A monarch butterfly with vibrant orange wings and black veins is perched on a large, bright pink flower. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The title 'Peaceful Mountain Monitor' is written in a yellow, cursive font in the upper right corner.

Peaceful Mountain Monitor

Monte Sereno Spring 2023 Community Newsletter

Page 2 - A Message from the Mayor

Page 3 - New Staff Welcome

Page 3 - Online Building Permits

Page 4 - Coats and Cans

Page 4 - Fascinating Facts

Page 5 - New Stormwater Requirements

Page 6 - Beautiful Day

Page 6 - Holiday Parade

Page 7 - Silicon Valley Clean Energy

Back Cover - Picnic in the Park

Back Cover - Gas Leaf Blower Survey

Back Cover - Who to Call



A Message from the Mayor

The community center will only be 1,365 sq ft, like a medium-sized Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU). Although our community center will not have a bedroom, it will look and feel like an ADU, complete with kitchen, bathroom and shower, great room, and patio. It will be a showcase for sustainability – energy efficient and all electric, with attractive native and drought tolerant landscaping. All fixtures will be low flow with a rainwater and grey water capture and irrigation system.

Our community center will become a place for residents to meet each other in Monte Sereno. It will be available for social events, consistent with our quiet and understated City. While the details need to be completed, the vision is to increase our community involvement through forming friendships within Monte Sereno.

A benefit of community involvement? A community that cares.

Care and pride may result in more people willing to volunteer their time to participate on our commissions and committees and maybe even run for City Council.

Former Councilmember Shawn Leuthold inspired the City Council to meet Monte Sereno's housing element requirement of 193 new units through ADUs. He led the campaign to solicit non-binding letters of intent by residents to build ADUs. Currently, the State has not accepted or rejected our Housing Element. Our community center will show residents how to design and build an environmentally sustainable ADU with low operating costs.

Showcasing energy efficient and water conservation building with all electric components in low water usage landscape setting will attract interested visitors from our adjacent and nearby communities, which will give Monte Sereno a positive image and profile.

When the annex building was expanded into the post office in 1992, 112 individuals and families donated to fund the expanded building. We will be seeking financial contributions for our community center and look forward to your support.

2023 promises to be a good year!

Bryan Mekechuk, Mayor

I'm honored to be the new Mayor of Monte Sereno. We bought our house in 1997 and love our small city, so being the Mayor is a privilege. As Mayor, my objectives include increasing community involvement by residents, turning the idle and vacant former post office into a vibrant community center, getting our Housing Element approved, and increasing the profile and leadership of Monte Sereno in Santa Clara County.

Although Monte Sereno is safe, quiet, and has great schools, there is little, if any, community spirit and involvement. Multiple residents have said, "Monte Sereno has no identity. Very few people know that Monte Sereno exists." Being small and non-descript has its advantages – one is that we are small enough to have a city picnic each year (please mark your calendar for Sunday, August 27).

One drawback is that it is difficult to meet and interact with others in our community.

Previous city councils tried to turn our vacant former post office into a community center but had difficulty in doing so due to the high cost. Since 2021, there has been much work redefining the role of the community center and how it would be designed and funded.

In January 2023, the City Council formed a Community Center Committee to work with local firm Kohlsaas Architecture to consider alternatives to the previous design. In parallel, Monte Sereno has been pursuing funding. Silicon Valley Clean Energy has awarded Monte Sereno a \$500,000 grant to build an all-electric community center without any natural gas.

Welcome to New Staff

Monte Sereno enthusiastically welcomes the addition of new staff: Alan Cunningham, Charlotte Thomas, and Gloisy Gonzalez-Langarica.



Alan Cunningham is the City's new **Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer**. Mr. Cunningham has many years of experience working in building departments for different cities, as well as in the construction industry as a building contractor. He is proud to have served his country and is a veteran of the US Navy. Mr. Cunningham looks forward to serving the wonderful community of Monte Sereno.



Charlotte Thomas is the City's new **Administrative Clerk II**. For more than a dozen years, Ms. Thomas has been providing administrative support for two of the largest real estate entities in the United States. Her many years of customer service will benefit Monte Sereno residents and customers. Ms. Thomas looks forward to greeting customers and directing their inquiries.



The City of Monte Sereno would like to congratulate/welcome Gloisy Gonzalez-Langarica as the newly appointed **City Clerk**. Mrs. Gonzalez-Langarica began her work with the City of Monte Sereno in October 2018 as Administrative Clerk I, then transitioned to Administrative Clerk II/Deputy City Clerk. Previously, Mrs. Gonzalez-Langarica worked as an Employment Liaison for Momentum for Mental Health, providing employment outreach, advocacy, and education to clients. Mrs. Gonzalez-Langarica received her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology with a Minor in Criminology from Sonoma State University. Mrs. Gonzalez-Langarica is looking forward to continuing to contribute to the City of Monte Sereno to her fullest capacity.

Monte Sereno is proud to have Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Thomas, and Mrs. Gonzalez-Langarica as valued members of the City's team.

Online Building Services Apply for a Building Permit Search Plan Check Status Schedule an Inspection



Online Building Services

Building Permit

Apply for one of the permits below:

- Electrical Panel Replacement
- Furnace Replacement
- Roof Replacement (Re-roof)
- Water Heater Replacement

Plan Check

Search Plan Check Status with a project number or address.

Inspection

Schedule an inspection with a project number or address.

Online Building Permits

The City of Monte Sereno is offering minor building permits, now available online.

The following permits are available online:

- Electrical panel replacement
- Furnace replacement
- Re-roof
- Water heater replacement

Property owners and contractors may choose to obtain one of these building permits online without having to visit City Hall. Permit fees are paid online as part of the process.

Online building permits expand the City's online building permit services, which also include the ability to view plan check comments and schedule building inspections.

Online building permit services are available at: www.epermits.montesereno.org

Coats and Cans



The Monte Sereno Youth Commissioners collected warm coats and canned food for those in need this past holiday season.

Monte Sereno residents generously donated 120 jackets/coats/sweaters for both adults and children, as well as 240 canned food and nonperishable food items.

The Youth Commissioners delivered these items to West Valley Community Services to bring comfort during the holidays.

The City thanks all who shared so generously.



Fascinating Facts

Admiral Thomas Inglis

In 1983, City Founder Admiral Thomas Inglis published a book entitled, "City of Monte Sereno Battle of Peaceful Mountain." This book covered in thorough detail the creation and history of Monte Sereno through its first 25 years.

Monte Sereno residents may not know this fascinating fact. Before founding Monte Sereno, Admiral Thomas Inglis was Chairman of the Lexington Dam Committee (August 1952 - November 1953). Inglis and his fellow committee members dealt with a myriad of controversial issues/concerns from the public during and after construction of the Lexington Dam, including concerns about mosquito control, earthquake damage, county road re-routing, and recreational use of the dam, to name a few.

To stay grounded and enjoy a bit of levity about his dealings while serving on the Lexington Dam Committee, Inglis would recite a "ditty" to his friends at the barber shop. It read like this:

"I went to the dam to fetch some dam water; I asked the dam-keeper if I might have some dam water; The dam-keeper said, 'No, you can't have any dam water;' So I said to the *-ed keeper, 'then keep your *-ed water.'"

By the time the committee disbanded, Admiral Inglis had amassed a large collection of news clippings about his committee's activities. Admiral Inglis credits his participation on the Lexington Dam Committee as part of the reason he was selected by the public as a "Founding Father" of Monte Sereno.

Above is a photograph of the 25th anniversary celebration of Monte Sereno's Incorporation on May 16, 1982. In the center of the photograph is Admiral Inglis himself (front row, seated 7th from the right). The original photo proof was delivered to Monte Sereno City Hall in 2021 by Keith Kelson, who was the photographer for the Los Gatos Times Observer and covered the event.



New Stormwater Requirements for Large, Single-Family Home Development

Beginning July 1, 2023, single-family home projects that create and/or replace 10,000 square feet or more of impervious surface will require new stormwater treatment measures.

Does a single-family home project require stormwater treatment? Beginning July 1, 2023, single-family home projects that create and/or replace 10,000 square feet (sf) or more of impervious surface must meet stormwater quality requirements by including site design measures, source control measures, and Low Impact Development (LID) treatment measures in the project design. Projects could include a new house, house addition, Accessory Dwelling Unit, pool, tennis court, etc., and landscape-only projects. Also, the impervious surface includes any new or replaced off-site improvements, like sidewalk, curb, and gutter, that are part of the project.

Why are stormwater treatment measures being required for this type of project? Local agencies in the Bay Area are responsible for reducing the impacts of stormwater runoff on local creeks and the San Francisco Bay by controlling stormwater pollution. Agencies must comply with the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (MRP) issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Larger development projects have been required to implement stormwater quality controls for over a decade. Beginning July 1, 2023, new MRP requirements mandate stormwater quality controls for large, single-family homes. The new MRP can be found at www.bit.ly/3c19KsY.

How do these regulations affect the design of this type of project? Check with the City's Planning Department on what information is required to be submitted with the project application to determine whether stormwater requirements apply. You may wish to work with an Engineering firm with stormwater treatment requirement experience and to identify which treatment measures can best be incorporated into your project design. Potential features are described below.

Site Design Measures help to reduce stormwater flow and water quality impacts of the project by preserving existing vegetation, reducing the amount of impervious surface using landscaping and/or pervious pavement, and directing flow from roof downspouts to landscaping instead of impervious surfaces.

Source Control Measures prevent potential pollutant sources from contacting stormwater. Examples include storing chemicals indoors and connecting swimming pools and spas to the sanitary sewer system.

LID Stormwater Treatment Measures are designed (engineered) to treat a specific amount of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces by filtration through a special soil media, infiltration into the ground, or storage for future use. These measures reduce the quantity of water and pollutants flowing into storm drains and local creeks. Examples include:



Landscape Dispersion

Landscaped areas can be designed to collect stormwater runoff from building roofs and paved areas. For a landscape design fact sheet, visit www.bit.ly/3DZuZGn.



Landscape Dispersion



Bioretention Areas or Rain Gardens

Bioretention areas or rain gardens are shallow, depressed, landscaped areas that use a special soil mix to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff. For a rain gardens fact sheet, visit www.bit.ly/3LP00iM.



Rain Gardens



Rainwater Harvesting

Rain barrels or cisterns can be used to collect and store rainwater for use in landscape irrigation and toilet flushing. For guidance on determining the storage capacity of a rain barrel or cistern, visit www.bit.ly/3RqMrHr.



Rain Barrels



Pervious Concrete, Porous Asphalt, and Pervious Pavers

Pervious surfaces can be used in driveways, backyards, and walkways. Pervious surfaces include the following: pervious concrete or porous asphalt, grid pavers with gaps filled with gravel or turf, interlocking pavers made of pervious material, and solid interlocking pavers that have gaps between them. For a pervious pavement fact sheet, visit www.bit.ly/3LRXCle.



Pervious Paving

It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood



It's a beautiful day in Monte Sereno, and residents are partnering with KCAT TV & Radio in a variety of ways to share their stories and capture the beauty of this wonderful city.

A shout out to resident photographer, Jeffrey Balfus. Enjoy a video loop broadcasting on KCAT Comcast Channel 15, highlighting Jeff's spectacular images of cars, flowers, golf, birds, and magical moments depicting Monte Sereno's character.

Kudos to the Monte Sereno City Council for recognizing the importance of memorializing events, past and present, that have shaped the City. **The Monte Sereno Living History Project** was created as a collaboration between residents and KCAT as an ongoing labor of love to visually capture untold community stories through video interviews, testimonials, photographs, and articles.

Watch and enjoy the interviews collected to date at www.kcat.org/mshistory. Radio Hall of Famer and TV Host,

Lissa Kreisler, got the scoop on The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad from Ken Middlebrook, George Shannon, John Lochner, and other dedicated train enthusiasts. Take a walk down Wimberly Walkway with a guided art tour by Jack Lucas and Don Wimberly. Remember Claravale Dairy? Ron Garthwaite has continued the legacy of selling the delicious raw milk in bottles. And, of course, who better to share the highlights and strife of a city than former and current Councilmembers and Mayors Jack Lucas, Joel Gambord, Marshall Anstandig, Lon Allan, and Burton Craig.

There are many more treasured stories, memories, and historical facts to share about Monte Sereno. Be a part of this exciting and vital project by sharing a story with KCAT: melissa@kcat.org

Looking for something to do that's innovative and creative? Join The Producers Network for adults 55+ at the KCAT TV Studio. Check out the Videozines to get a taste of the excitement: www.kcat.org/producers



The 66th Annual Los Gatos Children's Holiday Parade

On December 3, 2022, the City of Monte Sereno participated in the 66th Annual Los Gatos Children's Holiday Parade in downtown Los Gatos. The parade returned for the first time since 2019, as there was a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Monte Sereno entered two parade floats. The first float was created by the Monte Sereno Youth Commission. The theme of the float was Dr. Seuss's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." The second float was chartered by the Monte Sereno City Council. The theme of this float was Elvis singing holiday classics.

Both floats were well received by the viewing public and parade participants, despite a steady downpour of rain.



2022 COMMUNITY IMPACT



City of Monte Sereno and Silicon Valley Clean Energy

Your community is making a difference by choosing electricity that comes from clean sources. Monte Sereno's leadership is accelerating the state's clean energy transition and supporting customer electrification programs to improve local air quality and fight climate change.

Monte Sereno's Energy Results - Clean, Reliable, Affordable

82% reduction in electricity-related emissions (**1,255,000 pounds** greenhouse gas emissions avoided)



\$26,000 in on-bill savings for Monte Sereno customers (**\$345,000 since launch**)

\$11,110 in cash payments to customers for generating surplus solar energy



1,260 households and businesses receiving clean electricity from carbon-free sources

2022 Impacts – All SVCE Communities

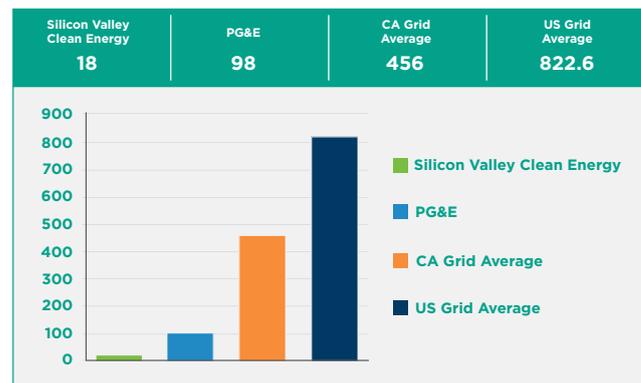
29% reduction in energy-related annual greenhouse gas emissions compared to 2015

\$90M in total on-bill savings for customers since launch in 2017

\$52M invested in customer programs

*Figures shown are from Oct. 2021 through Sept. 2022
*Emissions avoided based on reported PG&E and SVCE carbon emissions factors for 2021

Emissions Factor Comparison (lb/MWh)



272,000+ residential and commercial customers - a **96%** participation rate





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

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
CAMPBELL, CA
PERMIT #7009



Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Survey

The Monte Sereno City Council is considering the possibility of prohibiting gas-powered leaf blowers within the City and is seeking feedback from residents on this topic. Feedback can be provided by completing the online survey found at www.montesereno.org with the link located under the News & Announcements heading.

Current Requirements

Currently, there is no restriction of the type of leaf blower used. However, the hours of operation of leaf blowers are generally limited to 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Mondays through Fridays; 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Saturdays; and not allowed on Sundays or on Public Holidays. Please note that extended hours are allowed when homeowners are operating leaf blowers on their own property.



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 COUNCILMEMBERS

- MAYOR BRYAN MEKECHUK**.....(408) 354-7635
bmekechuk@cityofmontesereno.org
- VICE MAYOR EVERT WOLSHEIMER**....(408) 354-7635
ewolsheimer@cityofmontesereno.org
- BURTON CRAIG**.....(408) 354-7635
bcraig@cityofmontesereno.org
- JAVED ELLAHIE**.....(408) 354-7635
jellahie@cityofmontesereno.org
- ROWENA TURNER**.....(408) 354-7635
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, CITY CLERK**
gloisy@cityofmontesereno.org
- DIANA PERKINS, CITY PLANNER**
diana@cityofmontesereno.org
- MICHELE KWONG, ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK II/
ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER**
michele@cityofmontesereno.org
- CHARLOTTE THOMAS, ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK II**
cthomas@cityofmontesereno.org
- REYNOLD SAMORANOS, FINANCE OFFICER**
reynold@cityofmontesereno.org
- ALAN CUNNINGHAM, BUILDING INSPECTOR/
CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**
acunningham@cityofmontesereno.org
- ALI FATAPOUR, BUILDING CONSULTANT**
ali@cityofmontesereno.org
- DON WIMBERLY, CONSULTING ENGINEER**
dwimberly@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