



OMVNA Newsletter

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OMVNA Annual Meeting Has Crime Prevention Focus

OMVNA's General Meeting and Election will be held Thursday, Dec. 3 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber. Our special guest speaker will be **Steve McCoy** of the Mountain View Police Department. Steve will give crime prevention tips and answer questions from the audience.

Steve has been with the Mountain View Police Department since 1998. He worked in the Personnel and Training Unit before becoming a Community Services Officer in 1999. He served in patrol for 6 ½ years.

Steve has served as the Department's Crime Prevention Officer for over three and a half years and currently is assigned to the Office of the Police Chief in the Community Action and Information Unit. As the Department's Crime Prevention Officer, he is the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator and he manages the False Alarm Program. He has also been a member of the Field Evidence Team and the Peer Counseling Team for the last 9 years.

Please see the next article for the list of nominees for OMVNA officer positions. ■

OMVNA Steering Committee Nominees for 2010

By *Bruce Karney*

Each year OMVNA's Steering Committee selects a Nominating Committee to propose a slate of officers for the coming year. This year I chaired the Nominating Committee. The other members were **Noam Livnat** and **Hugh Donagher**.

Our goal is to balance experience and fresh ideas and to nominate a group that is reflective of the diversity of our residents. We strive to include renters as well as homeowners and to have representation from all parts of OMV.

Two of our nominees are renters and six own houses or condos. Three currently serve on the Steering Committee and five are new additions, two of whom also served previously. Four are male and four are female. Nominees' ages range from 40 to 65.

The slate consists of: **Hugh Donagher** (Chair), **Kim Copher** (Vice Chair), **Natalie Bitton** (Newsletter Editor), **Joan Karlin** (Secretary), **Aaron Grossman** (Treasurer), **David Lewis III** (Community Liaison), **Becky Reyna** (At Large #1) and **Jack Perkins** (At Large #2).

OMVNA's Winter General Meeting and Election will be held Dec. 3 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber. ■

Final Year for the "DC Cemetery" on Bush Street

For the past 19 years **Brent Ross** and his family have created spine-tingling Halloween displays outside their home at the corner of Bush and Yosemite. Brent has confirmed that this year's production will be the very last one.



The haunt is so outstanding that it won FEARnet.com's 2007 "Scariest Home Haunted House" contest. Brent and his wife were flown to New York City and presented with a \$50,000 check on NBC's *Today Show*.

(Continued on Page 2)

Thanks for your Service!

The Steering Committee would like to thank our five departing officers for their service to the neighborhood in 2009: **Noam Livnat** (Chair), **Ken Rosenberg** (Community Liaison), **John Emery** (Secretary), **Bruce Karney** (Newsletter Editor) and **Shelly King** (At Large). ■

Halloween (from Page 1)

Brent started constructing simple Halloween displays when he was only 14. As he and his friends have gotten older they have new responsibilities that prevent them from putting in the time required to keep building and improving the annual show.

This year the cemetery will return to its roots as a “walk-by” display. The “walk through” feature which led to long lines has been eliminated. A “child friendly” version of the show will run from 4-6 p.m. on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. This version has the music and sound effects turned down, but may still be too scary for children under age 6 – parental discretion is definitely advised.

The full-strength haunting will run from 6-8 p.m. on Oct. 29, 6-11 p.m. on Oct. 30-31 and 6-10 p.m. on Nov. 1. For more information, e-mail Brent at brent@dcprops.com or visit <http://dc-cemetery.com> ■

Keep up with the Local News - Join OMVNAtalk

OMVNAtalk is our neighborhood’s 9-year old e-mail list. It currently has more than 400 members. You should join if you would like to send or receive e-mail about issues of interest to Old Mountain View residents. It is a moderated list, which prevents spam and off-topic posts. By choosing the “Daily Digest” version, you’ll only get one e-mail each day.

You may use OMVNAtalk to send requests and announcements of any kind, including commercial announcements, as long as

there is a clear link to Old Mountain View.

To see the usage guidelines and join OMVNAtalk, go to: www.omvna.org/omvnatalk.html

Fall Gardening

By Paul Staley

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. Shorter, cooler days, longer shadows. Cool, crisp mornings. Dry, crunchy leaves everywhere. Even though I love the freedom of summer, there is something very enticing in the changes that come with Fall.

Fall is also a great time to work in the garden. There is a lot to be done to prepare for a winter garden or to get ready for next year’s garden adventure.

Since our winters are so mild, most of your efforts can go into cleaning up the old summer growth. This is a great time to compost all the old leaves, as well as the annuals that have run their course. Be sure to discard diseased growth in the trash and not in the compost pile. It is far better to rid yourself of the damaged vegetation than to risk encouraging the growth and spread of diseases, molds and fungi. Compost piles too often do not heat up enough to kill the pathogens.

Fall is also the premier season for putting in new plants or transplanting existing ones. If you put plants in during the late fall they will be better able to establish their root system while the soil is still warm from the summer sun. Mother Nature will – we hope -- water them for you during the winter months. They will be ready to jump out of the ground when

spring arrives and begins to warm us, and them, again next year.

Consider a cover crop for your veggie garden if you are not going to be planting food crops this winter. The cover crop can be harvested to feed your compost pile or turned back into the soil a month or so before planting.

Mulching your garden area with a thick layer of compost, leaves, straw or old garden plants is a great way to build humus in the soil. Over the winter it will break down and feed your soil, all the while encouraging the growth of all the good mycorrhizae, fungi and creatures that your plants depend upon.

If you have never grown veggies in the winter, I encourage you to try it. Too many of us forget about our garden during the cool months. Putting in broccoli and its brothers is a great way to stay in touch with your garden. ■

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Reading Together in MV

Old Mountain View residents are invited to participate in the 4th annual **Mountain View Reads Together**. The book we'll all be reading is *The Mailbox* by local author **Audrey Shafer**.

The 178-page book is written for readers age nine and older. Its central character is Gabe, a 12-year-old orphan who grew up in the foster care system. It's a story about connections -- about how two people in need can save each other. Other themes include the lingering effects of the Vietnam War on soldiers, the bond between people and their pets, the value of reading and a community that cares -- all wrapped up in a compelling mystery.

Book-related activities take place throughout November. Author Audrey Shafer will read from the book at the MV Library on Nov. 14 from 2:30-3:30. She will also appear at Books Inc. and local schools. Other activities include an art contest, calligraphy class, pop-up card workshop, and a talk about traumatic stress. Visit www.mvreads.org for event dates and times or call 903-6337. ■

Steering Committee Meets Two More Times in 2009

The next Steering Committee meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 9 and Dec. 14 in the Chamber of Commerce Board Room at 580 Castro. Everyone is welcome to attend! Agendas are sent to the OMOVNAtalk Yahoo!Group prior to each meeting. To suggest a topic, send an e-mail to: chair@omvna.org. ■

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

History Corner Archives:

The Doors Lead Singer Jim Morrison Lived in Old Mountain View

By Lisa Windes and Bruce Karney

(Originally published in the April, 2000 OMOVNA Newsletter.)

Forty years ago, **Jim Morrison** was one of the most famous (or notorious) rock and rollers in the world. But sixty years ago, he was just a little boy living in a rented house in our neighborhood. He was just "one of the gang" of boys and girls living here between WWII and the Korean War in what was then a town full of orchards.

Jim's father Steve was a naval officer stationed at Moffett Field during the late 40's and early 50's. He and his wife Clara moved their young family to Old Mountain View and rented a house at 476 Yosemite Avenue. Jim lived here from approximately age 5 to 7.

During the post-war years, the neighborhood housed many Navy personnel and their families. It seemed as if every house had two or three kids. Longtime Mountain View resident **Tom Chambliss** lived a couple of doors away from the Morrisons and was a playmate of Jim's.

Tom describes Jim as "a regular kid" who participated in a wide spectrum of neighborhood activities. The big things in the neighborhood then were building tree houses, running lemonade

stands, and playing baseball in the vacant lot at Bush and Yosemite (which remains one of the last vacant lots in the neighborhood). Tom says that "Jim was a lemonade stand guy."

Jim attended elementary school at the old Highway School located at the corner of Calderon and El Camino Real, now the site of Two Worlds. The Morrison family moved to Los Altos in the early 50's but after only six months, Steve Morrison was transferred out of the area to another naval base. He advanced rapidly through the grades in the Navy and in 1967, at age 47, was promoted to Rear Admiral -- the same year his son's group released its first album and the song "Light My Fire" went to the top of the charts.

The Doors retain an almost mythological status among its many admirers even thirty years later. Their unique sound centered around the Jim's dark, surreal poetry and vocals, the baseline organ of classically-trained keyboardist **Ray Manzarek**, and the improvisational jazz styles of **Robbie Krieger** on guitar and **John Densmore** on drums. In concert, Jim gave powerful theatrical performances that drew ever-larger audiences, but also caused considerable controversy over the moral content of the act.

Jim recorded six studio albums and one live album with *The Doors* before moving to Paris in 1971 to work on his poetry. He died on July 3, 1971 and is buried in the Poet's Corner of the Père Lachaise Cemetery. *The Doors* entered the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1993, the 50th anniversary of Jim's birth. ■

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