



OMVNA Newsletter

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Letter from the Chair: Fruit Pirates in our Midst

By Noam Livnat, OMVNA Chair

While I was packing my car with a week's supply of water, camping gear, wings and furry hats for my annual pilgrimage to Burning Man, I heard a commotion. Lifting my head, I saw Joe and Donna, two of my neighbors, charging down the street and yelling at somebody. I joined them to see if they needed any help, and discovered that they were chasing away a group of individuals who were raiding another neighbor's fruit trees.

It turned out that the fruit pirates were well organized: a few people loading bags of fruit into a car driven by another person. As we approached, the car sped away and the rest of the people scattered away on bicycles. I then recalled that a little earlier I had seen the thieves' blue car cruising down the street, its driver scanning driveways. At the time I had assumed he was looking for an address, but now realized that he was scouting our street for targets.

Families on my block who have fruit trees in their front yards suffered several similar raids this summer. To be sure, not all were as premeditated, but that's hardly a consolation. People strolling Old Mountain View streets away from downtown are more likely to

be local, and having your property violated by people living close by is rather aggravating. I recall an incident in which a couple of middle-aged women denied trying to steal fruit but failed to offer an alternative explanation for being perched in my tree!

I don't know how widespread this phenomenon is, but I'm perturbed. I'm unhappy to discover that some who live here think it's OK to steal from their neighbors. I'm also concerned that those who drive here to steal fruit from front yards will move to stealing from back yards or from houses. I haven't been worried about crime in the neighborhood and I'm not sure I am now, but I'm not as sanguine about it anymore.

The police have the license plate of the car involved in the most recent incident, but they might have higher priorities than tracking the perpetrators. In the meantime, it's up to us to follow Joe and Donna's example and keep an eye out for each other. It's the neighborly thing to do. ■

Saying Goodbye to Living in Downtown Mtn. View

By Ken Rosenberg

My wife and I moved to downtown Mountain View in 1997 to buy our first home. We wanted to live in a house that was within walking distance to restaurants

and night life. We felt that downtown Mountain View, an area that seemed a bit less trendy than Palo Alto or Los Gatos, would appreciate at a faster pace than other areas. There seemed to be a renaissance going on in this quaint area, so we settled down here. And we got it right.

As we gear up to move (in order to have a bigger home for our family), we reminisce about our life here for the past twelve years. I didn't intend to get so involved in the neighborhood, but after a career change (as a result of the dot-bomb era of 2001), it was imperative that I do some "social networking." In 2002, I volunteered for the Steering Committee of the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association. I also signed up for Leadership Mountain View, a class given by the Chamber of Commerce. I joined OMVNA Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and later the Board of the Chamber and the City's Downtown Committee. Through these organizations, I met many wonderful people who not only live in Mountain View, but serve to make it a better place to live, work, and conduct business. At the hub of the greatness of our city is the downtown neighborhood, which is special in its own right.

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Saying Goodbye (continued)

We live in an area that people desire. They come here from all over the world to do business with our great companies, and they come to our downtown for the festivals and the food. I think there is no better way to spend an evening than having a wonderful dinner, walking over to the theater to see a world class performance, then strolling a few blocks home hand-in-hand with your significant other. It's like a permanent vacation. We will truly miss living here.

This Spring, as our children were approaching their teens, my wife and I struggled with the most difficult decision since starting a family: where should we raise our kids as they get older? After months of debate, we concluded that the best thing for us was a bigger house on a bigger piece of land. If we could have had our way, we would have stayed downtown with our friends and familiarity. Alas, there wasn't anything here that met our needs.

Although we are saying goodbye to this neighborhood, we're moving less than a mile to the Springer-Meadows Neighborhood. I'm sure I'll join their Steering Committee and get involved there too; neighborhood service has been very fulfilling. I hope to see you at next year's OMVNA ice cream social! ■

***** Classified Ad *****

Trailblazer Race & Trail Walk Sunday Sept. 27, with free kids' races! Benefits Friends of Stevens Creek Trail. Info/register @ www.stevenscreektrail.org

Will You Be Ready Enough When "The Big One" Hits?

Fact: there is a 67% likelihood of an earthquake measuring 6.7 or more within 30 years, according to the USGS. When the Big One comes we need to be ready to survive without outside services up to 3 days. Will you bitterly regret not being prepared as you scrounge around for supplies to keep your family fed and warm?

Have you analyzed your needs and prepared? Do you have a plan, a list of contacts, 3 days of emergency supplies stored in a safe place, and a back up for special needs such as refrigerated medication? If water lines fail and the toilet won't flush, what will you do? There are solutions, but only if you bought them ahead of when you'll need them.

Overwhelmed? Have no fear, help is here! Years ago our neighborhood organized a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). Today OMVNA CERT has 50 neighborhood volunteers who will act as coordinators and radio communicators during an emergency. They hold monthly radio checks and yearly training sessions.

Important note: CERT volunteers will NOT provide water, food, or shelter to others! That is every family's responsibility. However, excellent information about supplies you'll need is listed to the right and online at www.omvna.org/cert.

If you have questions or might be interested in joining our CERT (it takes very little time), please contact **Aaron Grossman** at aagrossman@yahoo.com ■

Library Seeks Volunteers to Help the Homebound

Do you have 1-2 hours of free time each month? Have you been looking for a volunteer opportunity that fits into your busy schedule? The City of Mountain View Public Library is looking for volunteers to deliver Library materials to individuals who are homebound and living in Mountain View. Deliveries are made once a month during a regularly designated week (day and time of delivery is flexible within that week). To find out more about this program, please contact:

Amy O'Connor at 650 526-7034, amy.oconnor@mountainview.gov

What to Put in Your Earthquake Supply Kit

By Aaron Grossman

Caution: do not use flames inside. Cook outside. Use flashlights, not candles.

Water

- o This is the single most important item! You should have one gallon per person per day.
- o 1-gallon jugs are best – easily stored, carried, and replaced.
- o Water filters or purification tablets are useful.
- o Your hot water heater can be drained for more water.

Food:

- o You should have at least 3 meals per person per day for three days.
- o Canned, dry, powdered, or dehydrated foods that don't need refrigeration.
- o High energy foods: peanut butter, jelly, nuts, and energy bars.

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Earthquake Kit (continued)

- o Camping stoves and portable equipment are very useful.
- o Disposable items save water.
- o Pet food if you have pets.

Toilet & hygiene

- o Use trash bags or a camping portable toilet.
- o Toilet paper and towels, hand disinfectant, personal hygiene items.

Warm Clothing & Bedding

- o Be prepared for any season.
- o Bedding or sleeping bags that can keep you warm outdoors at night.

Medication - First Aid

- o Any needed medications; consider lack of refrigeration for insulin.
- o First Aid kit, bandages, book.
- o Infant care, pet care, etc.

Tools/Equipment

- o Flashlight, radio.
- o Duct tape, rope, plastic sheeting.
- o Broom, gloves, hammer, etc.

Car or Office Kit

- o Water, energy bars.
- o First aid kit, space blanket, whistle, money.
- o Walking shoes, rain poncho or jacket, gloves.
- o Flashlight, duct tape, tools, etc.

Documents

- o Keep copies of important legal and financial documents somewhere where they will be safe from fire and water damage.

Communication

- o OMVNA CERT will operate an emergency radio network on FRS channel 7.

Hand-held radios will work within 3000 yards even when cell phones will not. Every family should have one per adult, plus spare batteries. ■

Celebrate Arts Month in Mountain View!

By Patricia Cheng

In October, the City of Mountain View will celebrate National Arts and Humanities Month. The festivities will include a proclamation of Arts Month by Mayor **Margaret Abe-Koga** and activities that will inspire participation in the arts.

Old Mountain View residents have access to a wonderful array of live performances and visual art displays. An "Arts Challenge" will invite you to write about your experiences of art in Mountain View. When you submit a completed entry form, you will be eligible for prizes generously provided by local organizations!

Details about the Arts Month Celebration are available at <http://mv-arts.blogspot.com>.

Throughout October, information about Arts Month will be displayed on the second floor of the Library.

The Arts Month Celebration is sponsored by the City's Performing Arts Committee, in collaboration with the City's Visual Arts Committee and a team of local volunteers. ■

Steering Committee to Meet

The next Steering Committee meeting will be 7:30 Monday, Oct. 12 in the Chamber of Commerce Board Room at 580 Castro. Everyone is welcome to attend! Agendas are sent to the OMVNA-talk Yahoo!Group prior to each meeting. To suggest a topic, send e-mail to: chair@omvna.org

Future meetings will be held in the Chamber Board Room on the second Monday of each month. ■

We All Screamed for Ice Cream

Natasha Keck and her daughters **Sasha** and **Ava** enjoyed their cones at the OMVNA Ice Cream Social. *Photo by Ken Rosenberg*

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