

Peaceful Mountain Monitor



Monte Sereno Spring 2021 Community Newsletter

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A Message from the Mayor

Dear Monte Sereno Residents,

We hope you find this spring's edition of our semi-annual newsletter, "The Peaceful Mountain Monitor," both engaging and informative.

As we shift into spring and summer, it is with renewed optimism and hope the worst of the pandemic is behind us. Like spring, we are beginning to see new signs of life and normalcy as kids return to school, local businesses re-open, and we return to life, both as remembered and with an eye for what can be in the future.

Throughout the pandemic, Monte Sereno City Council and staff have been working hard to maintain City services. Employees, volunteer commissioners, a code enforcement officer, and a member of our City Council team were directly impacted by the virus. Yet, we persevered, safely ran our City government operations, and served the public without pause.

In December, Monte Sereno contributed directly to fighting Covid-19 by converting our City facility into a testing center. Approximately 130 residents and members of the public visited City Hall for free Covid testing. Monte Sereno continues its efforts in the battle against Covid by monitoring Santa Clara County public health order guidance

and informing residents about vaccinations, testing locations, and best safe practices.

For 2021, City Council agenda topics and City staff deliverables have already queued up many anticipated improvements. Monte Sereno will engage our public to participate in updating our General Plan, developing our response to the state-mandated housing element, and improving our objective design standards.

This year Monte Sereno is the host City for the monthly West Valley Mayors and Managers meetings. We work closely with Cupertino, Campbell, Saratoga, and Los Gatos in a collaborative effort to leverage joint power and resources, as we address important topics like California housing legislation, Regional Housing Needs Assessment numbers (RHNA), wildfire resilience, improved mobility, and addressing a proposed significant increase in consumer water rates. Also included in Monte Sereno's work plan for 2021 is our continued focus on the environment, fiscal stewardship, community engagement, public safety, quality of life, inclusion for all members of our public, and as quickly as possible, the return of our annual City picnic!

As Monte Sereno approaches its 64th anniversary of incorporation, the City is enjoying its best years, preserving the City's traditional character, and embracing positive change. We can say, with utmost sincerity, that we live in one of the very best communities in the Valley of Hearts Delight.

We must continue our work together to preserve Monte Sereno as the neighborly treasure we cherish and enjoy. As your Mayor in 2021, I am here to help make that happen. Please join us at City Council meetings via Zoom at www.cityofmontesereno.org or please share your questions, comments, feedback, and suggestions directly with me or with staff who manage the City day to day. I can be reached at sleuthold@cityofmontesereno.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Shawn Leuthold
Mayor, City of Monte Sereno



RECOGNIZING AN OUTSTANDING RESIDENT: MICHAEL FRANGADAKIS



With a passion to serve his community and his country, long-time Monte Sereno resident, Michael Frangadakis, is an inspiration to all who know him. Once when hypothetically asked, "Why are you here?" at the Los Gatos Veterans Memorial Dedication, Michael's response was, "I can't answer that question, because I have not been able to answer that question to my family for 50 years."

Drafted as an Army Medic in the Vietnam War, Santa Clara County's 2020 "Veteran of the Year" is still actively serving in the California State National Guard as a Command Sergeant Major. In addition to his military service, Michael is

a Rotarian, an active member of the Greek Orthodox Church, Fisher House, Santa Clara County Commissioner of Veteran's Affairs, and the founder of The Los Gatos Veteran's Memorial and Support Foundation.

Recently, Michael and his National Guard squad have been serving as many as 3,000 meals a day to residents in need because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Michael has generously offered his time and talents to support Monte Sereno's efforts to complete a Veteran's Memorial, located at the Monte Sereno Civic Center.

Fascinating Facts

A Walk on the Wimberly or the Wimberley?



Wimberly Walkway is a well-loved and traveled 388-foot (0.0735 mile) pathway, which connects the end of Zena Avenue to Eaton Avenue in Monte Sereno. The walkway is actually an easement, which runs between neighboring homes' fences, before it meanders towards Eaton Avenue.

Thirty-five years ago, a neighboring resident approached then City administrator, Donald Wimberly, and requested the walkway be abandoned by Monte Sereno. Mr. Wimberly had concerns about safety, because the walkway was in poor condition at the time. In the tradition of Admiral Inglis' frugality, Mr. Wimberly recommended abandonment of the easement to the Monte Sereno City Council.

At the public hearing, there was strong resident support for the City of Monte Sereno to maintain ownership of the walkway. The Monte Sereno City Council subsequently voted to make improvements and maintain possession of the walkway.

It was determined that the steep part of the walkway was to be poured in concrete (about 2/3 of the walkway), a handrail was to be installed, and posts installed at each end to restrict bicycle speeds.

In the fall of 2020, Monte Sereno staff installed new wood handrails, powerwashed and patched the concrete, and

did some general clean-up of the walkway area. Staff also installed signage to officially commemorate the walkway as Wimberly Walkway.

Neighbors have applied artwork and sculptures, made mostly from organic materials found along the Wimberly Walkway. The artwork was applied to the east-facing neighbor's fence, who graciously granted permission. Former Monte Sereno Mayor, Jack Lucas, affectionately dubbed the art area "The Gallery."

In addition to the art installations, neighbors also perform light maintenance to the walkway. Blowing leaves, trimming vegetation, and litter removal are part of their volunteer efforts.

In honor of his colleague, Don Wimberly, Jack Lucas applied a small plaque to The Gallery, depicting the name of the walkway as "Wimberley Walkway." Mr. Lucas was inspired by a former Old West trading post, called "Wimberley Texas." Also, Mr. Lucas desired to make the site more aesthetically pleasing with the plaque.

If you're strolling around the La Rinconada neighborhood, please come visit this special Monte Sereno treasure.

DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know the City of Monte Sereno owns and maintains 14 community trees? Yes, in addition to the trees on the Civic Center property, Monte Sereno owns City trees at these locations:

- Six (6) Redwoods on Winchester Boulevard and Daves Avenue
- Six (6) Pines on Robin Anne Lane and Karl Avenue
- Two (2) Oaks on Greenwood Road and Highway 9

In 2020, the City Council of Monte Sereno voted to make Monte Sereno a "Tree City." This means Monte Sereno budgeted \$2 per capita per year or the equivalent in volunteer hours for tree maintenance and planting trees in the City of Monte Sereno. An annual Arbor Day Celebration will be held in the City of Monte Sereno at a future date, to be determined.



What is STORMWATER

OR URBAN RUNOFF?

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Anything that goes down the storm drains flows directly into local waterways.

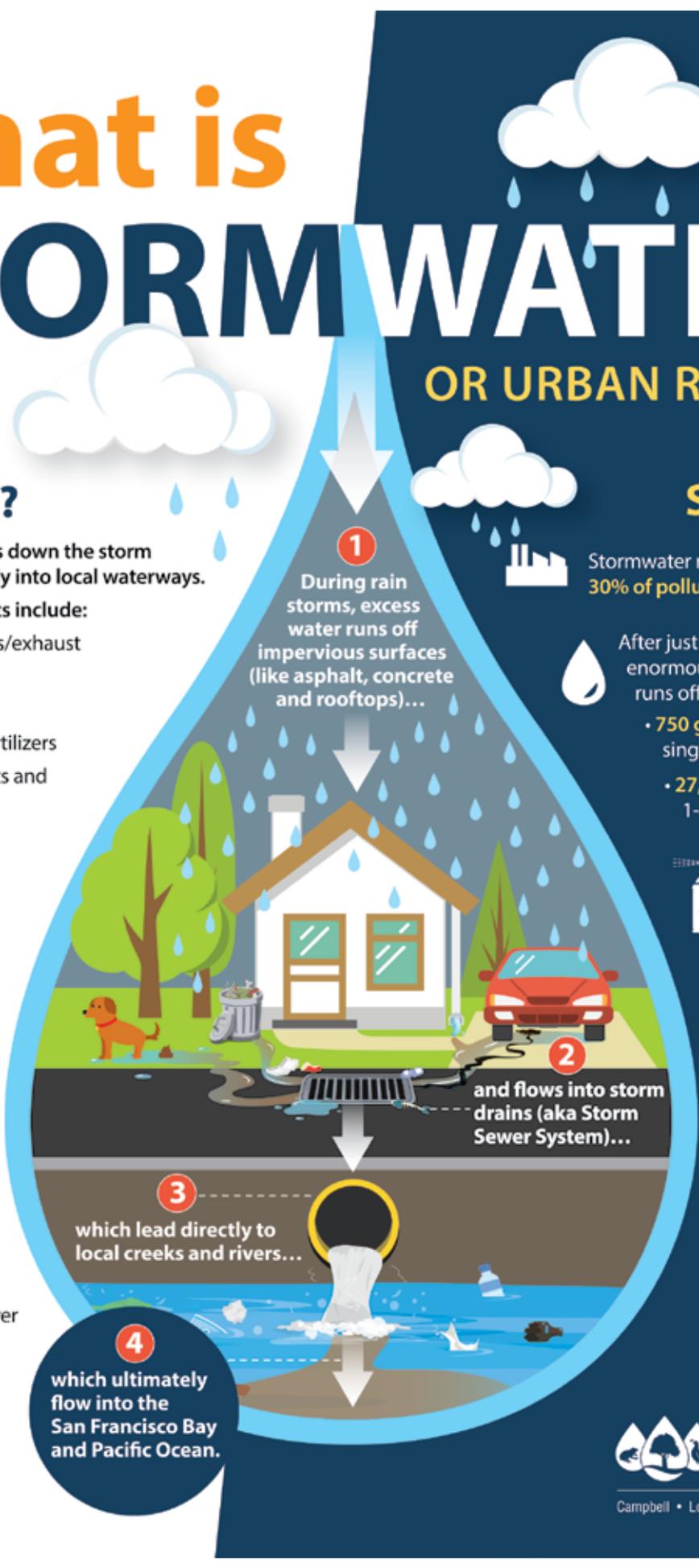
Common pollutants include:

- Automotive fluids/exhaust
- Sediment/dirt
- Illegal dumping
- Pesticides and fertilizers
- Cleaning products and detergents
- Animal waste
- Trash and litter
- Mercury, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), and copper

Stormwater pollution affects the health of plants, fish, other wildlife—and people too!



In the West Valley, stormwater runoff never goes to the Sanitary Sewer System. It flows untreated directly into local waterways.



1

During rain storms, excess water runs off impervious surfaces (like asphalt, concrete and rooftops)...



Stormwater runoff accounts for about **30% of pollutants** in our waters.



After just one inch of rain, an enormous amount of stormwater runs off into storm drains:

- **750 gallons** from a typical single family home
- **27,000 gallons** from a 1-acre parking lot



After a rain storm, between **5 and 10 different types of pesticides** can be detected in local creeks.



Every year, **7 trillion tiny pieces of plastic** flow into San Francisco Bay from stormwater. (That's about 1 million pieces each for every man, woman and child in the Bay Area!)

3

which lead directly to local creeks and rivers...

4

which ultimately flow into the San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean.



West Valley
Clean Water Authority

Campbell • Los Gatos • Monte Sereno • Saratoga

How is the West Valley Clean Water Authority MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

All municipalities must comply with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit to discharge stormwater to the storm sewer system. The permit controls water pollution by regulating sources that discharge pollutants into waterways.

The West Valley Clean Water Program Authority provides facilitation of collaborative stormwater management efforts on behalf of the West Valley communities of **Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga** to comply with municipal NPDES requirements. The NPDES Permit requires municipalities to develop and implement plans to control pollution in stormwater runoff.



Focused programs include:



Municipal Operations

Street sweeping, road maintenance, and corporation yard activities.



New Development and Redevelopment

Implementing green stormwater infrastructure features into private and public projects. These features allow stormwater runoff to soak into the ground and be filtered by soil.



Industrial/Commercial Site Controls

Educating business owners and inspecting over 350 industrial and commercial sites a year or annually.



Illicit Discharge Controls

Maintaining a system for receiving complaints of illegal discharges to storm drains; responding and investigating reports.



Construction Site Controls

Educating property owners and developers and inspecting construction sites to ensure they are implementing practices to prevent stormwater pollution.



Public Education/Outreach

Educating and engaging the community through social media, public events, and classroom presentations.



Water Quality Monitoring

Assessing local creek health and identifying sources of impacts.



Trash Mitigation

Installing trash capture devices in storm drains, conducting creek and homelessness camp cleanups, and banning single-use products, like plastic bags and styrofoam.



Reduction of Pesticides/Fertilizers/Herbicides

Managing municipal facilities and parks with least toxic chemicals and educating the community on alternatives to pesticides for controlling common home and garden pests.



Pollutants of Concern (POC) Management

Controlling discharges of mercury (thermometers and fluorescent light bulbs), polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) (demolition of old buildings), and copper (ornamental features and pool/spa discharge).

Report a Spill:

408-354-5385 • CleanCreeks.org



Campbell • Los Gatos • Monte Sereno • Saratoga



@cleancreeks



WINCHESTER BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Monte Sereno residents may have noticed ongoing construction work along Winchester Boulevard. What is entitled the “Winchester Boulevard Class IV Bikeway Project” design process began with community meetings in September of 2020 and a final project design was chosen in December of 2020.

Improvements are being constructed in two phases and in coordination with the Town of Los Gatos. Major deliverables of the project are improved pedestrian and bicycle safety, traffic calming, and encouraged bicycle and pedestrian transportation versus automobile use.

Phase 1, which is nearly complete, involved PG&E and utility undergrounding work. Phase 1 work also included removal of large wooden power poles and relocation of

voltage transmission to underground locations.

Phase 2 of the project will begin in the summer of 2021 and the work includes extensive repaving and remarking of Winchester Boulevard at four major intersections. The four intersections receiving improvements are Wimbledon Road, Lark Avenue, Daves Avenue, and Blossom Hill Road. Aesthetic differences include green bike lanes and ladder-style crosswalks. In addition, one northbound lane on Winchester Boulevard will be eliminated, and various other safety barriers and protections will be installed.

The project received its funding through the City of Monte Sereno, the Town of Los Gatos, and a clean air grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.



MONTE SERENO WELCOMES NEW CITY CLERK AND FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Monte Sereno is pleased to announce the recent hiring of two new key employees.

First on deck is Michelle Radcliffe. Ms. Radcliffe’s position is City Clerk, replacing previous City Clerk Andrea Chelemengos who resigned in April 2020. Ms. Radcliffe possesses a Master Municipal Clerk designation (MMC) and is a Notary Public. She joined Monte Sereno with 20 years of local government experience and was previously employed by the City of San Jose, the Town of Los Gatos, the Mid-Peninsula Open Space District, and the City of Sunnyvale.



Monte Sereno is also proud to announce the hiring of Reynold Samoranos as Finance and Administrative Officer. Mr. Samoranos replaces long-time Finance Officer Sue L’ Heureux. Mr. Samoranos has an MBA from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor’s Degree from the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley. Mr. Samoranos has been employed by various agencies in the roles of CFO and Controller for more than 30 years.

Welcome aboard!

NAME THAT QUAIL CONTEST

For 64 years, the California Quail has adorned the City Seal of Monte Sereno. But what is the Monte Sereno quail’s name? This question was posed to the Monte Sereno Youth Commission in January of 2021. The Youth Commission unanimously decided it was time to “Name that Quail.” why you selected your choice of name. Our only other parameter is we do not know if the Monte Sereno quail is a male or female, so please select a gender-neutral choice of name to cityclerk@cityofmontesereno.org. and officiate the naming of the Monte Sereno quail at a future City Council meeting.



In naming the quail, please explain in 164 characters or less name, a pet name, or a mascot name. Please submit your The Monte Sereno City Council will pick the winning entry

S.N.A.P.



Special needs include cognitive, physical disabilities, inability to speak, walk, or understand commands



Individuals with special needs may become disoriented and may not remember their name, address, or familiar places



SNAP is a tool for First Responders to recognize these special needs and assist individuals in an emergency, this information helps adapt our approach in a safe manner



Being aware of any medical or behavioral concerns of individuals with special needs ensures the safety of that individual, the First Responders and our community



FOR MORE INFORMATION

SARAH TADA

Ph: 408-354-6842

Email: stada@losgatosca.gov

JACKIE ROSE

Ph: 408-354-6853

Email: jrose@losgatosca.gov

SCAN ME



LOS GATOS MONTE SERENO POLICE DEPARTMENT

S.N.A.P.

SPECIAL NEEDS AWARENESS PROGRAM



S.N.A.P.

SPECIAL NEEDS AWARENESS PROGRAM

... increasing the safety and security of our community members with special needs

OVERVIEW

S.N.A.P. is designed to increase the safety and security of our community members with special needs by providing First Responders with information that will help them adapt their actions to specific circumstances. Often in responding to emergency calls, situations can unfold rapidly and limit options for the arriving police officers.

WHY S.N.A.P.

Having prior knowledge of a person's special needs, such as autism, hearing impairment, dementia, emotional or behavioral disability, etc. will assist police officers and emergency personnel in resolving calls for assistance in a safer and more effective manner for everyone involved.

If you have a family member with a special need that would benefit from sharing crucial information with First Responders, please consider enrolling them in S.N.A.P.

PARTICIPATION

Participation in S.N.A.P. is completely **voluntary** and **confidential**. Family members determine if their loved one would benefit from participating.

ENROLLMENT

By filling out the S.N.A.P. application, all relevant information would be collected in a confidential database that would only be disclosed to police officers and appropriate emergency personnel via the LGMSPD Dispatch Center. Also, available is a S.N.A.P. bracelet, supplied free of charge, that when worn will assist field personnel in recognizing program participants.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Information is disclosed to officers when responding to an associated address or if contact is made with the individual, alerting officers to accommodations that may need to be considered during the interaction. All information is stored in a confidential database.





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

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
CAMPBELL, CA
PERMIT #7009

Picnic in the Park

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2021
(tentative)

Save the date
for our annual picnic
in Vasona County Park.
RSVPs required;
invitations will be sent
this summer.



Monte Sereno

Because of a purely Personal hate, An idea was born To incorporate A city called Monte Sereno.	For the City of Monte Sereno. His ravings had quite a Far-reaching effect On workmen, as well as The social elect, As to whether 'twere good to Accept or reject The City of Monte Sereno.
An Admiral started this Unholy mess. He decided his charges in Court He would press; He said he would take Absolutely no less Than the City of Monte Sereno.	This Admiral's made of himself Such an ass, That he's tarnished the shine on the Top Navy brass. He's disgusted the whole West Valley en masse On the City of Monte Sereno.
A campaign began with Procrastination, With half told truths and Misrepresentation About this Monte Sereno.	For the Admiral's benefit, Here's a suggestion To settle his troubles Without any question: Why doesn't he move and relieve The congestion And forget about Monte Sereno?
First on his agenda, the Admiral slated A cocktail party. His neighbors were feted, And here a petition was Circulated	

-Written a long time ago in Monte Sereno, author unknown

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
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BRYAN MEKECHUK.....(408) 354-7635
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ROWENA TURNER.....(408) 887-9157
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CITY STAFF

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

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MICHELLE RADCLIFFE, CITY CLERK
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JESSICA KAHN, CITY ENGINEER
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MICHELE KWONG, ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK II/ ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER
michele@cityofmontesereno.org

REYNOLD SAMORANOS, 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