

MONTA LOMA/FARLEY/ROCK STREET NEIGHBORHOOD AREA FOLLOW-UP REPORT

Follow-up Responses to Issues Raised at the October 2, 2014
Council Neighborhood Committee Meeting

Presented below are the City's responses to questions requiring follow-up from the October 2, 2014 Council Neighborhood Committee meeting with the Monta Loma/Farley/Rock Street Neighborhood Area. If you have further questions about any of the following responses, please contact the responsible Department at the phone numbers noted below. General questions can be directed to Linda Lauzze, the City's Administrative and Neighborhood Services Manager, at (650) 903-6379.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT - (650) 903-6306

- 1. The Rockcress Terrace HOA (on Rock Street) installed a locked gate blocking foot traffic through the development (between Rock Street and Middlefield Road). It results in neighbors needing to detour around the block to walk to the grocery store, adding half a mile round trip. The HOA did not seek any permits before building the gate. Do neighborhood residents have any recourse to restore walkability to our neighborhood?*

The Rockcress Terrace development does not have a public access easement so the City cannot require public access be maintained through the site. In this case, it appears that a short fence and gate was previously approved along the Middlefield Road frontage. A lock was not part of the original approval, and may have been added to the gate at a later date. Such an addition would not require City permits. The HOA may elect to remove the lock at any time.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT - (650) 903-6331

- 1. The mini park on the Hetch-Hetchy right-of-way between Bonny Street and Beatrice Street in Rex Manor is no longer included on the project list. Has it been shelved? If so, can it be resurrected?*

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is currently reviewing all lease permits and proposed development/improvement projects along the Hetch-Hetchy corridor. All proposed projects have been put on hold while the SFPUC completes this process. Staff anticipates the SFPUC completing the project within the next twelve months. Once the study is completed, the city will be able to resubmit the Bonny/Beatrice project to the SFPUC for approval.

- 2. Can residents plan a city-wide "block party" night? Where each street/block could organize their own potluck on their street with their neighbors? This would help foster community relationships in Mountain View.*

The Community Services Department provides numerous special events for the community throughout the year. Some examples of these events are the Annual Tree Lighting, Arbor Day, Downtown Parade, Citywide Garage Sale, Movie Night Series, Thursday Night Live and much more. We hope that these events help residents come together and foster a sense of community. The Department will review a potential “Block Party Night” in possible cooperation with the Police Department’s National Night Out Initiative with additional input from several other City departments.

In the meantime, several of the local Neighborhood Associations do already host smaller social events for the respective neighborhood to engage the residents.

For a list and map of neighborhood associations please visit: <http://www.mountainview.gov/depts/comdev/preservation/programs/neighbors.asp>

The Neighborhood Associations List includes contacts and boundaries for each association.

POLICE DEPARTMENT - (650) 903-6350

1. *Vehicles are being stored on the street and the abandoned vehicle hotline doesn’t appear to have an effect. Who should residents contact, Code Enforcement or the Police Department?*

If the car is parked on the street, contact the Police Department at (650) 903-6344. You can ask to speak to Community Services Officer (CSO) Mary Flores, who coordinates abandoned vehicle services. If the car is parked on private property, you can contact code enforcement at (650) 903-7713.

2. *How far must a vehicle move in 72 hours to not be considered “abandoned”?*

City Code section 19.72 and section 22651(k) of the California Vehicle Code require a vehicle to move at least 1,000 feet, approximately 2/10 of a mile, every 72-hours (3 days). Pushing or moving a vehicle a short distance or attempting to rub away the tire markings will not be considered compliance with section 19.72 of the City Code, and may result in the issuance of a citation without further warning.

3. *Our home was burglarized a few weeks ago. Has this been happening in the neighborhood and does the neighborhood have something in place to prevent burglaries?*

The Police Department has a map that displays reported crimes which can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.mountainview.gov/depts/police/crime/map.asp>

Residents are encouraged to utilize security camera and alarm systems to deter criminal activity. Residents can also participate in any local neighborhood watch program and keep informed about police activity by following the various social media sites. Please report

any crimes in progress by calling 9-1-1, or report crimes that already occurred by contacting the dispatch center at 650-903-6395.

4. *There's a dangerous traffic condition outside Monta Loma Elementary School on school days in the afternoon. Children commuting from Crittenden School by bicycle are at risk. This concern was brought to the attention of the school district. Pedestrians and bicycles are encouraged to obey all traffic laws and proceed with caution.*
5. *Does Mountain View have a noise ordinance similar to Palo Alto and Sunnyvale? Any prospect for similar ordinance?*

Mountain View does not have a noise ordinance. Any prospect for an ordinance similar to Palo Alto or Sunnyvale would need to be considered by the City Council.

6. *Does the City of Mountain View limit the size of a private vehicle (motorhomes) which can park on a residential street?*

There is no specific ordinance limiting the length of a vehicle allowed on a residential street, however there are limits regarding the weight and height of a vehicle in a residential zone as well as the duration a vehicle can be parked without being moved.

Municipal Code 19.79.1 states: No person shall park a commercial vehicle having a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of ten thousand (10,000) pounds or more, upon any street abutting residentially zoned property.

The California Vehicle Code allows for citations to be issued and the towing of vehicles parked on roadways that have not been moved after being monitored for 72 hours. We currently have four Community Service Officers and three Police Assistants who regularly conduct patrols for parking enforcement of the Vehicle Code and Municipal Code. Additionally, Mountain View Police has a Community Service Officer assigned to Santa Clara County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority whose responsibility is to target abandoned vehicles and parked vehicles that create a nuisance to the community.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - (650) 903-6311

1. *At the corner of West Middlefield Road and Terra Bella Avenue there is an electric speed radar sign that does not work. Traffic on that stretch routinely exceeds the speed limit. This is very close to Crittenden Middle School. Students are at risk each morning and afternoon as they frequently spill onto the street. Can the radar sign be fixed or replaced?*

Our signal maintenance technician is working on fixing the radar speed sign. The technician is waiting for the parts that need to be replaced. These signs are old and getting

the parts is challenging. The sign should be fixed and operational sometime in late January 2015.

2. *Any plans to complete the sidewalk along Central Expressway between Farley Street and Rengstorff Avenue? Currently, sidewalk ends and you have to walk through dirt/mud to get to Rengstorff Avenue.*

The sidewalk along Central Expressway between Farley Street and Rengstorff Avenue has been completed. The sidewalk now connects to the curb ramp at the northeast corner of Rengstorff Avenue and Central Expressway.

3. *When is the last time OSHA visited the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) job site on Sierra Vista Avenue?*

The City of Mountain View does not have the information since safety inspections are handled directly between PG&E and their regulators.

4. *I think the "School Zone" sign to the south of Stevenson/PACT school on San Pierre Way is too close to the school. I believe it was set up for Theuerkauf School and not moved south when Stevenson/PACT school was opened.*

The existing School Zone sign has been moved and new school signs including 15 mile per hour speed limit signs have been installed recently within the past month.

5. *Near my home on West Middlefield Road near Sierra Vista, there are three (3) poles – two (2) for stoplights that have street signs. One of the poles is from pre-stoplight days, and probably needs to be taken out. This will help pedestrians, cyclists and cars all stay where they need to be and not trying to "dodge" the pole.*

The street name sign on the pole from pre-signal time is still needed at the north-west corner of W. Middlefield Road and Sierra Vista Avenue. We will consider relocating the pole with street name sign out of the sidewalk area to improve the pedestrian environment.

6. *On Shoreline Boulevard near El Camino Real drivers regularly park trucks and large vehicles in the bicycle lanes forcing the cyclists into traffic. What can be done to make this area safer?*

The bike lane and parking spaces are striped together as a combined space on Shoreline Boulevard between El Camino Real and Villa Street on both north and south directions. We acknowledge the space is not wide enough to allow comfortable biking and parking. The City is currently studying California Street, Escuela Avenue, and Shoreline Boulevard (from El Camino Real to Montecito Avenue) to improve pedestrian and bike environment. It appears that Shoreline Boulevard can be restriped to narrower lanes and wider bike lane to improve bike environment. However, we would like to wait for the result of the Study

before proceeding with any work. We expect the outcome of this study to be available by Fall 2015. Three public meetings are planned to review the Study.

7. *The signal on northbound Rengstorff Avenue at Central Expressway is hard to see. Can the situation be improved?*

This signal is owned and maintained by the County of Santa Clara. We have contacted the County about this issue. The County is concerned about the two signals located at Rengstorff Ave/Crisanto/Railroad Tracks and the signal at Rengstorff Ave/Central Expressway being too close to each other. When the two signals show different indications (one show red and the other show green), it could create driver confusion. Therefore, the County has changed the signal heads at the mast arm to a new type of signal heads known as "Programmed Visibility" where the signal at Rengstorff Ave/Central Expressway is not visible from a certain distance while approaching this intersection from the north bound direction. The "Programmed Visibility" is needed for safety reasons and removes driver confusion when the two close-by signals show conflicting indications.

8. *Can Chinese language stickers be added to multi-family recycling bins?*

It would not be feasible at this time to add Chinese language stickers to the multi-family carts. It would be cost prohibitive to have new stickers made and to re-label carts. There is limited room on the stickers and they are already in three languages, English, Spanish and Russian as recommended by the outreach program coordinator. However, the next time we update the stickers, we will reconsider the needed languages. In the meantime, we have outreach materials in Chinese that are available upon request. Any persons interested in these materials should contact the City's Outreach Coordinator or the Solid Waste and Recycling program staff.