

HIGHLIGHTS

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LAMPPOST

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Restaurant Scene

by Max Hauser

Yami Grill, 699 Calderon at Church, closed. Licensing-change notice dated June 19 names a coming restaurant "Clifford's Chicken & Fish."

In July after long gestation (the first new-business notice appeared there 15 months ago), popular Peruvian restaurant group **Limón** ("Rotisserie" was dropped from the name) opened its much-anticipated Santa Clara County location, 800 California St. at Castro. Remodeling has moved the restaurant's main entrance from the Castro-California corner to California Street.



Ava's Market: Is It Important To You?

by Max Hauser

Ava's Downtown Market at 340 Castro has served the neighborhood 12 years but is now at risk unless the community rallies to support it more deliberately.

The factor responsible, common among small local grocers, is sagging purchase volume. Delivery services and big-box stores are part of it. Owner Juan Origel says Ava's did well earlier in the pandemic, but trade fell off as old habits returned. Some residents acknowledge taking Ava's for granted, treating it as a convenience store, not a primary shopping destination.

This situation isn't unsolvable; there's precedent. A similar independent market up the Peninsula struggled, the owner preparing to close, until local residents realized the importance of their little community market. Word spread; people patronized it more consciously. Now, that market is "very successful." Even a few percent of Old MV residents shifting more routine shopping from supermarkets to Ava's could bring the same result.

What to do?

- Choose Ava's, rather than supermarkets, for more everyday groceries. A neighbor I spoke to "loves Ava's for its convenience" but "never thought about" it for weekly family groceries, relying on supermarket trips. The neighbor said it wouldn't be hard to shift some of that habit. Car parking is directly behind Ava's in the multi-story garage, and for brief stops, there's ground-floor 30-minute parking. If you avoid peak downtown busy times (like lunchtimes), parking in that garage usually abounds.
- Ava's has a new Loyalty Program to connect with regular customers. Members get store and product info, and earn points for purchases. Join at the checkout stand, or online: <https://vori.typeform.com/avasloyalty>
- Ava's invites community input. What would it take for you to shop more regularly? Pricing? More inexpensive products? Bring back a butcher department? Let Ava's know on a feedback form: <https://tinyurl.com/AvasFbk>
- Spread the word among your neighbors or social media.

Why Ava's is important to the neighborhood

Old MV struggled unsuccessfully for years to attract a general grocer. Ava's happened only when the Origel family, experienced at managing other retail stores, chose our downtown to open their own business in 2011.

Besides groceries, Ava's provides local jobs, supports community groups through donations, and hosts community events w/o charge.

Losing Ava's could impact our downtown area's vibrancy, deterring future businesses and investments. Even local property values are affected. Resident Eugene Cordero studied the real estate industry's "walkability score," which attributes significant market value to presence of a grocer in walking distance. Published data suggest that home values near Castro St. could decline, if Ava's were lost, by as much as \$400k each. •

Come have fun and meet
with neighbors at OMVNA's

Ice Cream Social

SATURDAY

August 26, 2023

Mercy-Bush Park

1:00PM-3:00PM

Baskin Robbins Ice Cream

Featuring Live Music

Face painting, children's games,
chalk & informational tables

Suggested donation: \$1 per cone

A community event of the

Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association

Safety Corner

Lithium Ion Battery Safety



by Robert Maitland, MVFD

Lithium-ion batteries supply power to countless devices, many of which are in our homes and automobiles. These items include smartphones, laptops, e-scooters, e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even the car itself. If not used correctly or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

These batteries store enormous quantities of energy in a small amount of space. Occasionally batteries are not used as designed by the manufacturer. Using a battery for purposes other than its intended specific use can be dangerous. Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

By following a few safety tips, you can prevent these fires.

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use a battery that is compatible with the device.
- Put batteries in a device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not continue charging a device or a battery after it is fully charged.
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

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Historical Mountain View

Walk It Off, OMV Residents!

by Jerry Steach, www.mountainviewhistorical.org

So, Old Mountain View residents, do you ever get in one of those moods – you know, the kind that you just need to walk off? Well, here's a great way to do just that: Take part in one of the downtown walking tours conducted by the Mountain View Historical Association.

The (usually) monthly tours, guided by MVHA volunteers, center on Mountain View's evolution over 150-plus years. They visit notable sites throughout the downtown, with guides sharing stories about historic buildings – some looking much the way they did originally, others having gone through exterior and/or interior changes, though still rich in history.

Tours often spark surprise among their participants, MVHA President Pamela Baird says, as they discover little tidbits of information they'd otherwise never know about Downtown Mountain View.

For example, people are dismayed to see the changes from the original photo of the bank building now occupied by the Oddfellows and its current appearance. Several little nondescript buildings hide their history as some of the earliest commercial buildings on Castro Street—as one participant noted, "history hiding in plain sight."

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Event Recap

A Neighborhood Ride with a Party Vibe

by Joan Thunderbuilt



Old Mountain View rolled into summer with hundreds of wheels on Saturday June 3 with a new cool sweet tradition. **The Wheels Party.** Over 70 neighbors, young and old, brought their wheels to decorate and then were led on a Tour dé Neighborhood followed by icy treats.

Even local MVFD Engine 51 showed up to start the tour in grand fashion. The 2.6 mile scenic route led riders through the neighborhood. A mini tour around the block was also available for our littlest riders. Attendees cooled down after the ride with a wide selection of brightly flavored otter pops. •

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to find out more!



Art in Mountain View

Aura II, by Alexander Liberman

by Don McPhail

Aura II is not easy to find, tucked away in a Mountain View office park on Ferry Morse Way, just off East Evelyn. Installed in 1987, it's a futuristic sculpture created by acclaimed artist Alexander Liberman.

Born in Kyiv in 1912, Liberman was educated in Ukraine, England, and France. As an artist, Liberman was an adventurer of sorts, with a wide range of talents—as a photographer, writer, editor and publisher—at the highest professional levels.

He began his publishing career in Paris in 1933. In his thirties, Liberman became a successful photographer, highlighting a generation of modern European artists including Braque, Matisse, Chagall, and Picasso. In 1959 New York's Museum of Modern Art exhibited his photographs.

He was in his late forties when he took up painting and then metal sculpture.



He sculpted, using industrial objects made of steel, or pipes and metal drums, painting them in uniform bright colors. He once said, "I think many works of art are screams, and I identify with screams." His sculpture is featured in major US cities, including New York, Honolulu, Seattle, Portland, and Dallas. He died in Miami in 1999, at the age of 87. •

Safety Corner

Security

Camera Tips

by Katie Nelson, MVPD



Where to Place, What to Look For
Home Security Camera placement:

- Don't just have a camera facing your front door --have a camera facing out into the street too.
- Have cameras facing major entryways into your home - such as garages or patios

Considerations:

- Does your camera have audio capabilities?
- What About a good quality image (1080p or higher)?
- Does your camera have night vision? What about motion detection?

Home security camera footage can help immensely in an investigation, and can help ensure you feel safe in your home. •

Musical Art in Mountain View

Classical Music Performance Downtown

The Nova Vista Symphony, with Old Mountain View member Nancy Sitton, will be performing at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts on **Saturday, September 16 at 7:30 pm.**

On the program is Brahms' Academic Festival Overture, Schumann's 3rd Symphony "Rhenish", and the winner of the 2022 Mary Jane Beck Nova Vista Symphony Concerto Competition, Rion Zhu playing the Bruch Violin Concerto No. 1. **Come hear the arts in Old Mountain View!** •



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Old MTV Eventors

Scooby-Doo or Sherlock?

by Joan Thunderbuilt

That was the first question to answer in the neighborhood scavenger hunt where 139 neighbors wandered the 'hood on that bright Sunday afternoon of May 23.

Two versions of Get A Clue in Old Mountain View offered 12 clues each. Clues were in the form of pictures, puzzles or riddles to be solved using your phone. Then you had to take pictures of the "answer" at the location or of the item as indicated.

It was not a race, and puzzles could be solved in any order. It was a fun afternoon for individuals and teams of neighbors of all ages.

The prize wheel and mystery chest were very busy and many prizes were given away (Thank you Hula Networks for sponsoring the Books Inc. giftcards & Susan Alice Bickford for the crime novel book giveaway! :-)

Join us next year, as we are sure to do this event again.

Do you have pictures to share from this event? Send them to social@omvna.org

The Summer Closer

By Joan Thunderbuilt

Join us on Saturday, August 26 from 1-3pm for our Annual Ice Cream Social in Mercy-Bush Park. There will be face painting, lawn games, a Scout led activity, live music and of course... Ice Cream.

Baskin-Robbins ice cream cones for \$1 each with a vegan option available.

Hope to see you there! •

Opinions expressed herein are not official positions of the OMVNA Steering Committee or its members unless otherwise stated.

Contact the newsletter team at: editor@omvna.org

Submissions for our November 2023 issue are due by October 18, 2023

Mountain View History

E. T. Johnson House, Church and Calderon, Old Mountain View

by Susanne Martinez



For more than 120 years, a house, shown in an undated photo from MV Library historic photographs, commonly referred to as the E.T. Johnson house, has stood at the corner of Church and Calderon.

As many neighbors know, the building, looking much as it did when it was first constructed, has been moved to the eastern edge of the property and the area adjacent to Calderon will become a mini-park.

Edward Thompson Johnson was born in 1859 in Ohio and arrived in San

Francisco sometime prior to 1890. He operated a drug store in San Francisco until he moved to Mountain View to the house on Calderon around 1903. In 1905, he purchased the Red Cross Pharmacy, located on Castro Street. In 1913, he moved his pharmacy into the newly built Jurian Building at the corner of Villa and Castro.

Johnson was actively involved in the civic life of Mountain View, joining many social clubs, and was elected as a trustee of the Mountain View school district. He was also an inventor, holding a patent issued in 1899 for a medical device, and in 1906 established a new company to be based in Mountain View to manufacture an antiseptic gauze he had invented.

Edward Thompson Johnson died in 1915. According to his obituary, he died of pneumonia after having gotten wet on a hunting trip. On the day of his funeral, Mountain View Schools were closed in his memory, "Mt. View Schools are Closed for Funeral," San Jose Mercury Herald, May 2, 1915.

In 1917, the house was sold to another Mountain View resident, L. W.

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What's Up

Update on New Development in Old MV

by Robert Cox

Mountain View's Historic Ordinance, originally adopted in 2004, is in for a major update this year. The key purposes of this update are to designate properties as historic resources on Mountain View's local historic register, determine how modifications and improvements should be made, and provide incentives to encourage the preservation of those historic resources.

As part of the ordinance update, the city is working with Page & Turnbull, a local historic preservation and architecture firm. They will submit applications for the National Register of Historic Resources for key buildings in the 100-300 blocks of Castro Street. When a building qualifies for this register, the council will be aware that if a development proposal for that building be made, they should take the historic nature of the building into consideration. Developers wishing to modify or place an addition onto such a building will understand that a proposal that respects the historic nature of the building will face fewer obstacles to approval.

There is currently a development proposal to add an office addition to the back of the Jurian building. Located at 194 Castro Street at Villa Street, it is currently the home of Agave Bistro. The project architect is reaching out to

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Public Library

Summer Concerts and Online Authors

by Kyle Hval, library.mountainview.gov

Enjoy an evening of pop-country on **Tuesday, August 8** as local singer and guitarist Casey Bogdan performs a mix of covers and original songs. Some of her biggest influences include Taylor Swift and Ashley McBryde. Casey looks forward to sharing her music with you at one of her last Bay Area performances before she heads to Nashville for college.



Then on **Saturday, August 12**, we invite you to join us in Pioneer Park for an afternoon jazz concert with renowned Bay Area trumpeter Dave Rocha and his quartet. His band plays an eclectic mix of jazz standards, up-tempo bebop, classic pop tunes and original compositions. Bring your own blankets and chairs.

Every month, the Library hosts virtual events with best-selling authors and renowned thought leaders covering a wide range of topics. Watch the live-streamed events or view past recordings at MountainView.gov/OnlineAuthors.

Online Authors in August:

- **Tuesday, August 15:** All are welcome to join us for an engaging hour online with New York Times bestselling author Robert Jones, Jr., as he discusses his debut and award-winning novel, *The Prophets*.
- **Wednesday, August 23:** Enjoy an exciting evening online as we chat with mega-bestselling author Cassandra Clare about her newest and final book in *The Last Hours* series, *Chain of Thorns*.
- **Wednesday, August 30:** Spend an hour with bestselling author Jeff Selinger, who immersed himself in the world of college admissions for a year to answer teenagers' and parents' burning questions in his most recent book, *Who Gets In and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions*. •



Notes from the Chair

Our Very Stubborn Endemic COVID Pandemic

by David Lewis

It has been a long while since President Biden mistakenly declared the pandemic to be over. The COVID virus never got the message. Santa Clara wastewater numbers, now the only reliable measure for the rate of infection, have been hovering in the low end of the medium range, flirting with going down into the low range but we have never gotten there except for very short periods, in parts of the region. It appears that we have a large enough population of unboosted and/or unvaccinated individuals or those with greater susceptibility, that the virus continues to find new folks to infect.

The other telling bit is that individuals continue to die from COVID in Santa Clara County—2-4 per week currently. This is a higher death rate than the county's death rate from automobile accidents or homicides. It seems that the COVID virus may now be endemic, always with us. It might still be worth wearing masks in crowded indoor situations, especially if you don't know whom you'll be around, e.g., at a Taylor Swift concert. But the best measure most of us can take is to get the latest, tailored COVID booster every year when it is offered. •



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MV Eats

Taco Trucks!

by Carol Lewis

Want an inexpensive place for Mexican or Nepalese food near to home? The Shell Station on El Camino and Shoreline has two such food trucks.

The Namastee Nepal food truck offers many versions of Indian, Chinese or Nepalese fried rice for example, Nepalese Paneer Stir Fried Rice made with an Indian cottage cheese, rice, veggies, herbs and spices. Other Nepalese dishes include Vegetable or Chicken Thupka: buckwheat noodles in a curry that is flavored with chicken or vegetables. There is also Chicken Choila a spiced grilled chicken with tomato paste, chopped tomato, spring onions, onion, coriander powder, chilli powder, timmur powder, salt and lemon juice. There are other interesting dishes including Chicken Lollipop and Chili Chicken Lollipop. Drinks include Mango Lassi a creamy drink of mango, yogurt, milk, sugar, and cardamon. Prices are resonable and the food is unique, flavorful.

The Tacos Azteca food truck offers meat, chicken, shrimp, and vegetarian tacos, burritos, quesadillas, torta cubana and many combo dishes. You have a huge selection of optional meats to add to any dish: grilled pork, chicken, tripe, chorizo, shrimp, ham, etc. Drinks include jarritos (Mexican fruit—pineapple, strawberry, tamarind, grapefruit—sodas) flavored sodas), horchata and Jamaica. Prices are reasonable and the food is good.

You can eat under a tent with deep shade and breezes provided by large trees and a corner lot, or there is aways take out. •



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Sunshine Gardens Earth Day Event

by Deborah Vasquez

A big thank you to the neighborhood for participation in our Earth Day Scavenger Hunt on 4/22/2023 at Sunshine Gardens Apartments off West Dana Street! We showcased a total of nine different contractors and organizations which made our Greenhouse Gas Emissions fall dramatically from 18 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2016 to 2 tonnes as of 2023!

The scavenger hunt centered around eight green improvements that were made at this 44-unit complex and their significance in impacting our neighborhood environment. These addressed lowering energy usage, lowering waste and conserving water. We also invited Chef Laura Stec to showcase healthy cooking demos and friends from Carbon Free Mountain View, speaking about plant-based diets, and Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition to demonstrate how to bike safety with groceries.

These positive infrastructure upgrades were made for our residents by overlapping different rebate programs via Fannie Mae Green, BayREN, and PGE. Currently, we are working with Silicon Valley Clean Energy to become

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Old MTV Gear Coming

by Joan Thunderbuilt

In late spring the OldMTV Eventors (aka the omvna social committee) reached out to our talented neighbors asking for designs to be used on neighborhood gear.



We received a few submissions that made us smile and choose our favorite one by resident freelance graphic designer and illustrator Stephanie Spaid.

We offered Stephanie bragging rights and we are here to get that started. You can check out more of Stephanie's work at stephspaid.com.

Offering Old MTV logoed Gear on keychains, totes and t-shirts. We are certain you will fall in love with them as we have. Get your gear at the Ice Cream Social, and ways to buy online will be coming soon. •

2023 OMVNA Steering Committee

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---|
| Chair: | David Lewis | Subcommittee Chairs |
| Vice-Chair: | Robert Cox | CERT: Sherril Brennan |
| Treasurer: | Larry Rush | Historical Preservation: Jerry Steach |
| Secretary: | Jamsheed Agahi | Residential Parking: Robert Cox |
| At-Large: | Max Hauser | Jamil Shaikh |
| At-Large: | Lorraine Wormald | Old MTV Eventors: Kristin Bailey |
| Newsletter: | Susan Bickford | Advertising: advertising@omvna.org |
| Community Liaison: | Jamil Shaikh | Next Meeting: October 23, 2023 |

E.T. Johnson House

Continued from page 4

Hawkins, whose family lived there for about ten years. In 1934, B.D. Weigle, then vicar of Christ Church in Los Altos, purchased the house, "Pastor has moved to Mountain View," Mountain View Register Leader, August 3, 1934. It has remained in the Weigle family since that time. •

Walk It Off

Continued from page 4

Conducted the fourth Sunday of most months, the MVHA downtown tours start at Centennial Plaza (in front of the train depot) at 2:00 pm and take approximately 1.5-2 hours. Reservations are required.

All tour donations help fund the MVHA's mission of preserving and sharing Mountain View's history. Go to the MVHA Facebook page for specific dates on walking tours and to make reservations: www.facebook.com/MVHistory. And once you've that, take a look at what else the MVHA is doing, and see all the historical images and stories the MVHA has gathered and preserved for the public at www.mountainviewhistorical.org. •

Sunshine Gardens

Continued from page 6

one of the first few vintage apartment complexes with EV chargers.

We hope preservation and sustainable upgrades of vintage multifamily housing will preserve the much needed affordable, quality and equitable homes for all of us. Please call us at 650-968-5695 to take a Green tour if you are just curious!

Thank you to the organizations and contractors below for their help and support for Sunshine Gardens Apartments (in alphabetically order)!

- Acterra
- BayREN
- Building Efficiency
- Carbon Free Mountain View
- Core Energy
- Chef Laura Stec
- Mountain View Chamber of Commerce
- Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association
- Recology South Bay
- Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
- Silicon Valley Clean Energy
- Sunbank Solar
- Sustainability Mountain View
- 3 Wishes Sukkulents •

What's Up

Continued from page 4

our neighborhood for comments on his proposal. He has hired a historic consultant to advise him on making the addition consistent with the original building.

Our downtown residents are encouraged to stay engaged by attending city and OMVNA-sponsored outreach meetings and giving their feedback on the developer's proposal. Our city's downtown precise plan recognizes our downtown as "the historic center and civic focus of the community and the heartbeat of the city". Public interest and involvement are the keys to keeping it that way. Check OMVNAtalk and Next-door for meeting announcements. •

Lithium Ion Batteries

Continued from page 2

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycling is always the best option.
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.
- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory (Underwriters Laboratories, Electrical Testing Laboratories, etc.).

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If safe, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call 9-1-1.

Source: National Fire Protection Association. Find the entire article at: www.nfpa.org/Public-Education •



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