



Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 9 • Saturday, October 14, 1989

The Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association is made up of residents interested in preserving the quality of life in our neighborhood. Together we can make a difference—join us.

Council Funds Second Phase: 4th Neighborhood Preservation Workshop on October 25th

In September the city council funded phase II of the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Preservation Study. That means we are in the home stretch: there will be two more workshops to refine the proposed plan. Then consultant Terry Bottomley will produce a written version, and there will be a round of hearings before various committees and the city council. Finally the council will vote on funding and implementing the plan.

The next workshop will be from 7 to 9pm on Wednesday, October 25th, at the Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Avenue. We expect the final workshop to be held November 15th, comfortably before the holiday season begins. Please try to attend both of these important workshops!

Join the OMOVNA Steering Committee

Our neighborhood association has a steering committee instead of a president and other officers. This committee meets weekly—usually Wednesday evenings at 7pm. You get to be a member by attending regularly. You are invited! Our most important task for the next few months will be to work with the consultant on the final version of the Neighborhood Preservation Plan. We welcome your ideas. Our names and phone numbers are listed at the end of this newsletter; please call to learn the location of the next Wednesday meeting.

First Evelyn Avenue Corridor Workshop Held

The Evelyn Avenue corridor study got underway September 7th with a "kickoff" workshop. This study, which is expected to take about a year, will produce a precise plan for the area extending north to the Southern Pacific tracks, south to Villa Street, west to Shoreline Avenue, and east to Highway 85.

The study is intended to anticipate the forces leading to change, and to provide guidelines to channel that change in directions best serving Mountain View's residents, property owners, and businesses. Should the existing zoning be changed? What density of development is appropriate? How can crosstown circulation on Evelyn and Villa be improved? What

will be the impact of more frequent CalTrain service and the proposed light rail?

We encourage Old Mountain View residents to participate in this study, by attending the workshops or applying for membership on the steering committee (which will be appointed by the city council), so that future Evelyn corridor development serves our needs as well as that of the landowners and merchants.

A Dangerous Intersection for Schoolchildren

The intersection of West Dana and Calderon Streets is one of the busiest in our neighborhood. Attendees at the neighborhood preservation workshops last summer mentioned the intersection as a problem, and now it's coming under further scrutiny. A group of parents whose children walk to Landels School are concerned about the hazard posed by the heavy commuter traffic at the intersection and along East Dana in front of the school. The Landels School P.T.A. and the Landels Site Council are eager to work with the city to define and implement a solution to this potentially dangerous situation.

As a first step toward solving the Calderon/Dana intersection problem, city traffic engineer Dennis Belluomini will attend a meeting of the Landels Site Council on Thursday, October 19 at 7:00pm at Landels School to discuss measures that the city can take to make the intersection safer for school children. The meeting will take place in either the Landels School Library or the Landels Multi-purpose Room. All interested neighborhood residents are urged to attend.

No Decision Yet on New Downtown Fire Station Site

After hearing presentations comparing three potential sites for the new downtown fire station, the city council voted to defer making a decision until after a special study session. This will give the council a better opportunity to review plans for the size of the facility, alternate uses for one of the sites, and neighborhood concerns.

The three sites presented were: Villa Street next to the existing Police/Fire Administration building, the PAL site at Shoreline and West Dana, and the



northeast corner of Shoreline and Church. Each of these sites would have some impact on adjoining residences. The Church Street site would require demolishing two privately-owned homes and two city-owned homes. The PAL site is the largest one and the only one with a potential for a variety of uses, such as a park or a new library. The council also asked that the current site at Franklin and Villa be considered.

If you have an opinion on which site to choose, you should become involved. The study session is currently scheduled for **October 26 at 7:30pm, at the Police/Fire Administration Building, 1000 Villa Street.** Another good way to learn about and discuss issues such as this one is to attend the meetings and workshops held by the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association.

Work on Fairmont Avenue near Castro Street

A short stretch of Fairmont Avenue between Castro and Hope Streets will soon be changed to one-way traffic, away from Castro. This change, prompted by the redesign of Castro, will prevent cars from turning left from Fairmont onto Castro, and will

also allow room for diagonal parking on one side of Fairmont.

Large Turnout for Arts & Wine Festival

This year's Arts & Wine Festival was one of the largest ever, in terms of the number of vendors and the number of people attending. The construction along Castro Street caused relocation of the festival to Hope and California Streets, which meant that it was closer than normal to the homes of many residents. Presumably the festival will return to Castro Street next year, but this is a good time to take stock of the impact of this festival on our neighborhood. Do you enjoy attending the festival? Have you experienced serious problems, such as illegal parking or trash left in yards? The festival should be a pleasant occasion for everyone, especially those of us who live nearby.

Announcements?

Do you have news or announcements of interest to our neighborhood? We'll try to include them in this newsletter on a space-available basis. Call Paul or Raquel McJones at 964-1068.

New to the Neighborhood?

Have you moved to the Old Mountain View neighborhood (bounded by El Camino, Shoreline, Evelyn, and Highways 237/85) in the last few months? Then you may be a little confused about the purpose and history of our neighborhood association. You've probably noticed we put out this newsletter every month or so, and that we're working with the city to create a Neighborhood Preservation Plan. But you may be wondering how we got started.

Why

Why would anyone form a neighborhood association? It sounds like a lot of work—what's the reward? How could I ever agree with my neighbor on anything? And even if we could agree, what difference would it make: how could we get the city to listen to us? I work hard at my job; in my spare time I want to relax, not crusade.

Last winter a group of us asked ourselves the same questions. We loved our neighborhood, and feared that it would be harmed by traffic and the new development going on around us. We all had tried to solve problems alone, but never seemed to accomplish much. So we decided to try something different: forming a

neighborhood association and working together to express our concerns to the city council and staff. More than that, we wanted to get interested residents involved in solving problems constructively and keeping the neighborhood a great place to live.

We see the association serving several purposes. First, we try to provide a forum for discussing local issues and making ourselves aware of the forces shaping where we live. For example, members have regularly attended meetings of the city council and its subcommittees to learn what changes are looming on the horizon. Second, we try to improve communication between the city council and staff and residents of the area. For example, the city has notified association members of some potential development projects that would affect us. Third, through our general meetings, we get to know each other a little better. We have a long way to go in meeting our goals, but we are moving forward, and invite all residents in our neighborhood to join us!

For More Information

If you'd like more information on our association and its activities, get in touch. Call any of the people listed below to ask questions, or come to one of our regular Wednesday meetings.



Write to OMOVNA at P.O. Box 391328, Mountain View, CA 94039.

To attend a meeting (every Wednesday at 7pm), call any of these people:

Jeff & Kim Farmer 964-6759 • Rich Baker 964-2195 • Chuck Darrah & Janice Konevich 967-2591
Linda Heineke 967-4098 • Tom & Judy Hunter 968-6164 • Stephen & Ann Lewis 968-4341
Paul & Raquel McJones 964-1068 • Eric Schweitzer & Marian Concus 969-9308 • Diana Whitecar 964-5462

