

Peaceful Mountain Monitor

Monte Sereno Fall 2022 Community Newsletter

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A Message from the Mayor

The Picnic: Every year, Monte Sereno hosts a picnic for its residents at Vasona Park. This annual tradition provides an opportunity for the approximately thirty-five hundred residents to enjoy one of the best parks in Santa Clara County. This year's picnic saw about 350 Monte Serenans enjoy the lifting of the pandemic restrictions, as they met their neighbors and enjoyed a delicious barbecue.

The annual picnic is not just a chance for residents to see their neighbors, but also to meet current councilmembers, as well as those who desire to represent them in the next term. This year, the city council will lose two of its outstanding members, Shawn Leuthold and Liz Lawler. Shawn and Liz were both elected in 2018 and have served as mayor. They were councilmembers at a time when almost the entire city staff changed, including City Manager Steve Leonardis, City Planner Diana Perkins, Plan Check Services Ali Fatapour, City Clerk Michelle Estabillo, Finance Officer Reynold Samoranos, City Engineer Jessica Kahn, City Attorney Sergio Rudin, Deputy City Clerk Gloisy Gonzalez-Langarica, and Assistant to the City Manager Michele Kwong. They have done an excellent job ensuring the city provides the best service possible even during the pandemic.

What makes Monte Sereno unique and is among the number one ranked cities in livability in California is not just its amazing climate, redwood trees, and deer and coyote that roam backyards (and sometimes city streets), but its people. On any given day, you may see many residents walking on the street with their dogs and see them stopping to chat with each other or, at the very least, giving a hearty smile and a pleasant wave.

ADUs: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are Monte Sereno's way of responding to the State's mandate for an additional 194 houses. Monte Sereno is a built-out city and ADUs will enable it to comply with this mandate and maintain its unique character. ADUs should provide affordable housing for teachers, city staff, police, and others who work here.

You will be pleased to learn that all Monte Sereno councilmembers and Site and Architectural Commissioners (S&A) have personally committed to providing information about ADUs to residents. They are walking the streets and encouraging residents to complete a letter of intent to construct an ADU as evidence of Monte Sereno's compliance plan. Leading this effort are Shawn Leuthold, Liz Lawler, and Bryan Mekechuk. Special mention is due to Ishaan S. Prasad, the son of S&A Commissioner Pallavi Sharma, who helped produce a video about this project. The city is offering reduced permit fees for those who sign a letter of intent to build an ADU. For further details, please go to www.athomeinmontesereno.com.

Acclaim: The resilience, atmosphere, and aura of Monte Sereno are the results of the spirit of its residents, who have stepped forward and made Monte Sereno the city it is. It is time these outstanding efforts by its citizens be recognized. While several individuals can and ought to be recognized for their dedication, this year Monte Sereno recognized resident Kay Rhind as Citizen of the Year, nominated by Yan Zhao, Saratoga City Councilperson. We hope to recognize a citizen annually and request you nominate individuals whom you believe deserve our thanks.

Kay Rhind is an executive in a high-tech company and a key contributor in the creation of Monte Sereno's Neighborhood Watch program in the Twin Creeks/Via Caballero area. The Neighborhood Watch group promotes unity, addresses crime prevention, and strengthens a sense of community in this neighborhood. Kay's accomplishments include being an active liaison with the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police. Her team initiated the installation of FLOCK cameras that have already led to safer streets for homeowners and their pets. Kay has also reached out to Saratoga Connect with their neighborhood FLOCK cameras. In addition to being recognized by Monte Sereno, Kay has also been honored by County Supervisor Joe Simitian.

Final Thoughts: It has been an honor for me to serve as your mayor. The Monte Sereno City Council, its S&A Commissioners, and the volunteers on the Better Streets Commission appreciate your support and understanding that this city is served by volunteers who dedicate hundreds of hours to do what is best for our city. We do not serve for personal aggrandizement and do appreciate words of guidance, encouragement, and understanding from our neighbors and fellow citizens. We look forward to your continued participation.

Javed Ellahie, Mayor

Stormwater Regulations

What's New?



On July 1, 2022, the Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted the City of Monte Sereno's third iteration of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Regional Permit (MRP 3.0). The new MRP includes requirements that 79 cities, towns, counties, and flood control districts surrounding the San Francisco Bay, including the City of Monte Sereno, must implement to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff on local creeks and the San Francisco Bay.

Everywhere in the West Valley, storm drains collect stormwater from impervious surfaces such as streets, driveways, and sidewalks. The storm drains carry the water to local waterways without any water treatment. It often is contaminated by pollutants that can be toxic to fish, wildlife, and people. Your local storm drain is likely marked, "No Dumping Flows to Bay."

Some sources of stormwater pollution are legacy pollutants, like mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), that continue to impact water quality, but many sources come from our everyday activities, like leaky vehicles, sediment from construction and landscaping projects, pesticides and fertilizers, pet waste, littering, unsheltered populations, and illegal dumping.

MRP 3.0 is a complex permit that maintains and increases the regulatory requirements that public agencies must comply with to address potential impacts associated with discharges to local waterways from municipal storm drain systems. Here is a glimpse of some of the new requirements. Visit www.bit.ly/3c19KsY for more information about the new regulations.

Remember, only rain in the storm drain!
Visit us at www.cleancreeks.org for more information.

New and Redevelopment

Reduces the impervious surface area thresholds for most new and redevelopment projects that must implement low-impact development (LID) measures. Requires the City to implement at least one public Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) project, with a minimum of 0.2 acres treated.

Trash

Establishes numeric targets to reduce trash loads from municipal storm drain systems by 90% by 2023 and 100% by 2025.

Monitoring

Requires new monitoring for trash and effectiveness of LID systems.

PCBs/Mercury

Adds requirements to implement controls from old industrial areas, demolition debris, bridges, and overpasses.

Unsheltered Homeless

Requires mapping of unsheltered populations and management of trash and biological discharges.



Social Justice Award Winner Maya Segev

The City of Monte Sereno congratulates Los Gatos High School student, Maya Segev, on being selected as the winner of the 2022 Monte Sereno Social Justice Award.

The Monte Sereno Youth Commission chartered the Monte Sereno Social Justice Award to recognize students who are working to support human rights and bringing social change in their communities. The winner is selected annually in the month of May by the Monte Sereno Youth Commission.

Maya Segev works with Team Belong, a collaborative of faculty and students who work to establish social justice and positive change on school campus. Additionally,

Maya is a social media and communications intern at Peninsula Bridge, a non-profit dedicated to helping challenged low-income youth with education and personal aspirations. Maya also spoke at the March Against Hate Rally in Los Gatos in November of 2021.

Maya has chosen NextDoor Solutions to Domestic Violence as her recipient organization. The City of Monte Sereno will donate \$1,000 to NextDoor Solutions on behalf of Maya Segev for her outstanding efforts bringing social change.

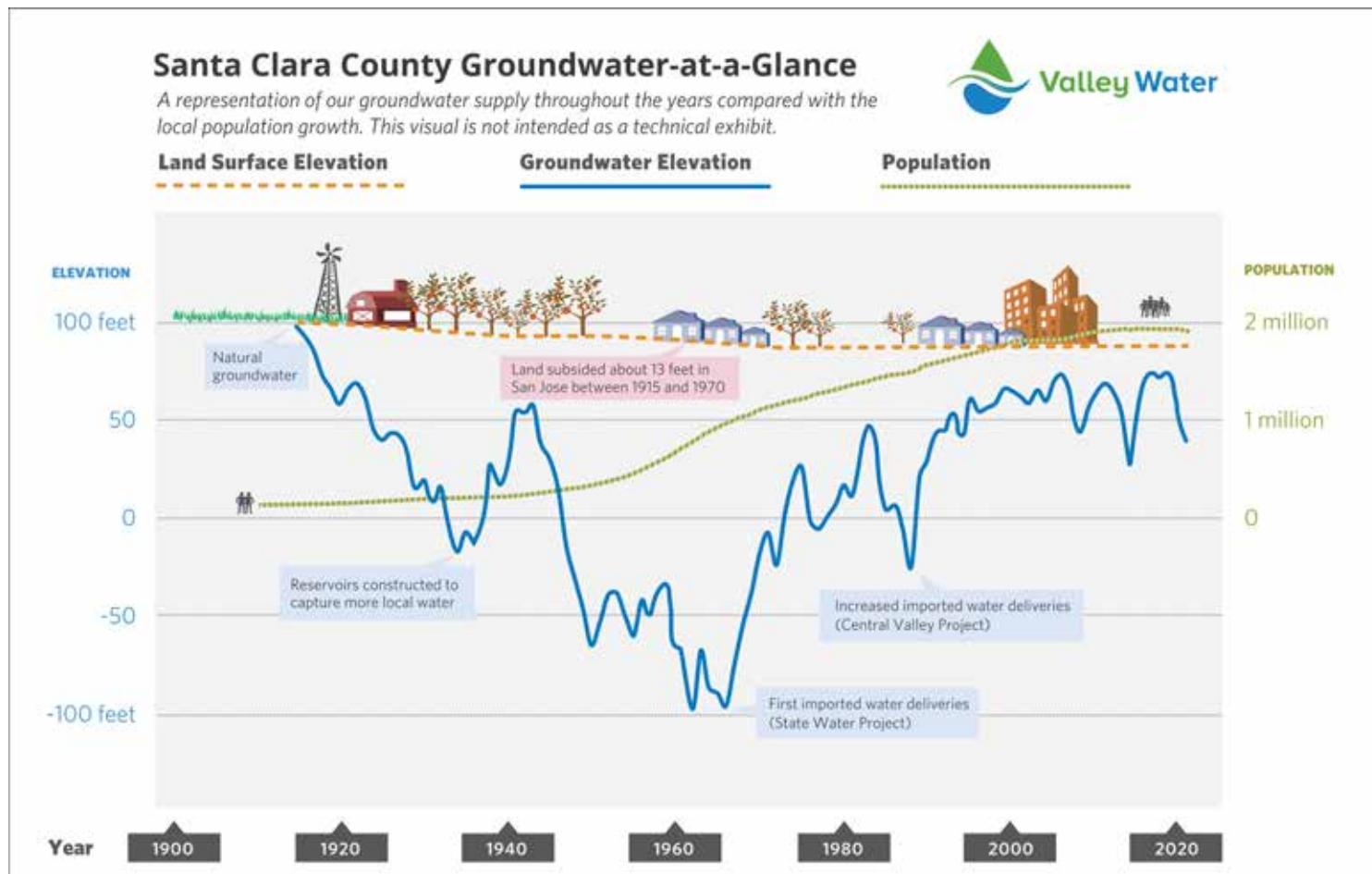
Great work, Maya!

Santa Clara County's Imperiled Water Supply

Rachel Hernandez, Stephen Jackson

Societal function depends on access to a reliable and sustainable source of clean and safe drinking (potable) water. Our current two years of drought is the worst in 1,200 years. Sierra rain and snow provide half of the water used in Santa Clara County (SCC). That wet years will compensate for extended droughts is not scientifically supported. With climate change, SCC's imported water supply has become imperiled.

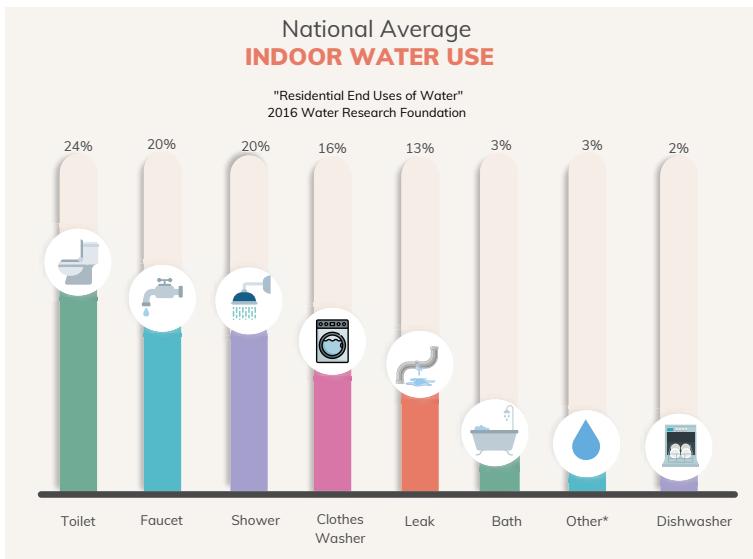
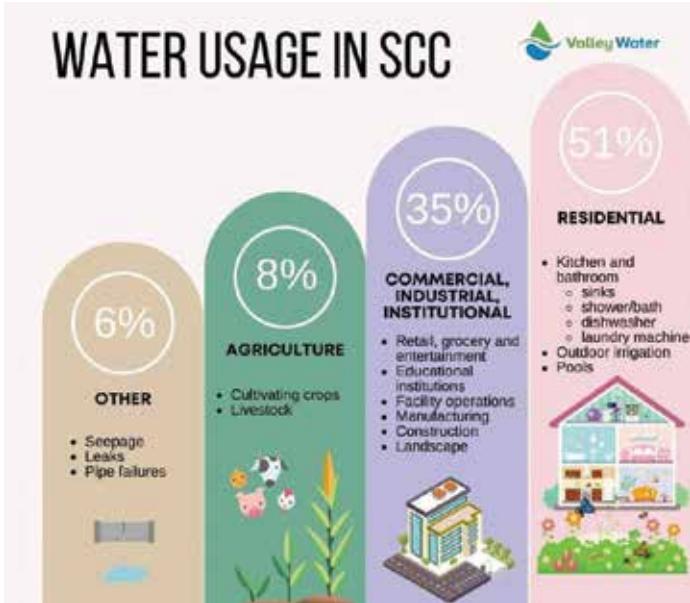
Farmers and ranchers of the 1800s drilled hundreds of wells, causing a drop in groundwater (aquifer) levels and sinking the Valley floor. In an attempt to replenish the aquifers, reservoirs were constructed to capture rainfall.



1940-1960 witnessed a 20-fold increase in SCC population. SCC joined the State Water Project (SWP), importing water from the Delta; however, the 1970s drought diminished SWP allocations. Constructing the San Luis Reservoir (1987) enabled delivery of imported water from the Federal Central Valley Project. Combined with wastewater reuse and conservation, subsidence was halted.

SCC's average yearly water use is 315,000 acre-feet (102.7 billion gallons) per year [1 AFY = 325,851 gallons]. The residential sector uses 51%, a significant portion being for outdoor use. Without conservation, water use would be 25% higher but now, it appears, will require more mandates, regulations, and penalties.

WATER USAGE IN SCC



Extended droughts of the 1990s and further upticks in high-tech industry and population necessitated using recycled water. Used water is delivered to wastewater treatment plants for processing and disinfection and then released into the environment or sold for non-potable usage (e.g. construction and landscaping). 11% of already used water is treated at wastewater facilities and reused for non-potable purposes, accounting for 5% of our water supply.

Wastewater can even be purified to be water safe for potable use. In 2014 the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center (SVAWPC) opened, producing 8 million gallons/day of highly purified water. The SVAWPC employs the cleansing processes of microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and high intensity ultraviolet light disinfection (and soon, advanced oxidation), producing water that rivals distilled water in its purity. While potable in quality, it currently is blended with other recycled wastewater to improve the latter's quality. Advanced purification is a drought-resistant, reliable, resilient, scientifically safe, cost efficient, and expandable source for drinking water. Similar successful projects exist statewide.

Filtered graywater (household wastewater from sinks, tubs/showers, clothing/dishwashers) can be reused for toilets and irrigation. Desalination is a potential source for water supply and uses the same technology as advanced water purification. However, it is extremely costly to remove concentrated salt from ocean water and transport it across the Santa Cruz Mountains. Southern San Francisco Bay's sensitive ecosystem would be negatively impacted by desalination.





Citizen of the Year Kay Rhind



Please join us in congratulating the first ever chosen “Citizen of the Year” for the City of Monte Sereno. At the August 16, 2022, City Council meeting, the Monte Sereno City Council unanimously selected Kay Rhind as Monte Sereno’s Citizen of the Year.

Kay was nominated by a peer for creating a Neighborhood Watch program in coordination with the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department. Kay was subsequently recognized by Mayor Javed Ellahie at the 2022 Monte Sereno annual city picnic.

Kay takes the lead, communicating frequently with the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department, as well as with an emergency preparedness group, to coordinate events, meet-ups, and get togethers to raise awareness about crime and home break-ins. Kay organizes events where residents have the opportunity to get to know each other and become the “eyes and ears” of their neighborhoods. Kay and her team

leaders lead efforts for the installation of license plate readers and Neighborhood Watch street signs and also create protocols for reporting home break-ins, crimes, suspicious activities, unsafe motorists, and keeping pets safe.

Kay continues to lead and is planning to incorporate the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program as part of her Neighborhood Watch Group to include disaster preparedness, fire evacuation, search and rescue, and fostering a team spirit of neighbors helping neighbors in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency.

In addition, Kay has organized her Neighborhood Watch Group to participate in community clean-ups, block parties, and other activities that strive to improve the quality of life in Monte Sereno. Congratulations, Kay, on a job well done!

Outstanding Resident Richard Tam

During the great pandemic of 2020-2022, many small businesses, especially restaurants, struggled to make ends meet and cover their overhead expenses. This need prompted Monte Sereno resident, Richard Tam, and his business partner, Brad Kunkel, to create ChefCentury.

ChefCentury is a fully operational kitchen which provides marketing, delivery, and customer service to chefs with no upfront costs. This allows local chefs to showcase their talents with no financial risks and develop their businesses in the food delivery industry.

Richard Tam was not in the culinary business. His previous endeavor was in the self-publishing business. However, from the kindness of his heart, Richard took it upon himself to help multicultural chefs, devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic, deliver healthy and tasty meals

to charities and the greater public at a reasonable cost without the 25-30% delivery charges.

Richard Tam’s winning attitude to “help the small guys” turned a great social cause into a viable business model. Monte Sereno is proud to recognize Richard Tam as an outstanding resident.

 ChefCentury



PICNIC IN THE PARK

On Sunday, August 21, 2022, Monte Sereno residents, councilmembers, staff, and agency partners enjoyed a delicious picnic at Vasona Lake County Park. This event was a wonderful community celebration. Monte Sereno looks forward to seeing everyone again at next year's event in August of 2023.





City of Monte Sereno
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Monte Sereno, CA 95030-4299

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“Make a Difference”

Are you a Monte Sereno resident looking to make a difference in your community? Why not apply for a commission appointment? Monte Sereno is seeking volunteers to serve on the Better Streets Commission, Site and Architectural Commission, and the Monte Sereno Youth Commission. Please explore the great work these commission members do on behalf of our beautiful city at: <https://www.montesereno.org/2181/Commissions-and-Committees>



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



Powered by SeeClickFix

The City of Monte Sereno has launched a new online and mobile application for a request management system, called “**Fix It Monte Sereno**,” 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 Fix It Monte Sereno. Issues will automatically be entered into the database system and channeled to the appropriate department to be resolved. Fix It Monte Sereno 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

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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