

Peaceful Mountain Monitor

MONTE SERENO FALL 2020 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Back Cover - Rosemary Pierce



Our City Never Sleeps

Dear Monte Sereno Residents,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones well. It has been a long six months for us, and our strength and community spirit has carried us far. Monte Sereno City Hall was closed from March 17th until August 3rd, and all staff and council meetings have been conducted via teleconferencing and Zoom. Even during this time of closure, our City never sleeps, and staff and Council have been working diligently on your behalf. Here is a snapshot of what's been happening:

- City staff have been busy processing building and planning permits and providing other essential services for residents.
- City staff have created a touchless and by-appointment system for residents and applicants to drop off building plans, planning applications, and payments.
- In addition, City staff have been developing an online building permitting system that will allow online submission of applications and payments and online tracking of the progress of those applications,
- project comments, and inspections through a web-based system.
- Monte Sereno City Council has implemented numerous other process improvements and business development processes in our City operations, improving our annual budgeting process and adopting new financial policies to ensure the fiscal health of our City. Our budget is available for viewing via ClearGov on our City website. (See the article containing the URL on Page 2).
- City staff have also installed a new camera system in our council chambers. When our City Council meetings go live again, we will have the capability to broadcast our meetings in real time on our newly established YouTube Channel, making it much easier for residents to view.
- Monte Sereno City Council and Monte Sereno City staff have worked together to develop an ambitious list of Strategic Goals and a work plan for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. These goals are featured on Page 6.
- Council and staff have successfully negotiated a labor contract that will benefit the City and its employees for years to come.
- Council appointed 15 Youth Commissioners and created a new Community Based Organization Grants process.
- Numerous improvements have been made to our streets and facilities. We look forward to your visiting City Hall.

- Monte Sereno City Council formally recognized and adopted its Mission Statement on May 12, 2020:

The Mission of the City of Monte Sereno is to provide high-quality services to residents in an efficient, transparent, and fiscally responsible manner that preserves and enhances the unique residential character of Monte Sereno, protects natural resources and minimizes resident impacts to the environment, and protects and enhances the health, safety, mobility, and welfare of residents.

Lastly, I hope you enjoy reading our humble publication, "The Peaceful Mountain Monitor." Monte Sereno staff have established guidelines for residents to submit content for future editions. We look forward to your stories, poetry, recipes, craft ideas, pet photos or other creative endeavors in our next edition.

Monte Sereno has much to be proud of and even more to look forward to. And I look forward to the months ahead in our great city 😊.

Please share your comments at llawler@cityofmontesereno.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Liz Lawler, Mayor
City of Monte Sereno



RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING RESIDENTS



With a willingness to put others first and contribute to her community, Marian Gault, a longtime resident of the City of Monte Sereno, continues to inspire those who meet her.

Along with her husband Ned, Marian was formerly a dance instructor and an educator.

With a passion for the arts, Marian shared her calligraphy talents with the youth of the Cambrian School District

for more than 20 years. Marian's skills in calligraphy were so accomplished, she became a two-time winner of the annual National Handwriting Day Contest.

Marian Gault celebrated her 100th birthday in 2020. Thank you, Marian, for 100 years of your jovial spirit and your commitment to community. We are proud to have you as a resident of Monte Sereno!

2021 Budget Book Adopted

Our adopted Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 Budget document provides Monte Sereno City residents with key information about revenue sources and the direction of Monte Sereno City Council in relation to their allocation. The budget was constructed in consultation with each department, with an extensive evaluation of current and projected future economic considerations.

The budget approach Monte Sereno utilized to determine levels of expenditure is an initial evaluation on expected revenue, followed by an outlined expenditure plan, which fits within those revenue expectations. In summary, our budget outlines a forward thinking and sustainable path towards fiscal sustainability.

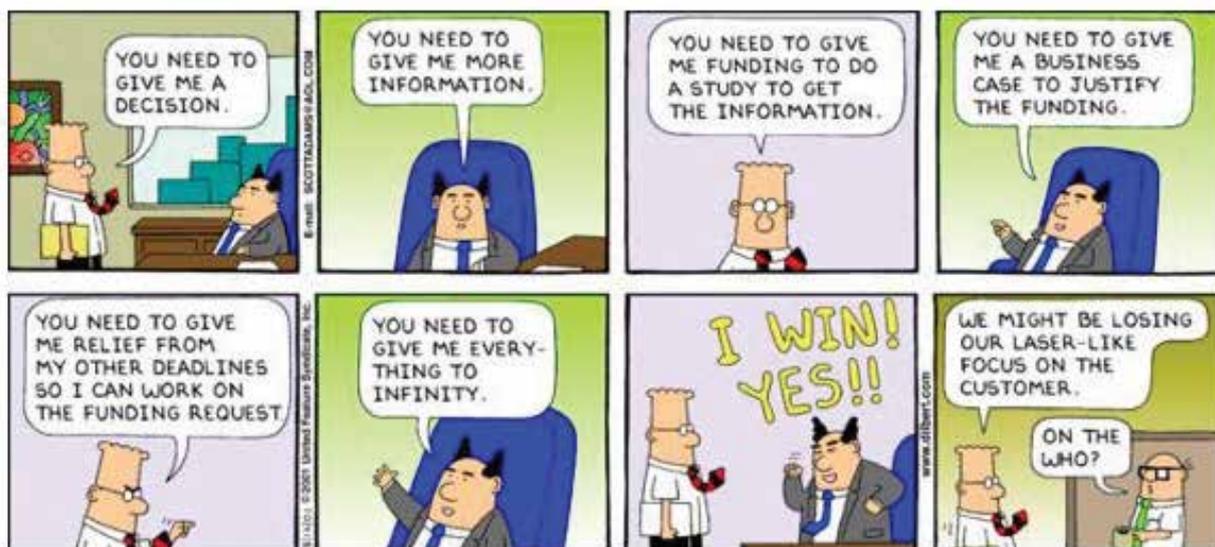
Monte Sereno Staff is pleased to present you the FY 2020-2021 budget in a new format, powered by Cleargov. The document is presented in a visual format with plenty of data, charts, and graphs for the end user. In addition, photos and narratives make this budget presentation more representative of what Monte

Sereno residents have come to expect, regarding transparency and fiscal management.

One can view the budget document online, located at this URL: [https://city-monte-sereno-ca-budget-book.cleargov.com/fy-2020_2021-adopted-budget-\(draft-7_9_2020\)/2021/budget-overview/strategic-plan](https://city-monte-sereno-ca-budget-book.cleargov.com/fy-2020_2021-adopted-budget-(draft-7_9_2020)/2021/budget-overview/strategic-plan). Viewers can navigate to different categories, ranging from Introduction to Appendix, by operating the blue arrow and accessing dropdown menus in each category. When viewing charts, readers can hover over graphs with their cursors to view expanded details. Readers can also choose between different charts, viewing the same data (bar, mountain, and pie charts), by clicking the icon in the lower right corner of the charts.

For questions about Monte Sereno's FY 2020-2021 Adopted Budget, please contact Monte Sereno City Administration at 408-354-7635 or send an email to finance@cityofmontesereno.org.

What is a Budget?



Make a Go Bag

Be Prepared! Not Scared!



Disasters can strike at any time and in any place. Be prepared and pack a 'Go bag'. A Go Bag is a small, portable bag or backpack that you grab on your way out the door.

Pack a separate Go Bag for yourself and every member of your household, and keep stored in an accessible location. Pack each persons bag with their specific, essential items.

#BeReady #PreparedNotScared

Food & Water

- Water is essential! Water in carton containers has a longer shelf life
- Non-perishable food, such as, granola, energy bars, MREs, etc.
- Water filtration tablets or a portable filtered water bottle



Clothing & Shelter

- Complete change of clothing, include a long-sleeved shirt, pants and sturdy shoes
- Rain jacket or poncho
- Work gloves
- Blanket or sleeping bag



Personal Needs

- Travel size toiletry items, feminine products or other needed items
- Extra pair of eyeglasses
- N95 respirator masks
- First-aid kit
- Whistle
- Multipurpose tool with a knife and can opener
- Cash, including small bills and quarters



Basic Electronics

- Phone charger and an additional battery pack
- LED flashlight and a headlamp
- Extra batteries
- Emergency NOAA radio



Medication

- Pack three days, or more if possible, worth of each of your prescriptions
- If you use an oxygen tank, have a portable version



Pet Needs

- Collar with ID tag and leash
- Food, water and bowl
- Pet carrier
- Vaccination records



For more disaster preparedness information: www.ready.gov
For more information and free disaster preparedness classes: www.sccfd.org

Rev8-23-19



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Proudly serving the communities of Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga and the unincorporated surrounding areas

Fascinating Facts

The Legacy of Billy Jones

On the right is a photo of William “Billy” Jones from the early 1940’s. Billy Jones founded the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad, which was originally located in Monte Sereno on Daves Avenue and Winchester Boulevard, in 1943.

In 1953, Walt Disney himself tried to purchase the Wildcat Railroad for his coming attraction called “Disneyland.” Billy Jones and Walt Disney became friends and Jones consulted with Disney on the installation of the Disneyland Railroad.

On July 13th, 1970 (or just 50 short years ago), the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad was relocated to Oak Meadow Park and Vasona Lake County Park. To this day, kids of all ages enjoy riding the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad. Through the decades, the trains have traveled at least a million miles with at least a million smiles.



**Did
You
Know?**

Did you know the City of Monte Sereno contains 1.6 square miles of land, yet has 12.43 miles of public roadways? Did you further know there are approximately 550 street signs governing roads in Monte Sereno?

If you know of a street sign in need of care or replacement which is faded, bent, damaged, stained or graffitied, please contact the City of Monte Sereno. If you are aware of other road hazards, such as fallen trees, overgrown vegetation, potholes, or other items which need care, please call or email Monte Sereno at 408-354-7635 or info@cityofmontesereno.org.

Together, we can keep Monte Sereno looking “ship shape,” like Admiral Thomas Inglis, Monte Sereno’s first mayor, envisioned.



Return of the Scenic Highway

The City of Monte Sereno has one of the first five State of California Scenic Highways, located within our City limits. In 1968, a 3.4-mile stretch of Saratoga-Los Gatos Road, also known as Highway 9, was designated as a Scenic Highway to preserve the natural beauty of the area and to protect and preserve historic sites, such as Villa Montalvo Arboretum and Hakone Gardens.

This summer, staff of Monte Sereno installed signs in two locations on Saratoga-Los Gatos Road, commemorating the significance of the Scenic Route. For more information on this subject and other Monte Sereno history, please visit the History Section on our website, located at www.cityofmontesereno.org.



PREPARE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFFS

High temperatures, extreme dryness and record-high winds have created conditions in our state where any spark at the wrong time and place can lead to a major wildfire. If severe weather threatens a portion of the electric system, it may be necessary for PG&E to turn off electricity in the interest of public safety. This is known as a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). While you may not have an account with PG&E, you could still be impacted.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT



PSPS Event

In 2020, PG&E is improving our PSPS program by making events smaller in size, shorter in length and smarter for our customers.



Ongoing Updates

Regular updates will be provided through social media, local news, radio and at pge.com/pspsupdates.



Power Restoration

After the weather has passed and it is safe to do so, our crews will visually inspect for damage to ensure the lines are safe to energize. In 2020, we are seeking to cut restoration times in half so that we restore power within 12 daylight hours after severe weather has passed. However, depending on weather conditions or if any repairs are needed, for planning purposes, we suggest customers prepare for multiple-day outages.

HOW YOU CAN PREPARE



Update Your Contact Information

with your landlord or Master Meter account holder and ensure they have your most current contact information so they can share notifications with you in advance of an event. Tenants and other non-account holders are also encouraged to learn how to sign up for PSPS ZIP Code Alerts at pge.com/pspszipcodealerts or by calling **1-877-900-0743**.



Build or Restock Your Emergency Supply Kit

with flashlights, fresh batteries, first aid supplies and cash. For additional information please visit pge.com/psps.



Plan for Medical Needs

like medications that require refrigeration or devices that need power. If you or someone in your household requires the use of a medical or life support device, apply for PG&E's Medical Baseline program at pge.com/medicalbaseline to receive additional energy at the lowest price and extra notifications in advance of a PSPS event.



Follow Us on Social Media

including Twitter ([@PGE4Me](https://twitter.com/PGE4Me)), Facebook ([@pacificgasandelectric](https://facebook.com/pacificgasandelectric)) and Instagram ([@pacificgasandelectric](https://instagram.com/pacificgasandelectric)) for real-time updates. Information will also be posted on pge.com.

More information about PG&E's Community Wildfire Safety Program, including tips to help you prepare, is also available at pge.com/wildfiresafety. You can email us at wildfiresafety@pge.com or call us at **1-866-743-6589** with any questions.



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In Memory of Rosemary Pierce

Late last year, long time Monte Sereno resident and former City Manager, Rosemary Pierce, passed away at the age of 86. Rosemary began her Monte Sereno career in 1980 as a part-time counter clerk and eventually worked her way up to the level of City Manager in 1986.

Rosemary was instrumental in acquiring and converting what was formally the American Red Cross building into our current Monte Sereno City Hall facility. Previously, the entire Monte Sereno City Hall facility was operated from a 950 square foot building; today, the facility is housed in 3,100 square feet.

Rosemary was willing and proud to wear “many hats” for the City of Monte Sereno. Filling in as the City Clerk, Building Inspector, or Planning Director was a regular occurrence. And of course, preparing the annual budget and providing after hours emergency services were all part of the routine.

Rosemary loved the City of Monte Sereno, the residents of Monte Sereno, and her position as City Manager. She was honored to serve Monte Sereno, and Monte Sereno was blessed to have her.

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 LABOUVE.....(408) 712-1705
 dlabouve@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

**GLOISY GONZALEZ-LANGARICA,
 ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK II/DEPUTY CITY CLERK**
 gloisy@cityofmontesereno.org

JEANNIE HAMILTON, CITY PLANNER

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JESSICA KAHN, CITY ENGINEER

jessica@cityofmontesereno.org

MICHELE KWONG, ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK II

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

Graphic Designer: Michele Kwong