



The MARA News

Late 2012 Edition

Montecito Area Resident's Association

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www.montecitoresidents.com

<https://montecito.nextdoor.com>

In the event of a non-life threatening emergency or noise issues, call the SRPD at 485-3000

Now is the time to Join MARA.

To become a MARA member or renew your annual membership, please send your name, address, telephone number, and email address (if you wish - we send out a lot of info by email) along with a \$10 check per person (\$5 for seniors) payable to "Montecito Area Residents' Association" to MARA, P.O. Box 150266, San Rafael, CA 94915-0266. In addition to residents, MARA extends a welcome to our neighborhood retail, commercial and other organizations and invites them to become members

Cruising the Montecito Shopping Center

By Kay Corlett

Many shops, agencies and professional services are offered at this busy collection of enterprises — and they are always changing. My recent visit to investigate each business was interesting because there are so many new and unusual places offering a great variety of goods and services.

The shopping center is located on a busy section of Third Street as it heads east toward Peacock Gap and China Camp. I began my exploration at the eastern end where the **Redwood Credit Union** is located. After the bad behavior of US banks that caused much of the recession in our economy, I transferred my money to **Redwood** and am happy to say that it was a very good move.

Becoming a member is easy, and it opens doors to all the other credit unions in the country and

all manner of home, business and auto loans, checking and savings accounts, and insurance. **Redwood** has youth account programs for kids of all ages also. In other words, this not-for-profit credit union has everything that a full service bank offers. Furthermore, it is a member of the National Credit Union Administration where your savings are federally insured to at least \$250,000 per depositor at any one credit union

Next door is a **Massage Envy Spa**, which offers its members a place to relieve stress, enhance skin health, increase energy and improve overall wellness on a monthly basis, or where you can have a massage lasting for half an hour or a full hour, or enjoy a facial.

Cheap Pete's framing shop is located next door; it offers complete, professional framing or a variety of mats and frames that you can use yourself.

Back in the southeastern corner of the Center, **Kamikaze Japanese Restaurant** has a menu of fresh fish, meats, vegetables and tofu and an impressive variety of sake.

Right next door is **Tommy's Asian Bistro and Grill** featuring Thai, Cambodian and Chinese cuisine, open 7 days a week.

Then **Tuesday Morning** is a wonderland of objets d'art, cookware, glassware, bedding, Christmas decorations and more, all marked down 20 to 50%.

The next doorway will take you into **Puentez Taqueria** which offers Mexican style tacos, sandwiches, soft drinks and is open 6 days, closed on Sunday.

Montecito Nails can give you a manicure or a pedicure.

The **Jasmine Market** is a delicatessen offering Mediterranean delicacies: fruits, pickles, spices, canned vegetables and a nice choice of freshly prepared sandwiches.

Applied Computer is next. They recently suffered a bad fire and are having to regroup, so are really in the throes of recovery at present.

Best Burger is just that: it's the place to go if you have a yen for America's favorite including fries, cheeseburgers, and hot dogs.

SuperCuts offers great haircuts at reasonable prices, from \$18 to \$36 and up, by appointment or drop in. Next door you will find

Planet Juice, open every day to serve hot dogs, smoothies, waffles, bagels and frozen yogurt.

Trader Joe's, as everyone knows, is a great place to shop for food, fresh, frozen, canned; a

large selection of wines, beers and liquors is available, and all is reasonably priced.

Pinky's Pizza, one of the original shops in the Center and a favorite for pizza lovers.

Around the corner and toward the canal you'll find **The Exquisite Beauty** which provides a day spa where you can have all manner of skin care: facials, waxing, tinting, permanent make-up, massage and ear piercing.

Sherzer Insurance Agency offers Progressive, Allied or Safeco Insurance and is open Monday through Friday.

Excellent Alterations are made speedily and at reasonable prices. Open Monday through Saturday. Just around the corner is an unusual shop

Montecito Orthopedic Footwear and Leather Goods caters to feet that have special needs, offering custom made shoes, orthopedic shoes, ankle supports, custom orthotics and shoe modifications. If your feet are painful, this is the place for you!

Directly across from this corner a studio dedicated to **Reflexology** can be found. Ignorant of this technique, I received an interesting explanation from Reflexologist Karen Anderson, MA, CMT. It seems that there are special pressure points on the bottoms of our feet which can be manipulated to relieve pain and stress from different parts of the body. Ms. Anderson uses the European technique for which she has been certified in Johannesburg, South Africa and Seattle, Washington. She also has received degrees and certifications in psychology, aesthetics, massage and acupuncture. The studio is open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays by appointment; a one hour session is \$75; ½ hour session is \$40.

Next door a **Weight Watchers** office is waiting to inspire and support you in your desire to set



performance activity goals, track your activity values and help you to achieve these goals. Weekly meetings are important and keep your enthusiasm level up as you track your lifestyle changes and weight loss. Visit the office to change your life for the better.

A stairway and an elevator will take you to the upper floor where several offices can be found. **Montecito Chiropractic** is the office of Doctors Elenn Vince and Monica Egan; then general dentistry office of **Dr. Michael D. Schwartz** and **Huckleberry Youth Programs**.

HuckleberryHHH

It began in the sixties in the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood of San Francisco where it offered help, counseling and support to many of the youngsters who had left home during the “Age of Aquarius” and became lost in the Bay Area. The organization is more sophisticated now and even more established. Visit www.huckleberryyouth.org to learn more about this interesting effort, one worthy of our financial and philosophical support. It offers young people drug counseling, job training in health care and preparation for college.

Coming back down to earth, I found another pioneer establishment of the **Montecito Shopping Center**, the **Montecito Dry Cleaners and Laundry** –known for its excellent service.

Performance Bicycle has everything for the cyclist and the range of prices made my eyes pop: from \$3,000 to \$200, so there’s a bike for almost every pocketbook.

The **UPS Store** has mailing services by US Mail or UPS. There is a selection of greeting cards, individual mail boxes for rent and notary service.

A Quiznos outlet next door has closed and remodeling is underway for a bagel shop to open soon.

Mad Rags is just that. Lots of fun costumes and ensembles for women and girls, interesting jewelry and hats too.

PetCo is an emporium for people who have pets, offering food and treats, rawhide for those who like to chew, toys, things to remove stains and

odor, flea and tick spray, grooming products, vitamins and remedies.

Pier 1 Imports will open at the end of October, offering a variety of furnishings for both home and garden, woven baskets and boxes, pillows, lanterns, candle holders, pottery and glassware.

A **Wells Fargo ATM** is sandwiched between **Pier 1** and the **Marin Beauty Company**.

Marin Beauty Company has an impressive inventory of shampoos, soaps, rinses, sprays, shower caps, cosmetics and, at the back of the store, an eight-station beauty shop that does facials and nails besides hair care.

Miller's East Coast Delicatessen, open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., offers breakfast, lunch and dinner deli-style and, besides sandwiches and salads, has

cheese, roast turkey and beef, baloney and salami by the pound.

Last but not least, **Rite Aid Pharmacy** is located at the end of the shopping center. It has a selection of ice creams in bulk, photo developing, and a full service pharmacy offering immunizations, caregiver support, prescription reminders and refill services, also specially trained diabetes care pharmacists.

As you can see, **Montecito Shopping Center** has a wide variety of shops and services where you will find almost everything on your list, all conveniently located in front of the large parking area. There's an auxiliary parking lot located just around at the side of the **Redwood Credit Union**.

New Smoking Ban

If you live in San Rafael in an apartment, a condo, a duplex, or in a single family home with an attached second unit, you should know that the City of San Rafael has just passed a new ordinance which bans **100%** of all smoking — by residents or guests — anywhere in the building or within 20 feet of it.

Gas Station to Whole Foods Parking Lot Expansion

The latest word in the 'hood is that the lot at the corner of Mary and 2nd street where the independent gas station stood before being demolished this month will be leased to Whole Food as a welcome addition to their parking lot.

Grand Ave. Bridge Pedestrian/Bike Expansion in the Works

MARA residents who use the Grand street bridge over the Canal are well aware of the narrow foot paths on either side, and the attendant danger of pedestrians and cyclists slipping or stepping off into the path of traffic. So it is good news that the City Council has authorized Public Works to apply for a \$1.4 million grant from the State of California's Bicycle Transportation Account to construct a 12-foot wide bicycle and pedestrian bridge along the east side of the Grand Avenue bridge. If the grant is secured, final design and construction could occur in 2014.

Extinct Rose Found in Our Neighborhood?

by Jackie Schmidt

This comes under the heading of “You never know what you will find walking around our old neighborhood”. One day a few years ago I was walking along Third Street. There were two small cottages right across the street from United Market which were scheduled to be (and have been) torn down. The cottages had been vacant for a couple of years, pending permissions, permits, etc. from the City. One of them had a front yard that was full of roses, many of which were blooming. I took a cutting of a red climbing rose that was climbing up a tree, and also of a small yellow rose which was growing near the front door. Both of them rooted, and are growing in my garden. The red one is marvelously fragrant, and turned out to be ‘Cl Crimson Glory’, a hybrid tea rose that was introduced in 1935.

The yellow one turned into a bush about 3 feet wide and tall. The blooms are small – maybe 1 ½ inches in diameter, and are a clear light yellow.

The buds have some orange on them, and are not pointed, but have sort of squared off tops. The bush blooms several times all summer. The blooms are fragrant – they sort of smell like Pippin apples. I was curious about what its name was, so I posted pictures of it on a web-



site that is about old roses. No one had any idea of its name. I tried again a few years later, and this time hit pay dirt. A rose expert researched it, and is pretty certain that my rose is a rose that has been “lost” to commerce – there is no record of it existing anywhere in

the world. Amazing that the rose in my garden might be the only one! I did not want the responsibility of having the only rose bush of this variety in existence, so I sent him cuttings so that he could grow it too, and also gave a plant

of it to a neighbor. We think it is an old polyantha called ‘Eugenie Lamesch’ which was hybridized in 1899! I did some research with the City, and it turns out that the lady whose garden it used to be lived there for over 60 years, and loved to grow roses. No idea where she

got this one, but it must have been before it was “lost”. No photographs of it even exists that anyone knows about – old rose lovers all over the world have sent me a few pictures of it – they are all from paintings. Here is one, along with a photo of a bud

from my rose – see how the bud looks just like the one in the picture? So, there are more historic things in our old neighborhood than just houses – look around when you are taking a walk – you never know what you might find!



New Local Social Media for Neighborhoods: NEXTDOOR.COM

MARA has long had a web-presence at <http://www.montecitoresidents.com/> However, like all websites depending on one volunteer to maintain it, it is often out of date. Some of the MARA board members are experimenting with using the **Nextdoor.com** platform to create a more dynamic web presence.

As the introductory material reads: “Nextdoor is a private social network for your neighborhood. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors—**and only you and your neighbors**—to talk online and make all of your lives better in the real world. And it's free.

“People are using Nextdoor to:

- Find a new home for an outgrown bike
- Track down a trustworthy babysitter
- Quickly get the word out about a break-in
- Find out who does the best paint job in town
- Organize a garage sale
- Ask for help keeping an eye out for a lost dog
- Finally call that nice man down the street by his first name.”

There are now 5% of the 419 households in the MARA boundary signed up. One use so far has been to encourage members of our neighborhood to invest in Park-Street-resident Heather Hardcastle’s gluten free Flour Craft Bakery that is she is opening in San Anselmo. But the more of us that connect, the more useful it will be — so we encourage you join us on the nextdoor.com site.

The screenshot shows the Nextdoor Montecito website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and a navigation menu with options: Home, Neighbors, Recommendations, Buy/Sell/Free, Crime/Safety, Groups, More, Invite, and Bryn. Below the navigation is a map of the Montecito neighborhood with a green location pin. To the right of the map, there is a 'Recent Activity' section with a text input field for writing a message to neighbors and a 'Send alert' button. Below the input field, there is an example message: 'For example: Ask for a recommendation, write a review, or list an item for sale.' The activity feed shows a post from Bryn Deamer, a member with 11 neighbors, congratulating Heather on being funded for her bakery. The post includes a link to the Kickstarter project and a 'LEAD' badge. On the left side of the interface, there is a 'October Membership Drive' section with a progress bar showing 5 members out of 30, and an 'Invite Neighbors' button.

Nextdoor’s mission is “to bring back a sense of community to the neighborhood, one of the most important communities in each of our lives.