside each bedroom and outside sleeping areas. Test monthly and replace batteries once a year. Note: There are also new models of smoke alarms that last 10 years, and no battery replacement is required.

Keep fire extinguishers handy: Place fire extinguishers in key areas of your home, such as the kitchen, garage, and near fireplaces. Learn how to use them and teach family members. If your extinguisher is expired, dispose of it as hazardous material. Contact hhw.org to make a drop-off appointment or call 408-299-7300. Home use fire extinguishers cannot be recharged or refilled. The City schedules periodic hazardous waste disposal events; the next one is on August 24. A new fire extinguisher can be purchased at local hardware stores, such as Ace Hardware on Charleston Ave.

Create an escape plan: Develop a fire escape plan with

your family. Identify two ways out of every room and establish a designated meeting spot outside. Practice your escape plan to ensure everyone knows what to do in case of a fire.

Practice safe cooking: Never leave cooking unattended, especially when using the stove or grill. Keep flammable items away from heat sources and ensure appliances are turned off after use.

Maintain heating equipment: If you use space heaters or a fireplace, ensure they are maintained and kept clear of any debris or flammable materials. Keep a safe distance between heaters and combustible items.

Monitor candles and open flames: Keep candles away from curtains, bedding, and other flammable materials. Never leave candles burning unattended and consider using flameless alternatives for ambiance.

Be mindful of electrical hazards: Inspect electrical cords for signs of damage and avoid overloading outlets. Unplug appliances when not in use and use surge protectors for added safety.

Stay vigilant during outdoor activities: Whether it's grilling, or enjoying a fire pit, follow safety guidelines and never leave fires unattended. Keep a bucket of water or a hose nearby for emergencies.

Dispose of ashes safely: If you have a fireplace or fire pit, allow ashes to cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Keep the container outdoors, away from any structures.



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BIRDING IN MONTA LOMA

Northern Junco

By Dotty Calabrese

The Dark-eyed Junco is a type of small sparrow, 5.75"- 6.5." Many live in our neighborhood. These "Oregon Juncos," along with four other Junco sub-species, were formerly considered five separate species across the U.S. and Canada. All five are now classified as one species, with five sub-species under the name of "Dark-eyed" Junco.

Throughout the year, I see Dark-eyed Juncos several times each week from Lassen St. to Rock St. on all of my walking routes. The male of the Oregon Junco sub-species in northern California, has a black hood, pink bill, white belly and outer tail feathers, chestnut-brown back, blackish brown wings and tail. The female is paler.

These seed, insect, and fruit eaters are delightful to watch. Dark-eyed Juncos twitter in flight, hop on the ground, and emit a one syllable "cheep" as they perch. They will visit your seed feeder, both on the feeder and below it, on the ground. Junco pairs tend to be monogamous, and are one



Above: Image by Daniel Lee Brown
Right: Image by Mary Forrestal



Female Dark-eyed Junco

of several bird species in the neighborhood that might nest in one of your hanging potted plants, in spring. They build their cup-shaped nests from plant material, moss, and even mammal hair. Three to six pale blue eggs with speckles are usually laid. The female incubates the eggs for 12 or 13 days, while the male brings her food. Both female and male defend the nest. The male helps feed the young, who leave the nest about 10-13 days after hatching. The parents stay close, continuing to feed the young birds for a few weeks, until they become independent foragers.

Email your bird questions to me at dottycala@aol.com.



More property acquired for future park

At its June 11 meeting, the City Council voted unanimously to acquire the property at 2231 W. Middlefield Road. It adjoins 538 Thompson Avenue, which the City acquired in 2023 for a future park. The combined size of the two properties is approximately 0.49 acre. "There may also be opportunities for acquiring additional adjacent properties in the future providing for a larger park."

Free emergency training begins October 3

By Tim Slatterly

Having some emergency training is part of being a responsible citizen. Our CERT members encourage you to take the city's **free CERT course**, whether or not you join our neighborhood group. The



next series **begins on October 3**. Visit the CERT page montaloma.org/mlna/cert/ for a link to info. "First Aid teaches you what to do until the ambulance comes; CERT teaches you what to do when the ambulance isn't going to come."

You can check out Monta Loma's CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) 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 August 12, September 9, and October 14. Questions? Contact Tim Slatterly at CERT@montaloma.org or 650-964-6389.

Slice House restaurant review

By Cheryl Smith

The Slice House is a quick 20-minute walk from the Monta Loma neighborhood at 2565 California St. #81 in The Crossings. You will appreciate the walk home after eating a very large slice of pizza! The restaurant is fast casual style and involves simply getting in line and pointing to the variety of pizza you would like. One slice is about the size of two normal slices. They also offer salads, chicken wings, meatballs, and pasta, but the majority of the business is pizza.

Much of the restaurant's popularity comes from the originator of the franchise, Tony Gemignani, who has been described as a foodie rock star. He began winning prizes for his pizza in 2007. That was the year he earned the title of World Champion Pizza Maker at the World Pizza Cup in Naples, Italy. Two years later, he opened his first restaurant, Tony's Pizza Napoletana, in San Francisco, and continued to win many more awards.

Gemignani grew up cooking with his mother and helping his grandfather pick Blenheim apricots and cherries at his grandfather's farm in Fremont. They also grew fava beans, oranges, lemons, tomatoes, and zucchini on their 20 acres. Today, Gemignani lives in Alamo, California, and on 1.5 acres currently grows many of the same vegetables, alongside 24 fruit trees and 400 grapevines. He hopes to recreate some of the best parts of his childhood for his own son.

His Mountain View franchise is owned by his high-school friend from Washington High School in Fremont, Pritika Rajasanshi. She was inspired to send Tony a message on Facebook, after her son urged her to pursue the idea while eating slices at the Walnut Creek location after a basketball tournament. The timing was right, and in mid-May of this year, the Slice House Mountain View opened.

One offering that is unique to Mountain View is a New York-style pizza named Apricot Fields. It is the result of Gemignani asking Rajasanshi for a list of her favorite ingredients. The result is loaded with sausage, smoked bacon, mozzarella, ricotta, house-made hot honey, red onion, hot pepper oil, pesto, Romano, oregano, garlic oil and Blenheim apricot preserves. I personally tried it on my last visit and thoroughly enjoyed it! A friend highly recommended this variety before I had even done any research on its origin.

Gemignani has emphasized fresh ingredients throughout his career and challenged Rajasanshi to find local sources. The Blenheim apricots come from the ApricotKing in Hollister and are sold at the Mountain View Farmers market. She estimates that 90% of the food is house made.

My bike group ended a ride at Slice House recently ready to try out the flavors. The 12 hungry cyclists were all impressed.



SLICE HOUSE
BY TONY GEMIGNANI

Several mentioned that they really liked the crust. Gemignani has said "We always use sourdough-type starters in our dough. It makes your dough more flavorful, more aromatic." He also manufactures his own flour.

Customers can order pizzas in four regional styles: New York (hand-stretched), Sicilian (focaccia-like crust), Grandma (Long Island-style pan pizza) and Detroit (square, cooked in steel pans). Gemignani's personal favorite is Detroit. It has a crispy, crunchy crust with garlic butter toasted corners. The person next to me had the Pop-Eye (spinach) version on this crust and quite enjoyed it.

The price is a refreshing change also for Mountain View restaurant-goers. A very large slice and a soda is about \$12. During Happy Hour, Monday – Friday, 3:00-5:00, you can get a beer and a slice of pizza for about \$10. The location is quiet and it's pleasant to sit outside. You can also easily take a slice to the nearby dog park or to enjoy some live music in the Village at San Antonio center. My cycling crew also appreciated the plentiful bike parking. The location was getting crowded during Monday lunch, but the only slight service hiccup was that one of our group did not receive his salad until he went back inside to check on it after a long delay. The young staff were trying hard to learn how to manage all the people who had heard about the reasonably priced, tasty pizza!

Graywater rebate program for Santa Clara county residents

Through Valley Water's Graywater Rebate Program, receive either **\$200 or \$400** to install a Graywater Laundry-to-Landscape System to make your landscape more resilient with a local, sustainable water supply. See this website to learn more: valleywater.org/saving-water/rebates-surveys/graywater-rebate

This type of graywater system sends rinse water from your clothes washer directly to your landscape without filters, tanks, or pumps. It's a cost-effective, sustainable option to upgrade how you irrigate your landscape.

CITY NEWS

City-Wide Garage Sale Sept. 14 & 15

The city's annual Neighborhood Garage sale was moved from May to September. For information, go to mountainview.gov and type *citywide garage sale* in the Search box. Note that the sales will be advertised as open from 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., so sellers can expect shoppers at 8:00 a.m., ready or not.



Recycling theft

The City urges us to help prevent and to report recycling theft. Information is at mountainview.gov/scavenging.

What's happening in our City?

One of the recommendations that Mayor Pat Showalter made at the Annual Meeting was to subscribe to the city's publications that interest you. Find the Newsletters list at mountainview.gov/whats-happening.

Meet the people who run our city on September 12

Every other year three city council members plus the heads of most city departments (including Police and Public Works) update us on their plans and respond to our questions. This year's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 6:30 p.m., at Crittenden Middle School. Mark your calendar now and bring your comments, concerns, and compliments to the people who run our city.

The members on this year's Neighborhoods Committee are Mayor Pat Showalter (Chair) and councilmembers Lucas Ramirez and Emily Ann Ramos.



Pat Showalter



Lucas Ramirez



Emily Ann Ramos

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Oak Gall Ink - History and Recipe

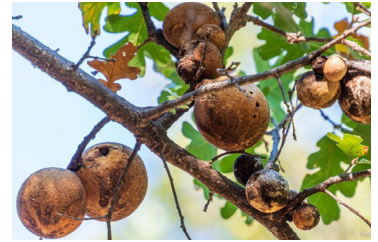
By Olga Bright

Oak gall ink is made from oak galls, which are frequently found on oak trees in the summer and fall. The oak galls are, typically, light brown and spherical shaped. They are not harmful to the tree. Oak galls are a result of a wasp laying eggs on a branch and the wasp's injection of chemical secretions into the branch. In response, the tree grows a "skin" over the eggs. This benefits the wasp eggs because it provides both protection and nutrients. As the insects mature, the gall grows to accommodate them. When the larvae reach maturity, they chew their way out of the oak gall. A close examination of an oak gall will reveal small holes which provide the exit for the wasp.

Oak gall ink has been used for centuries. It is easy to make, is a permanent ink, and is a black ink. Surviving manuscripts from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance were written with oak gall ink. In fact, laws were passed in England and France specifying the content of oak gall ink for all royal and legal records. In the United States, the Declaration of Independence was signed with Oak Gall ink.

The "recipe" for oak gall ink is simple. I tried this in my

home for fun. If you want to try this you will need to collect 2 or 3 oak galls, a small amount of water or preferably distilled water, some iron sulfate (which came in two small 'pill' bottles) and some gum Arabic. I purchased both on Amazon. Utensils that you will need are a small, strong plastic bag (such as a quart freezer bag), a hammer, a small plastic tub (such as a yogurt tub), some kind of filter paper, (for example, a coffee filter) or cheese cloth, and preferably a funnel and an old spoon and a teaspoon.



Method:

1. First crush the galls in the plastic bag to form a powder. To make a small amount of ink you will need 2 oz. of crushed galls.
2. When the galls are crushed add about ½ to 2/3 cup water (or distilled water) and stir.
3. Leave the gall and water mixture for 5 days on a sunny window sill.
4. Then pour the mixture through filter paper or cheese cloth (I used filter paper) until there is only sediment left in the filter paper.
5. Add about 1 oz. of iron sulfate. I used 90 "pills," which I had to crush first.
6. Then add 1 teaspoon of Gum Arabic and stir.

Finished! Test it out on some paper. You may need to adjust the gum Arabic thickening agent. Have fun!

Warning: This ink is acidic and permanent so be careful with your clothes and where you prepare the ink! It's not a good idea to put it on something that you don't want ruined should it spill.

Repair Café – August 24 and September 15

Don't toss it, repair it. The next Repair Café sessions are on Saturday, August 24, at the Santa Clara Central Park Library, and Saturday, September 15, at the Museum of American Heritage in Palo Alto, both 11:00–3:00. Visit repaircafesv.org for information.



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Monta Loma School news: From the PTA

By Tanya Ngo, Vice President

Calling all MLE families! We hope you had a fun summer and are ready to start another exciting school year. To kick things off, the PTA is throwing a Juice Box Social for new and returning students on Sunday, August 11, 2:00–4:00 p.m. at the blue playground behind the school. Come meet other families over some juice and snacks.



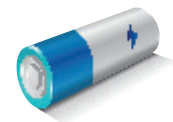
Parents and guardians, we've got you covered with a morning pick-me-up!



For the first few days of school, the PTA will be offering coffee and snacks by the Multi Use Room (MUR) entrance. Stop by, grab a treat, and learn more about what the PTA does and how you can get involved. See you all there!

Want to know more about the PTA? Check our website: montalomapta.org.

Hazardous waste drop-off August 24



Household hazardous waste drop-off events enable you to dispose of paint, oil, cleaners, batteries, solvents and other household chemical products safely. The next scheduled date is August 24. Call 408-299-7300 or visit hhw.org to make an appointment. You might invite neighbors to help fill your trunk.

November 5 election; can you vote?



You can check your registration at tinyurl.com/mlnvtreg or 1-866-430-8683 toll free. If you need to update your registration, you can do it online at registertovote.ca.gov. The registration deadline is Monday, October 21. All registered voters receive a mail-in ballot.

To help you decide among the candidates running for local offices, their websites and public forums will be posted on montaloma.org by early September. The page will be kept updated and notices sent to the MLN email list and NextDoor.

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- Access to our Rolodex of tradespeople
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