

Peaceful Mountain Monitor

Monte Sereno Spring 2024 Community Newsletter

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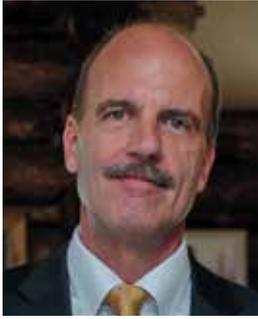
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A Message from the Mayor

I am truly honored to be the new Mayor of Monte Sereno. This is my second term on the Council - the first time was from 2015-2018. Before that, I was on the Site and Architectural Commission for five years, which allowed me to become familiar with just about every street in the City. My family and I have lived in Monte Sereno since 2002, and we enjoy living here very much.

Monte Sereno is by far the smallest out of the 15 cities and towns in Santa Clara County, with San Jose being by far the largest. Being the smallest city does not mean we don't have a voice. Council members and City Staff represent the City in many organizations, committees, commissions and boards. Some examples are Silicon Valley Clean Energy, West Valley Solid Waste Management Authority, Silicon Valley Animal Control and the quarterly meetings of all 15 Santa Clara County mayors. A full list of all these responsibilities can be found on the City website.

One of the key responsibilities of our City Staff and Council is doing what we can to improve the safety and security of our residents. Last winter, wind, rain and power outages had a big impact. Downed trees impaired traffic and caused several lengthy power outages. This year the City will develop and implement an updated tree ordinance, which will assist in addressing problems before they happen. Of major concern is also the condition of Highway 9 between Los Gatos and Saratoga. As the Lahaina disaster clearly showed last summer, fire can quickly develop and overwhelm escape routes, and therefore improving the condition of Highway 9 will be a focus this year. A complicating factor is that many organizations, municipalities and even residents are involved and share responsibility in this - such as Monte Sereno, Los Gatos, Saratoga, Caltrans, County Fire and CalFire. The large number (more than 80) of poorly maintained Eucalyptus trees along this route pose a risk all year long.

If you see a tree that endangers power lines, houses or traffic, please call City Hall, the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department (LGMSPD) or PGE before that tree causes major damage and disruption.

The Los Gatos-Monte Sereno CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) was activated during

last year's bad storms, when trees came down and power went out. CERT members can be called upon during disasters, such as earthquakes, fires or weather-related events. They assist the LGMSPD in assessing where damage or injuries have occurred, using a set of skills they learn during the CERT Academy. We desperately need more CERT members for Monte Sereno. I attended and graduated from the CERT Academy in September of 2023, and I can highly recommend everyone to attend the classes. Attending the CERT Academy doesn't mean you necessarily have to show up and help out when disaster strikes. One of the main goals is to be better prepared and keep your own home and family safe. Announcements of upcoming CERT classes are sent out to residents regularly.

The LGMSPD plays a major role in our security. Unlike several other nearby cities, Monte Sereno partners with its neighbor, Los Gatos, for police services. Other cities have chosen to contract with the Santa Clara Sheriff Department for police services. Through our partnership with Los Gatos, we are able to offer additional services, such as vacation checks, to ensure the safety of our residents. The Santa Clara County Fire Department can provide additional safety services, such as free evaluation of fire hazards around your property.

Everyone is undoubtedly aware that 2024 is an election year. This year, two council seats will be up for election, and I sincerely hope many residents will show interest in joining the Council. It has been difficult in recent years to fill open council seats. The 2022 Monte Sereno City Council election was canceled, because there were exactly as many candidates as there were open seats. Historically, the Monte Sereno City Council has been made up of predominantly older males. I believe expanding the diversity of our Council would be in the best interest of Monte Sereno. A diversity of experiences and opinions can benefit all. Please feel free to contact any of the current Councilmembers, if you would like more information on serving on the Monte Sereno City Council. The filing deadline to serve on the Council is Friday, 8/29/2024.

Evert Wolsheimer
Mayor



We DO:

- ✓ **Prevent** stormwater and urban runoff pollution*
- ✓ **Protect** local waterways and wildlife
- ✓ **Reduce** risk of flooding and contamination
- ✓ **Serve** the communities of Monte Sereno, Campbell, Los Gatos, and Saratoga

We DON'T:

- ✗ Supply drinking water
- ✗ Manage water efficiency
- ✗ Treat wastewater
- ✗ Recycle water

We exist to help keep the water that flows into our local creeks and the San Francisco Bay clean to protect native habitats, wildlife, and recreation opportunities.

Learn more about stormwater pollution prevention at [cleancreeks.org](https://www.cleancreeks.org)



Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers to be Prohibited in 2026

In October 2023, the City Council adopted revised regulations for leaf blowers used in Monte Sereno. The new allowed hours of operation for all leaf blowers are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday and from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sundays and holidays. Noise generated from leaf blowers shall not exceed 65 decibels when measured at 50 feet from the equipment.

Additionally, the revised regulations prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blowers; however, enforcement of this prohibition will not be effective until January 2026. The purpose of delaying the prohibition on gas-powered leaf blowers is to allow time for the information to be distributed to the community and for landscape professionals to obtain new equipment.

The purpose of prohibiting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers is to reduce the volume of smog-

forming emissions. According to the California Air Resources Board, the volume of smog-forming emissions from gas-powered leaf blowers, lawn mowers, hedge trimmers, edgers, and other small off-road engines (SORE) has surpassed emissions from light-duty passenger cars and is projected to be nearly twice those of passenger cars by 2031. A commercial operator using a backpack leaf blower for one hour generates the same smog-forming emissions as a car driving 1,100 miles.

In October 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 1346, which will ban the sale of new gas-powered leaf blowers, lawn mowers, hedge trimmers, edgers, and other SORE starting with the units manufactured in the model year 2024. Although this law will ban the manufacturing and sale of gas-powered SORE equipment, the use of existing gas-powered equipment will not be restricted by this law.



Fascinating Facts

Thomas Kinkadee Painter of Light



Did you know the acclaimed painter, Thomas Kinkadee, once resided in the City of Monte Sereno?

Self-titled as “The Painter of Light,” Kinkadee achieved worldwide recognition through his paintings which encompassed landscapes, structures, idyllic scenery, and special events.

Thomas Kinkadee was raised in Placerville California and schooled at UC Berkeley and The Art Center College of Design in Pasadena California. Subsequently, Kinkadee became a mass marketer of his works selling printed reproductions and licensed products.

In its heyday, Kinkadee’s business enterprise, The Thomas Kinkadee Company, encompassed some 350 franchisees and licensing deals with Hallmark, Disney, QVC, and Walmart. Kinkadee’s works were

depicted onto prints, puzzles, cards, calendars, snow globes, and even coloring books.

In addition, Thomas Kinkadee created numerous works for special occasions such as Disneyland/Disneyworld anniversaries, Graceland, Yankee and Fenway Stadiums, Indianapolis, and Daytona 500, the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics, and the 2002 World Series.

Today, Thomas Kinkadee Galleries continue to be located throughout the United States. The nearest gallery to the City of Monte Sereno is located in Carmel, California.

Kinkadee passed away in 2012 at the age of 54. Thomas Kinkadee’s artistic legacy and distinct style of painting continue to inspire innumerable fans, collectors, and artists worldwide.

A Magical Humpback Whale Ocean Safari

by Ruth Alexander

Ruth Alexander and her spouse, Daniel D’Souza, were excited about a 3-hour Humpback Whale watching trip in Kona, Hawaii. They drove their rental car to the boarding ramp and boarded the zodiac-type boat with their adult daughter and another two passengers. As the group cruised the ocean, the captain of the boat saw the blowing of a whale, and at the speed of lightning, steered the boat for about 10 minutes to where the whale was, as they held on for dear life to not fall into the deep ocean. There she was with her beautiful baby calf and a male whale escort close to them. The captain idled the boat, as the passengers enjoyed watching the precious calf doing many different flips in the air.

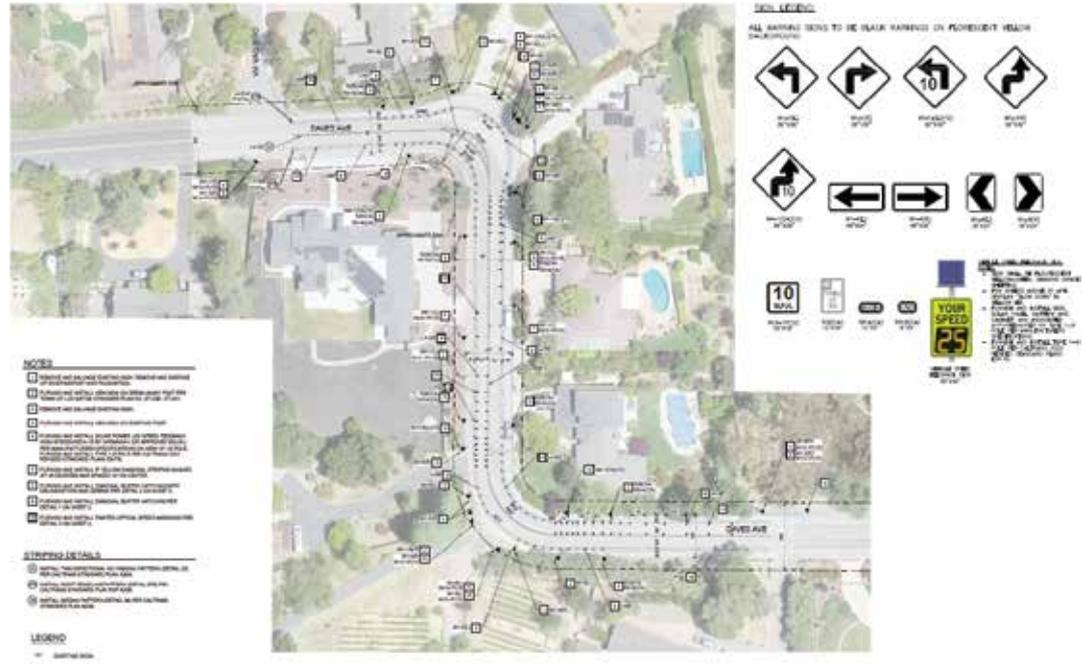
The incredible whales travel for about 6 to 8 weeks from the cold Alaskan waters to the tropical warm waters of Hawaii from December to March to mate, give birth to their young, and raise their calves

before returning to Alaska. Newborn whales do not have the fat or insulation to survive the brisk Alaskan waters. The mom eventually takes her calf back to Alaska and will also bring her young whale back to Hawaii one more time to mate when it is older and then departs to Alaska by herself. Ruth, Daniel, their daughter, and the other passengers were lucky to see whales blowing, breaching, flipping in the air, slapping their fins, and showing their tails to them. One came about arm’s length away from them and even went under the boat, which was a little scary, and another whale was about 10 ft away, wagging her tail fin and jumping back into the sea.

Not many sights are as magical as being out on the ocean with these magnificent creatures. It was an awesome experience for Ruth, Daniel, and their daughter.



Daves Ave "S" Curve Traffic Calming Project



In response to a history of traffic incidents along the Daves Avenue "S" curve, Monte Sereno staff has been developing traffic calming options for this portion of Daves Avenue. Traffic calming measures, such as striping, reflective bollards, lane width reduction, lane buttons, signage, speed feedback signs, and speed humps, have all been considered.

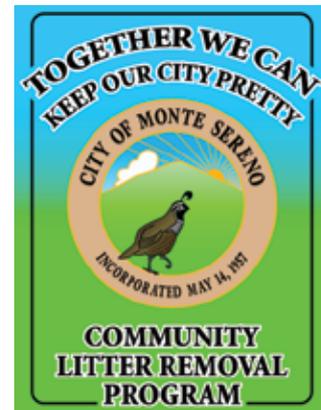
Two neighborhood meetings were held where staff presented the various options to the residents

along the "S" curve, answered questions, and received feedback on the preferred alternatives from residents. The consensus of residents was that speed humps were the strong preference.

The revised traffic calming plans with speed humps will be presented to the City Council in the late Spring when they will consider budget and construction approval.



Keep Our City Pretty



The Monte Sereno Youth Commission, with support of Monte Sereno City Staff, is launching a litter removal program for the City of Monte Sereno called "Keep Our City Pretty." This program will begin during Earth Week 2024 (April 21-April 27).

Monte Sereno Youth Commissioners will be meeting at Monte Sereno City Hall on Sunday, April 21 at 2:00 pm. Teams of Youth Commissioners and volunteers will be cleaning trash from parks, creeks and roadways in Monte Sereno and adjacent areas.

During a pilot program in January and February this year, approximately 25 bags of trash and several large refuse items were collected. Many of the collected items consisted of beverage containers

which are recyclable yet were discarded onto roadways, sidewalks, bushes and watershed properties.

As part of this program, bright yellow trash bags with the Monte Sereno City Seal on them will be filled by participants. In addition, positive messaging signage (as in the image above on the right) will be installed throughout the City of Monte Sereno to engage the community and create awareness about cleanliness efforts.

If you would like to sign up to help "Keep Our City Pretty" on April 21, 2024, or any other time, please contact City Clerk Gloisy Gonzalez-Langarica at gloisy@cityofmontesereno.org.



CERT ACADEMY TRAINING 2024

Join Your Local CERT Today!

What is CERT?

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members prepare, organize and work together as a team to provide essential services to their community during and after a disaster.

Each City has its own organized CERT program. CERTs strengthen neighborhood resiliency and play a vital role in their City's disaster response efforts.

CERT Academy Training

Skills taught include organizing resources, medical operations, basic search & rescue, hazardous materials, terrorism awareness, how to use a fire extinguisher and damage assessment.

Participant Commitment

Participants must attend all in-person and online classes, including participation in the final skills day to receive a CERT course completion certificate.

2024 CERT Academy Schedule

Classes include both **in-person** and **online** evening classes, with a final in-person Saturday skills session and graduation ceremony. **Academy schedules listed on back.**

TO REGISTER: \$35 (includes basic safety equipment)



Coordinator:
Gracie Hernandez,
Sr. CERT Specialist
Phone: 408.341.4425
Email: CERT@sccfd.org



www.sccfd.eventbrite.com

This training course is open to individuals who live or work within the communities served by County Fire: Cupertino, Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and the unincorporated surrounding areas.





Recognizing Outstanding Resident Lisa Matar



Monte Sereno resident, Lisa Matar, founded Health Bear Food Company to bring healthy food to busy people looking for a quick and healthy solution for breakfast. Matar created different plant-based breakfast and snack options that are both delicious and protein-filled. Health Bear is partnered with Opportunity International, where

donations go directly to this global nonprofit, whose mission is to design, deliver and scale innovative financial solutions to help families living in extreme poverty. This mission is achieved through building sustainable livelihoods and providing access to quality education for children of these families. Congratulations, Lisa, on a job well done!



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



\$70,700 in on-bill savings for Monte Sereno customers (**\$415,000** since launch)



1,200 households and businesses receiving electricity from clean energy sources



\$25,100 in cash payments to customers for generating surplus solar energy

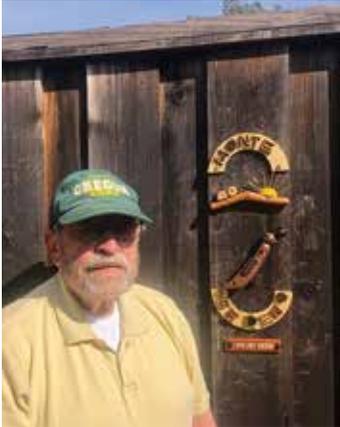


\$28,000 in SVCE rebates claimed by Monte Sereno residents for electric home upgrades



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

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Honorable Jack Lucas Monte Sereno Councilmember/Mayor

Long-time Monte Sereno resident and former Mayor, Dr. Jack Lucas, passed away on January 25, 2024. Dr. Lucas served the City of Monte Sereno for eighteen years (1984-2002) as an elected member of the Monte Sereno City Council.

During his five terms serving on the City Council, Jack's colleagues elected him as Monte Sereno's Mayor five times. Dr. Lucas represented Monte Sereno on numerous special districts, boards, commissions, committees and authorities, which supported the City of Monte Sereno's infrastructure and operations.

Following Jack's retirement from the Monte Sereno City Council, Jack remained active politically. In 2002, Jack was elected to the West Valley-Mission Community College District's Governing Board of Trustees. Jack was serving his sixth term as a Trustee when he passed.

Dr. Lucas was a retired Los Gatos-Saratoga High School District teacher, coach, vice-principal, principal of a continuation school, dean of students, and an administrator. Jack worked as a volunteer for the Los Gatos Concert series and was also the self-appointed Chairperson of the Zena Avenue Fine Arts Commission (a title he gave himself after establishing "The Gallery" on the Wimberly Walkway). Jack attended every home football game at Los Gatos High School to watch his beloved Los Gatos Wildcats.

Jack's presence and warm sense of humor will be greatly missed throughout Monte Sereno, Saratoga, Los Gatos and the entire Valley of Heart's Delight. But Jack's spirit and the results of his service will continue to inspire, as Dr. Lucas truly was the essence of community.

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

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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