

# Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 4 • Saturday, October 6, 1990

---

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

---

## Changes

The Castro Street construction is complete, signaling changes to come. Will the downtown be successful, attracting more merchants and patrons? How will it affect our neighborhood? Will we find new shops we like? What will the impact on traffic and parking be?

Summer is over, and it's time to take stock of our neighborhood. How is our own Neighborhood Preservation Plan coming along? What comes next? This edition of the newsletter brings you up-to-date.

## Neighborhood Preservation Plan

The Old Mountain View Neighborhood Preservation Plan is now in written form and is being reviewed by the city staff and outside consultants in preparation for presentation to the Revitalization

Committee, the Environmental Planning Commission (EPC), and finally the City Council.

The Council Neighborhoods Committee used its September 27th meeting to conduct a walking tour of Old Mountain View, inviting the members of the Revitalization Committee, the EPC, and the full Council. The tour, led by OMVNA members, followed a rectangular path along Loreto, Bush, Church, and Calderon, and highlighted many of the areas of concern in the Preservation Plan.

We must remember that getting the Plan approved isn't the end of the matter. Construction of the measures called for by the Plan is likely to occur over several years. And an integral part of the Plan is monitoring various streets and intersections to make sure these measures control traffic effectively and to make any necessary modifications.

## Whither OMVNA?

In addition to monitoring the neighborhood plan, there are a number of other things our neighborhood association can be involved with. For example, do you have an idea for the theme of a future OMVNA general meeting? It might be earthquake preparedness, child safety, home remodeling, or ... ? We're planning a "brainstorming" meeting to discuss and prioritize

ideas for the association at 7pm on Wednesday, October 17. To attend, call Jeff or Kim Farmer at 964-6759. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

## OMVNA General Meetings

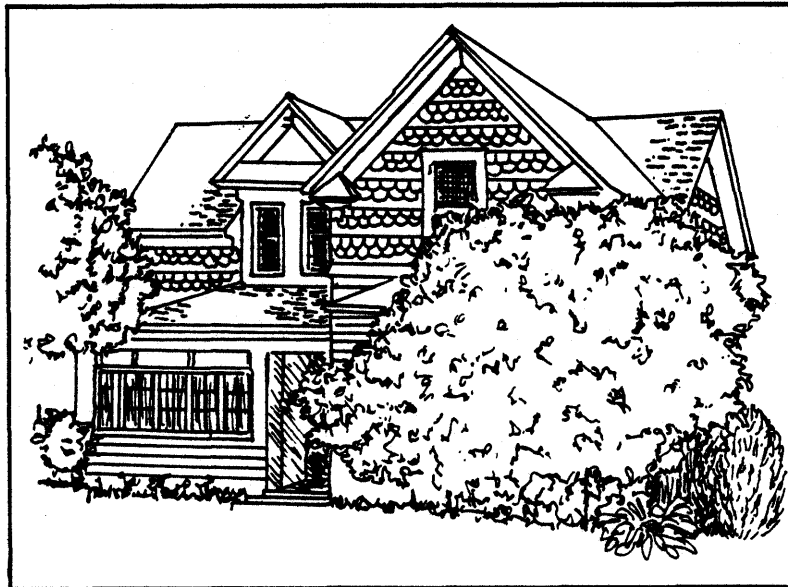
The neighborhood preservation workshops are behind us, so it will be important to hold general meetings on a regular schedule. We plan for three meetings a year—fall, winter,

and spring. The next meeting will be in early November, and the main topic will be setting the future direction of the association. By the time of the following meeting—January or February, 1991—the new City Hall will be finished. We've requested permission to hold the spring general meeting in the new building, combined with a tour of the facilities.

## Revitalization

Everyone in Mountain View can be proud of the new Castro Street, and the Revitalization Committee deserves our congratulations for a job well done. Now that the construction is complete, it's time to concentrate on the details involved in making Castro the best street in the Bay area. Storefronts should be refurbished, more merchants recruited, etc.

The location of our neighborhood next to the Castro revitalization district and other commercial



areas presents a real challenge to future development: how to provide graceful transitions between commercial and residential areas. The side-street zoning provisions in the Downtown Precise Plan, and the recommendations on density gradients in the Phase I Evelyn Corridor study provide a good starting point.

#### **A Hearing on Zoning Issues**

Just as we've noticed here in Old Mountain View, people throughout the city find that it can be tricky to remodel your home while conforming to the existing zoning regulations. There is a strict 45% floor area ratio, which limits the floor area of a single-family home (including garage and all accessory structures) to a maximum of 45% of the lot area. Some people think this is too restrictive for small lots, and not restrictive enough for large lots.

The Environmental Planning Commission has identified a number of measures that could make residential zoning more flexible. These were scheduled to be discussed at the October 3rd EPC meeting.

#### **Light Rail**

The San Jose light rail system currently runs only as far west as the Santa Clara Convention Center. You've probably heard of the discussions about extensions west to downtown Sunnyvale or Mountain View. We believe that combining a light rail station with the existing CalTrain and bus service near Castro Street would make an important contribution to alleviating traffic congestion throughout the region.

You can show your support for light rail by calling or writing the members of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors: Rod Diridon, Ron Gonzales, Zoltan Lofgren, Dianne McKenna, Susanne Wilson. You can contact them at:

Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Clara  
70 W. Hedding Street, 10th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95110  
(408) 299-2323

You can also phone Ken Alsman in the City of Mountain View Planning Department at 966-6301.

#### **Historical House Tour**

The drawing on the first page of this newsletter comes from a booklet entitled "Mountain View's Historic Homes: A Walking Tour", which was created for the Castro Street opening celebration by a group that included several Old Mountain View residents. You can have a copy of the booklet (as well as a companion describing a tour of commercial buildings) by calling the City Manager's Office at 966-6301.

#### **Landels School News**

Need something to do? Landels School is looking for volunteers to help the school a couple of hours a week. If you love children and the hustle and bustle of school activity, become a member of the Landels community. Contact Kim Farmer at 964-6759 or Ann Lewis at 968-4341.



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

To attend a meeting of the steering committee, call any of these people:

Jeff & Kim Farmer 964-6759 • Chuck Darrah & Janice Konevich 967-2591

Linda Heineke-Lum 967-4098 • Tom & Judy Hunter 968-6164 • Stephen & Ann Lewis 968-4341

Paul & Raquel McJones 964-1068 • Eric Schweitzer & Marian Concus 969-9308