



# OMVNA Newsletter

Published and distributed by the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association

December 2009    Volume 21, Number 8    [www.omvna.org](http://www.omvna.org)

## Clarifying OMVNA's Position on Minton Project

At its Nov. 9 meeting, the OMVNA Steering Committee unanimously adopted a motion by **Bruce Karney** to have OMVNA Chair **Noam Livnat** send a letter to the City Council clarifying the Committee's position on the proposal by Prometheus to build an apartment complex on the property owned by the **Eaton** family where Minton's is now located. The resolution was drafted by **Robert Cox**. The letter reads:

"The steering committee of the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association, having reviewed the Prometheus Corporation's current plans for the Minton property in detail, has concluded that there is no consensus within the neighborhood regarding the current project plans. We therefore take no position on the plans. Furthermore, no past statements from the steering committee should be considered by the city government or Prometheus Corporation as constituting current support for this proposal.

"We encourage each resident and homeowner of Old Mountain View to take the opportunity to learn about the plans for the development of the Minton property and form his or her own educated opinion on the subject." ■

## OMVNA Election Results

*By Bruce Karney*

The turnout for the Dec. 3 OMVNA Steering Committee election exceeded all prior election meetings. Four candidates were elected by voice vote to uncontested positions: **Kim Copher** (Vice Chair), **David Lewis III** (Community Liaison), **Becky Reyna** (At Large #1) and **Jack Perkins** (At Large #2). **Aaron Grossman** was also elected to the uncontested, non-Steering Committee position of CERT Subcommittee Chair.

232 ballots were cast for four contested positions. The ballots were counted by **Wouter Suverkropp**, the Chair of the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association, with two neighborhood residents acting as observers. Vote counting took nearly an hour and a half.

**Laura Lewis** was elected Chair over **Hugh Donagher** by 147 votes to 84.

**Robert Cox** was elected Secretary, receiving 144 votes to 84 cast for **Joan Karlin**.

**Carter Coleman** out-poll **Aaron Grossman** for Treasurer by 127 to 101.

**Deb Keller** was elected Newsletter Editor over **Mattie Scott** by a tally of 109 votes to 95.

The new officers' terms will commence on January 1. ■

## Seeking Delivery Manager for the OMVNA Newsletter

The Steering Committee is seeking one or more volunteers to manage the distribution of the *Newsletter* in 2010. The main duties are to pick up the newsletters from the printer, count them into bundles, and deliver them to the carriers for each of the 50 routes. This job can be split between several people if desired.

The newsletter is delivered 8 times a year, and the schedule is built so as not to interfere with vacations or other critical events on the Delivery Manager's calendar. Transition training will be provided by the current Delivery Manager, **Julie Lovins**.

Please contact anyone on the Steering Committee or e-mail [delivery@omvna.org](mailto:delivery@omvna.org) if you are interested in taking on this vital volunteer role. ■

## City Seeks Residents' Input to Pedestrian Master Plan

*By Lauren Angelo*

The City seeking input to its new Pedestrian Master Plan to enhance walkability throughout the city. The **deadline** for public feedback is **December 15**.

Residents can request changes, such as sidewalk repairs and  
*(Continued on Page 2)*

**Pedestrian Plan** (continued) crosswalk markings, or anything else that would improve the pedestrian experience.

The City is using a couple of tools to ensure that everyone's voice is heard. You can provide feedback either by marking up City-provided maps, available online and in City Hall, or by editing an interactive Google Map online. The interactive map is worth checking out -- to read and contribute suggestions and because it's, well, really cool.

I encourage downtown residents to share your comments on our neighborhood. There are only a few comments within Old Mountain View, and walkability is one of the main reasons many of us live in downtown.

Links to both maps are at: [mountainview.gov/pedestrian](http://mountainview.gov/pedestrian) ■

## Carriers Needed: Bryant, Franklin & Oak St. Routes

We need a few more volunteer newsletters carriers in the Bryant-Franklin-Oak area. Please e-mail [delivery@omvna.org](mailto:delivery@omvna.org) if you can help. ■

## Letter from the Chair

*By Noam Livnat*

I didn't know what to expect when I joined OMVNA's Steering Committee three years ago, I was still relatively new to the neighborhood and had never taken part in a similar volunteering activity. I discovered a group of individuals, many of whom have been involved with the organization for years, who cared deeply about our neighborhood.

It's not just about the Steering Committee, of course. Many others, like **Julie Lovins**, who for 15 years has been organizing the army of volunteers who bring this newsletter to your doorstep, **Hugh Donagher** who helps whether he's on the Steering Committee or not, **Jamil Shaikh**, and too many others to name are instrumental in everything we do.

I also learned that OMVNA's ongoing success stems from its ability to maintain continuity. OMVNA's lore – our history, what we need to do and how to get things done – is passed from experienced members to the new ones by example, and I was lucky to learn the ropes from a seasoned group. A number of those veterans won't be returning to the Steering Committee next year: **Ken Rosenberg**, former Chair and recently our Community Liaison; **Bruce Karney**, a long-time Steering Committee member who has been a treasure trove of knowledge and advice in addition to editing the newsletter; and **Aaron Grossman**, our treasurer since 1999 and the driving force behind CERT, the Community Emergency Response Team. Our neighborhood owes much to them. Many thanks to other dedicated members of this year's Steering Committee: **Kim Copher**, **John Emery**, **Joan Karlin**, and **Shelly King**.

A few days ago we completed our yearly ritual of entrusting a new Steering Committee with maintaining OMVNA's tradition of pragmatism, inclusiveness, and improving the welfare of our community. The amazing turnout at OMVNA's elections was a testament to the strong feelings we

have for our neighborhood. I was relieved to see that, with a few shameful exceptions, we can still be a pleasant lot even when we disagree on certain issues. After all, disagreements originate from diversity of background, philosophy, and outlook, and it is this diversity that makes Mountain View such a great place to live.

OMVNA has evolved into something unique and precious since its inception in 1992; it is also delicate and requires careful handling. My best wishes to the new Steering Committee as it prepares for next year's challenges. I am looking forward to meeting more of you in person next year. ■

## Keep up with the Local News - Join OMVNAtalk

**OMVNAtalk**, our neighborhood e-mail list, will celebrate its tenth birthday on February 24. At last count it has 452 members. 5,424 messages have been posted since its inception.

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 generally 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](http://www.omvna.org/omvnatalk.html)

## Welcome to the Neighborhood

By Bruce Karney

I moved to the Bay Area in 1972 to attend Stanford. Early on, I developed the habit of reading the *San Francisco Chronicle* each morning during breakfast, and what I looked forward to the most was **Herb Caen's** column.

If you read only one of his columns, you might conclude that Caen's was a raconteur, a gossip, a wit, a sentimentalist, an activist, a bore, a historian, or a curmudgeon. He was all of those things. He had time to be. His column ran from 1938 (when he was only 22) until his death in 1997 at the age of 80. He had plenty of time to share his complex psyche with his devoted readers.

To me, he was an open-hearted tour guide who gave me five minutes of instruction each day about what made San Francisco so special. And he knew, deep in his bones, how special the place was. He'd grown up in "Sackamenna" and he knew the difference between a good city and a great one.

To do his job, Caen's spent most of his waking hours – for 60 years! – exploring the hidden corners and byways of the city he dubbed Baghdad by the Bay. He spent time with the rich and powerful, but also with cabbies, waiters, Muni drivers and washed up boxers who were part of his enormous circle of friends.

I've never forgotten how grateful I was that someone sharing his deep knowledge about the people, places, and institutions that made up the San Francisco scene. Caen made me feel connected to a place I'd barely even visited, and he

made me believe that San Francisco was the most fascinating and wonderful place in the world.

During the years that I've edited this newsletter I've never tried to imitate Caen's style, but I've always thought about how I might be able to help someone who has just moved here from far away feel more connected to our wonderful community and the interesting people who live here.

Near the end of his life, Caen said: "I've loved this town before I was born, and I'll love it after I'm gone. One day if I do go to heaven, I'm going to do what every San Franciscan does who goes to heaven -- he looks around and says, 'It ain't bad, but it ain't San Francisco.' "

That's how I feel about our part of Mountain View, and I hope you do too. ■

## 2010 OMVNA Budget

On November 9, the OMVNA Steering Committee Proposed the following budget for 2010.

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>\$10,500</u>
Newsletter ads	9,000
Grants	1,500
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$10,500</u>
Newsletter expenses	5,000
Board discretionary	2,300
Meetings and events	2,000
Operating expenses	600
CERT	500
Equipment purchases	100

Because 2010 is an election year, we expect higher ad revenue than in 2009. Local candidates have proven to be important advertisers during the last 4 even-

numbered years, and we hope the trend continues. The budget assumes we will print six 4-page and two 8-page newsletters.

OMVNA's current checking account balance is \$8,934 which includes \$2,080 of pre-paid ads. ■

## Steering Committee Meets

The next Steering Committee will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 14 in the Chamber of Commerce Board Room at 580 Castro. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Agendas are sent to the OMVNAtalk Yahoo!Group prior to each meeting. To suggest a topic, send an e-mail to: [chair@omvna.org](mailto:chair@omvna.org). ■

## \*\*\*\*\* Classified Ads \*\*\*\*\*

**Fire Works Ceramic Studio**  
Paint Your Own Ceramics.  
Hand-Building With Clay.  
Parties, Playgroups, Team Building. [www.fireworksceramics.com](http://www.fireworksceramics.com)

**MAKEOVERS BY DESIGN:**  
Affordable Room Rearrangements Using Items You Already Have for a New Look. Clutter Busting. 650-941-2994,  
[MakeoversByDesign@hotmail.com](mailto:MakeoversByDesign@hotmail.com),  
[www.MakeoversByDesign.net](http://www.MakeoversByDesign.net)

The *OMVNA Newsletter* is distributed by hardworking volunteers to 2500 residences and 200 downtown businesses. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the OMVNA Steering Committee.  
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