

Peaceful Mountain Monitor



Monte Sereno Spring 2025 Community Newsletter

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A Message from the Mayor

Welcome to 2025!

Dear Monte Sereno Residents,

As we step into the new year, I am both proud and honored to serve as your mayor once again. It is my privilege to continue the service and dedication of our previous mayor, Evert Wolsheimer, in maintaining the rural atmosphere that makes Monte Sereno so special.

Engaging with Our Community

I am eager to meet with our residents and to hear your thoughts and concerns about Monte Sereno. To facilitate this, I will soon be announcing a "Coffee with the Mayor" or if you're more of an evening person, maybe a "Pizza with the Mayor" event. Please stay tuned for details. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to me with any questions or issues at bcraig@cityofmontesereno.org or by calling City Hall at 408-354-7635.

Our annual goal-setting session was held on March 18th. This was a fantastic opportunity for residents to share their ideas and let the council know what we can do to make Monte Sereno the best place to live. Your input was invaluable, and we appreciated hearing from you.

Addressing the Southern California Fires

The devastating fires in Southern California have been the major story this year. Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones, homes, cherished possessions, and much more. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the first responders from our area who have been working tirelessly to help fight these fires.

These events have highlighted the perfect storm of weather, fuel, and opportunity that can lead to widespread devastation in California. It is a stark reminder for us to look within our own neighborhoods and ensure we are prepared for the possibility of a fire in our area. As noted by the San Jose Mercury News and other publications, we need to bolster our resources to prevent such catastrophes from occurring here.

Council Meeting

The council meeting on March 4th was a special one. The Santa Clara County Fire Department presented their semi-annual report, followed by a community discussion on how we can better protect Monte Sereno from wildfires and how to prepare ourselves.

Emergency Preparedness

First and foremost, make sure you are subscribed to AlertSCC. This system will send a text message, call your phone, or send you an email to alert you to emergencies in your area. Visit www.AlertSCC.org for more information.

Additionally, it is crucial to create a plan for what to do in the event of a fire. These situations can escalate quickly and can be overwhelming. Having a plan in place will help you protect your family and property. Monte Sereno has an Emergency Preparedness page on our website: www.montesereno.org/2214/Emergency-Preparedness. There, you will find a wealth of information to help you plan and prepare for an emergency.

Community Safety Tips

Ensuring the safety of our community is a top priority. Here are some tips to help keep Monte Sereno safe:

- 1. Stay Informed:** Keep up with local news and weather reports, especially during fire season. Subscribe to AlertSCC for real-time emergency notifications.
- 2. Create Defensible Space:** Maintain a defensible space around your home by clearing away dry vegetation, leaves, and other flammable materials.
- 3. Prepare an Emergency Kit:** Have an emergency kit ready with essentials such as water, food, medications, and important documents.
- 4. Know Your Evacuation Routes:** Familiarize yourself with multiple evacuation routes from your home and neighborhood.
- 5. Stay Connected:** Join neighborhood watch programs and stay in touch with your neighbors. A connected community is a safer community.

Now for some fun stuff...

Mark Your Calendars

Monte Sereno's annual picnic is scheduled for sometime in August. This event is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, enjoy some great food, meet with city staff and council, and visit the various organizations that work hard every day to bring the high quality of living we've come to expect in Monte Sereno.

Stay Connected

I hope everyone will stay in touch with the news and events of our city by subscribing to our email blasts and this newsletter. Our email blasts will be sent whenever there is news or an event that our residents should be aware of. You will also be notified of council meetings, special meetings, community meetings, and more. To subscribe to receive eblasts, please email michele@cityofmontesereno.org.

Acknowledging Our Hard-Working Staff

I would like to close by taking a moment to acknowledge and thank our dedicated city staff. Their hard work and commitment ensure that Monte Sereno runs smoothly and efficiently. Their efforts are invaluable to our community. Thank you, city staff, for your unwavering dedication and service.

Warm regards,

Craig Burton, Mayor of Monte Sereno

Wildfire PREPAREDNESS

2025 Spring Workshops



WILDFIRE READINESS PRESENTATION

Be READY

- Reduce Wildfire Risks:
Home Hardening & Defensible Space
- Community Readiness - Firewise
- Emergency Notification Systems & Red Flag Warnings

Get SET

- Create a Wildfire Action Plan
- Assemble Emergency Go Kits
- Understand Evacuation Terminology

GO!

- Be Evacuation Ready
- Learn How to Stay Informed

COMMUNITY RESOURCE TABLES*

CONNECT WITH LOCAL AGENCIES

- American Red Cross
- California Department of Insurance (CDI)
- CalFIRE
- Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA)
- Firewise Community Leaders
- Large Animal Rescue
- Local Law Enforcement
- Midpeninsula Regional Open Space
- Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E)
- Santa Clara County FireSafe Council
- Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
- Valley Water

*If not present, printed resources will be available.

DATE	WORKSHOP LOCATION	TIME
APRIL 22 TUESDAY	PAVILION @ REDWOOD ESTATES 21450 Madrone Drive, Los Gatos	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
MAY 3 SATURDAY	JOAN PISANI COMMUNITY CENTER 19655 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

REGISTER TODAY!

*Refreshments Provided



SCCFD.EVENTBRITE.COM

OR

408-378-4010



SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT | 408.378.4010 | WWW.SCCFD.ORG

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



Monte Sereno's General Plan Update Website Is Live!

Monte Sereno is updating its General Plan, a document that serves as a road map guiding the community's vision into actionable policies and programs over the next 20 years. General Plans are required to have several elements focusing on particular aspects of the built and natural environment.

In Monte Sereno, our current General Plan was adopted in 2008. The General Plan Update will follow the same general format as the current 2008 General

Plan and will update policies where needed. This will include new Environmental Justice policies, addressing State requirements regarding wildfire evacuation issues, linkages to Santa Clara County's ongoing Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) update, and more.

More information, newsletters, surveys, and email notification sign-ups are all available at www.monteserenogpu.com.



Winners of 2024 Synopsis Contest



Two Monte Sereno students, Disha Gupta and Elynn Pang, were winners at the 2024 Synopsis Championship Science Fair, hosted by the Santa Clara Valley Science and Engineering Fair Association (SCVSEFA). This event

is the gold standard model/platform for extracurricular thought leadership and personal development among middle and high school students. Monte Sereno congratulates Disha and Elynn for their success.

Coats, Cans and Toiletries Donation Drive

The Monte Sereno Youth Commissioners collected warm coats, canned food and toiletry items for the needy this past holiday season.

Monte Sereno residents generously donated 20 jackets/coats/sweaters for both men and women, 55 canned

food and nonperishable food items, and 242 various toiletry items.

The Youth Commissioners delivered these items to West Valley Community Services to bring comfort to those in need. Thank you to all who shared so generously.



HEALTH • HOME • HEART

West Valley Community Services



HEARTSAVER CPR/AED TRAINING

Thurs, July 17th, 2025. 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Monte Sereno City Hall

HANDS ONLY CPR/AED TRAINING

Thurs, June 12th, 2025. 10:00am to 11:30am
Monte Sereno City Hall

Register at: www.sccfd.eventbrite.com



SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
408.378.4010 • WWW.SCCFD.ORG

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02.20.25

Los Gatos Children's Christmas Parade

Monte Sereno Councilmembers, Youth Commissioners, and Staff decorated a special entry and participated in the December 2024 Los Gatos Children's Christmas Parade. A fun time was had by all at this festive event.



West Valley Stormwater Authority
Protecting Our Waterways • CleanCreeks.org

West Valley Stormwater Authority: Protecting Our Waterways *Be Green this Spring*

The West Valley Clean Water Authority is now the West Valley Stormwater Authority, to clarify its focus on stormwater pollution prevention and reduce confusion with drinking water agencies. (Drinking water quality is not the Stormwater Authority's function.) While the name has changed, the Authority's mission remains the same: to protect local creeks, habitat, and public health by managing stormwater runoff and reducing pollution.

Everyday activities—like landscaping, gardening, and home and vehicle maintenance—can send pollutants into storm drains, which flow directly to creeks and the Bay without treatment. Small actions make a difference!

The Stormwater Authority encourages residents to help reduce water pollution in creeks and the Bay year-round:



- Plant native or drought-tolerant landscaping.
- Hire eco-friendly/green landscapers/gardeners.
- Install permeable driveways and walkways.
- Collect runoff in rain barrels or cisterns.

Follow West Valley Stormwater Authority on social media and visit CleanCreeks.org for more tips and updates.

CALIFORNIA'S NEW DAYLIGHTING LAW (AB413)



What is Daylighting?

- California Vehicle Code Section 22500(n)(1)(A) prohibits parking within 20 feet of the approach side of marked or unmarked crosswalks, and within 15 feet of any intersection with a sidewalk extension.
- A warning or parking citation may be issued even if there are no signs or curb markings present.

Why is this important?

- Removing parking within 20 feet of an intersection increases visibility for drivers and pedestrians.
- Pedestrians don't need to step into traffic in order to see approaching vehicles.

What do I need to do?

- Leave at least 20 feet (the length of one large car) between your car and a marked or unmarked crosswalk.

Questions?

Contact us for more information



(408) 354-7635



18041 Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd.
Monte Sereno, CA 95030



engineeringdepartment@
cityofmontesereno.org



www.montesereno.org



California's new "Daylighting" Law (AB 413) Enhances Pedestrian Safety!

The new Daylighting Law aims to make streets safer by promoting better visibility at pedestrian crossings. It prohibits stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle within 20 feet of any marked or unmarked crosswalk. This safety measure is known as "daylighting."

This law is in effect regardless of red curbs or no parking signs. This means that a vehicle will need to park

at least 20 feet, about the length of a large car, from any crosswalk.

By keeping the area near crosswalks clear, pedestrians no longer need to step into the street to see if it's safe to cross the road, and drivers are better able to see pedestrians attempting to cross the street from farther away.

Let's keep Monte Sereno streets safe for everyone!



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

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Declutter with Ease: On-Call Bulky Cleanup Program

At West Valley Recycles, sustainability is at the forefront of everything done. That’s why the **On-Call Bulky Cleanup Program** is not just about convenience—it helps promote the reuse and recycling of materials directly from the curb. Residents can schedule up to 3 FREE cleanups per year, with flexible dates to fit a busy schedule.

What Can You Set Out?

- 3 Large Items: 1 electronic waste item and 2 appliances/furniture pieces (items not to exceed 150 pounds).
- PLUS 3 Cubic Yards: Bagged or boxed reusable, recyclable, or landfill materials.

Easy Steps to Schedule and Prepare:

1. Book a Pickup: Contact West Valley Recycles to schedule a cleanup during a convenient week at 408-283-9250.
2. Sort Smart: Bag or box small items separately by type – reusable, recyclable or landfill. Label each bag or box.
3. Curbside Ready: Place large items alongside the sorted bags and boxes at the curb the night before the scheduled pickup.

By preparing items thoughtfully, residents help reduce waste, support reuse and recycling efforts, and contribute to a cleaner, greener 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 Recycles.....(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 Stormwater Authority.....(408) 354-5385