

# Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 2 • Saturday, July 13, 1991

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.

## Council to Vote July 30th on Neighborhood Plan Adoption

### What's Been Happening with the Plan?

July 30th will be the most important date in the history of the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Preservation & Improvement Plan. That's the date on which the City Council will vote on adopting the plan. It's been almost four months since the April 2nd study session presentation of the plan to the Council. What's happened in the mean time? At the request of the Council, a traffic study was performed to confirm the need for the Old Mountain View neighborhood plan and the appropriateness of the proposed remedies.

The traffic study, performed by an independent engineering firm, examined accident rates, speeds, traffic volumes, and through traffic. The study found that some local streets are functioning as collector streets, leading to excessive traffic volumes. The study also measured abnormal degrees of through traffic. *Compared with five other neighborhoods in the city, the Old Mountain View accident rate was twice as high as the second highest rate, and nearly ten times the lowest rate.* Speeding was not found to be a significant factor in the accident data, but drivers unfamiliar with the neighborhood were involved in a large share of the accidents. The study found the traffic control strategies proposed in the Neighborhood Preservation Plan to be appropriate responses to the existing problems.

The City Council acknowledged the seriousness of the Old Mountain View situation by including initial implementation funds within the 1991-1992 Capital Improvements Program. At the July 30th Council meeting they will vote on the final adoption of the plan. Be there to show your support!

### Chronology of the Plan

The plan has been a long time in the making. In case you've forgotten all the steps that were involved, or have recently arrived, here is a summary of the events so far:

- 2/89 Council funds Castro Improvements and agrees to develop a neighborhood plan
- 4/89 Council funds first phase of study
- 5/89 First public workshop
- 6/89 Second public workshop
- 7/89 Third public workshop
- 9/89 Council funds second phase of study
- 10/89 Fourth public workshop
- 3/90 Fifth public workshop
- 9/90 Council Neighborhoods Committee walk-thru
- 2/91 Environmental Planning Commission votes to recommend approval of plan
- 3/91 Downtown Revitalization Committee passes resolution in favor of plan
- 4/91 Council study session requests traffic study to confirm need and establish baseline
- 6/91 Council allocates \$60K for plan in 1991-1992 Capital Improvement Program
- 7/91 Council to vote on final adoption of plan

All told, thousands of hours have been spent by residents, city staff, and the consultants. A comprehensive and effective plan has been produced. Now is your last chance to tell the City Council how important it is to you that the plan is enacted.

### How Can I Make Sure the Plan Passes?

Attend the City Council meeting:

Where: Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Castro

When: Tuesday, July 30th, 7:30pm

Call or write your Councilmembers:

Phone: 903-6305

Write: City Council, City Hall, 500 Castro Street  
Mountain View 94041

## Council to Vote on Evelyn Corridor Concept Plan

At the same July 30th meeting at which they will vote on the Old Mountain View plan, the City Council will also vote on the Concept Plan produced by the first phase of the Evelyn Avenue Corridor Study. If this plan is accepted, the study will enter a second phase involving specific details such as proposed rezoning.

## Open Space Becoming a City-Wide Concern

Old Mountain View has several parks, but most are at the periphery of the neighborhood. As a result of the discussions at the public workshops, the Neighborhood Preservation & Improvement Plan calls for creating a new, centrally-located park. The Evelyn Corridor study, which proposes higher density housing, includes open-space areas. Now open space is becoming an issue in the rezoning of the Old Mill Shopping Center site in North Mountain View. The Environmental Planning Commission (EPC) is considering both high density housing and open space for this eighteen-acre former retail center.

Janet Long is an active member of the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association, which borders on the Old Mill site on the other side of Central Expressway. Janet is taking a keen interest in the planning process for Old Mill. She argues that North Mountain View already has lots of high density housing but very few neighborhood parks. To address this problem, Janet has proposed that open space should be the highest priority use for the Old Mill site.

At a June 19 meeting of the EPC, several redevelopment objectives were agreed to. Half of the land (nine acres) would contain residential buildings up to six stories in height at a density of 40 units to the acre. The other nine acres would contain public and private open space.

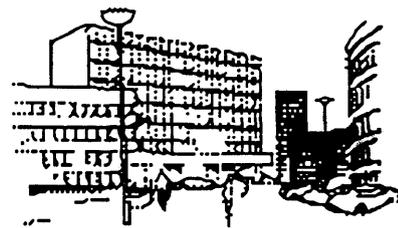
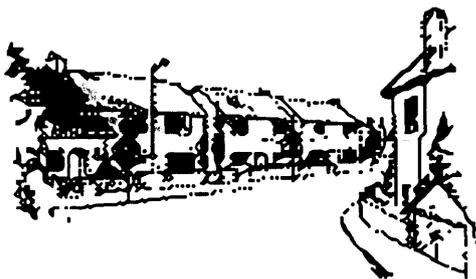
The configuration of the open space has not yet been decided. Options include one or two general pur-

pose park areas or many small areas with specific uses, such as jacuzzis, barbecue areas, or community gardens. The ownership of the open space areas has not been determined either. It is planned to be some mixture of private and public ownership with public access.

Curt Thiem is the incoming president of the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association. Curt points out that most of Mountain View's high density residential buildings are already in North Mountain View and questions why Old Mill must continue this trend. A recent survey of Monta Loma residents showed sentiment in favor of residential housing at Old Mill but also great concern over the proposed density and the height of the buildings. Curt points out that the existing Old Mill plan of six stories will block the view of the mountains from parts of the neighborhood and the 40 units per acre is at the higher end of residential density (Park Place in our neighborhood is about 45 units per acre). He would like to see the density lowered to 30 units per acre, the height limited to three stories, and more open space added.

The City agrees with Janet and Curt that open space is a real problem in North Mountain View. Mike Percy is the Mountain View Senior Urban Planner who is coordinating the Old Mill planning process. He believes it isn't feasible to dedicate the entire Old Mill site to open space but that fees paid by the developers can be used to purchase land within North Mountain View more suitable for neighborhood parks.

The EPC was expected to meet again on Wednesday, July 10 for continued consideration of the open space configurations. Information on the results of this meeting and the Old Mill redevelopment is available from Mike Percy or Curt Thiem. Mike can be reached at the Mountain View Planning Department (903-6306). Curt can be reached at the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association (964-5821).



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

The steering committee meets at 7pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month; to attend, call one of us:

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

Tom & Judy Hunter 968-6164 • Stephen & Ann Lewis 968-4341

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

