

## HIGHLIGHTS

Neighborhood Events .....	1
Safety Corner .....	2
Art in Mountain View .....	3
What's Up .....	4
Library Events .....	5

February 2024  
Volume 36, Number 1

[www.omvna.org](http://www.omvna.org)



OMVNA  
Quarterly  
Newsletter

# LAMPPOST

Published and distributed by the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association

## Restaurant Scene

by Max Hauser

**Bushido Izakaya** closed in September after 13 years at 156 Castro.

**Clifford's Chicken and Fish** opened December 4 in the Calderon/Church commercial corner, replacing Yami Grill. Clifford's expands Robert Simpson's Caribbean restaurant group (Back A Yard and Coconuts) into southeastern US folk cooking, acclaimed by our neighborhood's residents. Unlike fast food, Clifford's prepares its fried chicken to order, which takes some 20 minutes.

<https://cliffordschickenandfish.com/>

**Nick The Greek**, long pending at 298 Castro, began final construction and is "Now Hiring."

**Chez TJ**, MV's high-end restaurant (938 Villa), just announced a new executive chef, Stan Michalski, coming from Michelin-starred SF and New York restaurants. Originally, Chef Thomas J. McCombie (trained by Julia Child's coauthor Simone Beck) co-founded Chez TJ in 1982. By the 1990s it was widely known (warmly reviewed in the national magazine *Gourmet*). Since McCombie's 1994 death, a series of chefs has run the kitchen, to critical applause. Each chef brought a different vision to the menus, which change often, reflecting seasonal ingredients.

124 Castro saw **Nori Nori Craft Handrolls** open last February, close temporarily later; it's now gone. Beer/wine license notice lists a new business coming, **Joyous Cuisine**, owner "Latingrill One LLC." Remodeling is underway. •



## Events Calendar

### Are You My Neighbor?

by Joan Thunderbuilt

The Eventors are planning an exciting year of community building events. All your favorites are back and maybe a few surprises along the way. Always a great way to engage with neighbors.

#### Saturday, March 30 — The Egg Crawl

If you have not participated in the past, you will not want to delay another year. Neighbors can hide eggs in their yard, sign up as a Hunter or both! It is a delightful morning for everyone involved. Full details on the website. Advance registration is required, with a deadline of Thursday, March 28th.

#### Saturday, April 27 — Get A Clue: A Scavenger Hunt

New clues, new puzzles and new answers. This scavenger hunt is a fun way to roam the neighborhood and discover new gems along the way. Details will be announced on the website closer to the day. No advance registration is required.

Coming up later...

#### The Wheels Party

A Neighborhood Ride with a Party Vibe. Our kick off to summer with icy treats of course.

All these events happen because someone has a passion to make it happen. We can use more team members who want to make our neighborhood thrive. Send emails to [social@omvna.org](mailto:social@omvna.org). •

## A Taste of Love at Ava's

by Deborah Vasquez

Calling all lovebirds! The world needs more love. Come support your favorite smallest local grocery store with the biggest heart on Friday, February 9th from 6-8pm on 340 Castro St, Mountain View! There will be wine tastings and food pairings to help you prepare for that special day for yourself, your friends and your loved ones! Join Juan and his crew to show you what their favorite food pairings are with both alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks. Come drop by! Consider bringing a date!

Stay tuned for more events. Email me at [sunshinegardensapartments@gmail.com](mailto:sunshinegardensapartments@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining a "Friends of Ava's Committee." •



## Safety Corner

# 150th Anniversary Event



by Robert Maitland, MVFD

The City of Mountain View Fire Department will be 150 years old on April 1, 2024. It is one of the oldest officially formed fire departments west of the Mississippi. It was formed when a group of civic minded residents gathered at a local store over a pot belly stove and agreed to form the volunteer fire department. They named it "Mountain View Station Hook and Ladder Company Number 1."

In honor of this historic occasion, the Fire Department will have a parade with celebrations and a public safety recruitment fair on Sunday, May 19, 2024, along Castro Street and in front of City Hall.



The parade will start at 12:30 p.m. in front of the Fire and Police Administration Building at 1000 Villa St., heading east on Villa Street towards Castro Street and south on Castro

Continued on page 7

## Downtown News

# Historic Preservation District Could Be in the Downtown's Future

by Jerry Steach

Chalk up a small victory for historic-buildings preservation in Old Mountain View, notably the heart of the city's vibrant downtown. The City Council, in a December study session for a Historic Ordinance and Register, gave its tentative support of creating a downtown preservation district in what's referred to as Area H—buildings along the 100 through 300 blocks of Castro St., many of which date back to the 1800s. The preservation district would include standards on preserving the integrity of Area H's historically significant properties. It would also include incentives for the buildings' owners who might be adversely effected by restrictions on how their properties can be modified.

More broadly in Old Mountain View, incentives will be significant in that owners of certain properties can opt out of historic designation. The City Council, therefore, approved reaching out to select property owners who opted out with information on the benefits of being part of the register, and to invite them into discussions on what the incentives should be. Councilmembers also supported exploring public grants that would be targeted at historic preservation. Additionally, the City Council expressed interest in prominently placing markers that would highlight historically significant Old Mountain View locations, and that the contributions to Mountain View's history by ethnic groups are deservedly noted.

Much of the community input leading up to and at the meeting favored city-sanctioned historic preservation. The advocacy group Livable Mountain View asked for the City Council to ensure clear goals, parameters and requirements for buildings' historic status; the removal of barriers to determining historic-property designations; incentives for property owners who agree to such designations; and the creation of the downtown preservation district council members ultimately supported. The City Council then asked city staff to consult with Livable Mountain View about five downtown buildings that staff hadn't identified as historical, in case some information on them may been overlooked.

The nascent downtown preservation district's momentum to date reflects just how important community input is to maintaining Mountain View's historic properties—and with its character. •

♥ *Ljubim Te, moja zeno Iva, uvijek I zauvijek!*  
Robert ♥

♥ *Houla, 53++ years of joy, challenge, growth and companionship - Still Love you after all these years.* Fox ♥

♥ *So grateful for Craig, The Bike Guy on Church* ♥

♥ *Karen: Bonjour, croissant! Love ya. J* ♥

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## Art in Mountain View

# The Eagles Return to Eagle Park

by Don McPhail

This was a special Christmas season for members of the Mountain View High School class of 1975, and for the Mountain View Historical Association. On December 16 they installed a significant addition to the local community. Visit the park's entrance on High School Way and see for yourself.

A majestic eagle stands atop the proud proclamation from MVHS class of '75, accompanied by an eloquent statement from Alberto Olmos, class of '78: *"As an alumnus of the old Mountain View High School, located on Castro Street, you know through personal experience what a special place it was. Since its demolition in 1983, the only thing that truly remains is our memories."*

*Mountain View High School was a small school – a minority school less socially, economically, and politically affluent than other schools in the area. It was no surprise when the city had to close one of three schools in the district. We knew it would be ours. Regardless of the arena, Mountain View High School was always the underdog.*

*At Mountain View, it didn't matter if you were black, white, Asian, Latino, male, female, LGBTQ, or a military brat, MVHS had a place for you. We were a cultural melting pot. Our diversity was our strength.*

*Our faculty and administration were dedicated to teaching, coaching, and instilling the highest academic, social, and competitive moral values within us. We weren't a perfect school, but our students learned so much more than just academics. We learned about reality. We learned about life.*

*On a personal level and as a longtime resident, I appreciate the emotions and the sentiments expressed by Alberto and his colleagues. As a 1958 graduate of Palo Alto HS, I respect the loyalty, dedication and hard work that created this important tribute to a school that meant so much to the Mountain View community. Our schools, teachers, teams and families are integral to our local history, and to our future."*

Congratulations to the 1975 Eagles varsity football team who inspired this stately monument, and to the Mountain View High School alums from the Castro Street school, and to the Mountain View Historical Association who collaborated with the City of Mountain View "...to erect a monument representing the inspiring David vs. Goliath victory of the varsity football team." This elegant eagle does this, and a great deal more. •



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## High School Spirit

# CSA's and Regenerative Farming

by Alejandro Bernhard, HS Junior

I was born in Mountain View, and have lived here my entire life. I've grown up eating in our restaurants, and playing in our parks. I have seen all the wonderful things we can accomplish as a community. I am here today to ask for your help on behalf of our planet.

Industrial farming depletes healthy soil. It constantly re-uses the same soil without allowing it to become nutrient rich, preventing soil from retaining carbon. It is estimated that over 50% of carbon in soil has been released into the atmosphere over the past centuries. Not only is industrial farming bad for nature, it is also bad for our community.



Regenerative farming is our most promising solution. Using a combination of cover crops, crop rotation, and composting, regenerative farming creates soil that stores carbon, water, and nutrients well. **Live Earth Farms** is an example of such a farm.

Sustainable is defined as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future". You might be thinking, if regenerative farming is so effective, why doesn't everybody do it? The simple answer is: it's expensive. Competing with large industrial food corporations is hard, considering they are much more cost-efficient.

The best way to help regenerative farms is through something called a

Continued on page 7

## OMVNA Leadership

# Ramblings from the Chair

by David Lewis

First, I want to present my usual warnings about COVID. COVID is not going away, it continues to get better at infecting people; the latest version is called JN.1, and has taken over the whole US. The California Department of Health has issued new guidelines for isolation with COVID and post-COVID, which are more relaxed than previous rules, possibly to the benefit of the virus, as more sick folks go back to work, school, etc. Current infection rates, from wastewater numbers, are as high or higher as they've been for several years, and 32 persons died from COVID in the last two months in Santa Clara County. Almost all of those dying are elderly or very young, and unvaccinated. Your best defense here, aside from wearing masks in crowded indoor situations, is to get the latest COVID booster, likely free from your health care provider.

Second, as many of you may have guessed, we are having another wet winter, a bit depressing for those of us who like outdoor activities, except for those who like to ski or snowboard, but good if next summer turns out to be hot and dry—the reservoirs should be full. This may be a consequence of global warming. If you like that, the best thing you can do is to continue burning fossil fuels as fast as possible, though it's not guaranteed this will work. The mathematical models for climate change continue to have problems making accurate predictions with the highly nonlinear, coupled nature of things (pardon the mathematical jargon).

Along with the standard flux in restaurants, we have now lost a hair salon/barbershop on Dana Street, that has been there for many years, giving wonderful haircuts, combined with nice massages, and within walking distance for most of us in Old Mountain View. It's not clear what the issue was—a greedy landlord, or the desire of the owners to operate in a less expensive and/or larger place, but Julie Q's is now over in Sunnyvale, necessitating a bit of a drive and finding a parking spot to get one of their iconic haircuts. I may just have to let my hair grow out.

Continued on page 7

## What's Up

# Update on New Development in Old MV

by Robert Cox

The city of Mountain View is updating its process for the approval on new development projects which are not zoning compliant. This process is called the Gatekeeper process because it determines which non-compliant projects will "get through the gate" and be assigned limited city planning staff resources.

Large project developers are generally eager to propose such development projects, because not conforming to rules like density limits, parking requirements, and providing transitions to adjacent lower density residential areas provides them with higher profit margins. However, the suspension of zoning regulations will generally have a negative impact on the livability of the surrounding area. For this reason, developers proposing such projects are required to offer a community benefit. This benefit partially offsets the impact of their non-compliant proposals.

In its approval of the Mountain View's new Housing Element for 2023-2031, the state of California mandated that Mountain View revise its Gatekeeper process. The city council discussed some possible revisions at the December 5 council meeting. A key topic discussed was whether a council vote

Continued on page 7

**Public Library****Winter Programs**by Katie Hom, [library.mountainview.gov](https://library.mountainview.gov)**Tax Prep**

Receive free tax preparation help at the Library every Tuesday and Saturday from February 3 through April 13. This service is provided by IRS-certified volunteers and is available to households with a 2023 income of \$64,000 or less.

Bring the Social Security Card or ITIN for each person on your tax return including yourself, your spouse, children and/or adult dependents. Help will be provided on a walk-in basis only. Please note that there is no session on Saturday, February 10.

**Silicon Valley Reads**

Each year, Silicon Valley Reads brings Mountain View together with neighboring Santa Clara County libraries and other organizations to read and learn about an important topic that will jumpstart conversations. This year's theme, "A Greener Tomorrow Starts Today," will showcase books and events that focus on environmental sustainability.

We invite you to read the featured books and attend special events to address the critical and urgent need to take action toward sustainability.

**Featured Books for 2024:**

- *All We Can Save* edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson & Katharine K. Wilkinson.
- *One Green Thing* by Heather White.
- *The Light Pirate* by Lily Brooks-Dalton.

**Companion Books for Children and Teens:**

- *To Change a Planet* by Christina Soontornvat (Pre K-1).
- *The Forest Man* by Anne Matheson (Grades 1-4).
- *Two Degrees* by Alan Gratz (Grades 4-8).
- *Don't Call Me a Hurricane* by Ellen Hagan (Teen).

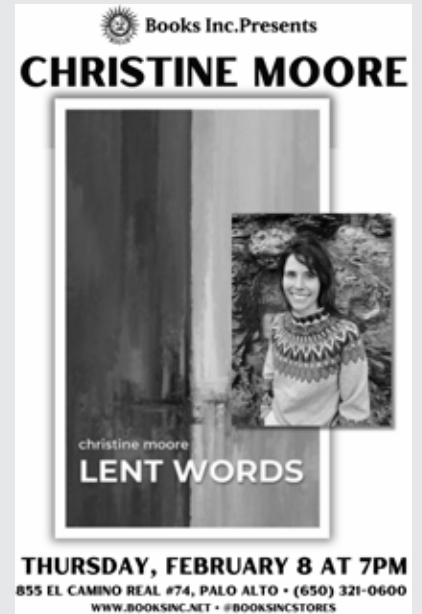
**Upcoming Library Events:**

- Tuesday, February 13: Design Basics for Waterwise Front Yards.
- Tuesday, February 27: Parenting in Climate Crisis.
- Thursday, March 7: Virtual Cook-Along with the Zero Waste Chef.
- Friday, March 22: Chalk Art Event.

**Keep an eye on the Library's Events Calendar for more Silicon Valley Reads programs: [MountainView.gov/LibraryCalendar](https://MountainView.gov/LibraryCalendar) •**

**Creative Corner****OMV Poetry Release**


OMVNA resident, Christine Moore's, new collection of poems, "Lent Words" will be available on January 19th. Moore thinks locals will feel at home in the pages given she finds inspiration during her neighborhood walks. To find out when she will be reading locally, visit her website, [writeyum.com](https://writeyum.com). •



♥ *Amit, Thank you for being my husband and being a great dad to Max. We love you. Maliha* ♥

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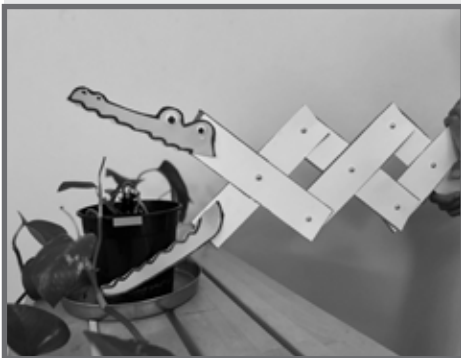
by Vivaan Shah, Landels 3rd Grader

It all started when Landels Elementary was having a winter fair in 2022. Students were invited to sell things that they made. Like any other 2nd grader, I wanted to sell something but I didn't know what.

I knew it had to be related to science as I love science and I started searching for ideas, which meant another visit to The Exploratorium in SF. Their tinkering section really inspired me to build some fun toys. At home, my mom introduced me to a book called *Toys from Trash* by Arvind Gupta.

I started tinkering around with household items, researched in books, and came up with some cool ideas. Unfortunately, many of them had to be scrapped as they needed special materials and couldn't be packaged. Also, the toys had to be under \$5 to be sold successfully at the fair. I also soon found out that making the toys would be very time-consuming so, the toys became DIY science toy kits, which actually is more fun as you get to make it yourself! The hardest part was writing the instructions for assembly and meant having to try and simplify the kits so the instructions would be easier to follow.

After many prototypes, **Jugaad Toys** was born. Jugaad is a word from Hindi language which roughly translates to ingenious way to fix something or create something. It is about being resourceful and creative in everyday life. All Jugaad toys are Fantastic, Fun and Frugal. I hope you checkout my webpage [www.jugaadtoys.wordpress.com](http://www.jugaadtoys.wordpress.com) •

**Page Six****Exploring Ava's Market**

by Carola Thompson

**Friendly Staff**

This is the second article in a three part series about shopping at Ava's. I've been enjoying many aspects of making Ava's my "go to" market. Top of the list is their friendly and helpful staff. For example, I was struggling to find a bottle of my current favorite white wine, Pinot Gris. The clerk was happy to walk me over to find the ones they had and asked which ones I'd like to see stocked.

**Convenient and Low Stress Shopping Experience**

And so convenient... either just a short walk away or easy parking in the garage behind Ava's. The handful of times I've driven, parking has been a breeze. I can usually find a spot in the 30-minute spots by CVS. The farthest I've had to go was the 2nd floor of the parking garage. Another plus is that Ava's is low stress when compared to Costco and Trader Joe's, especially during the holidays.

**Product Offering**

As for the products offered by Ava's, I have for the most part been able to find the things I am looking for and I've been delighted to find new things.

There is a small but ample produce section offering a lot of organic and mostly seasonal, locally grown fruits and vegetables. I especially appreciate the wide range of fresh herbs; different types of apples and I can always find a perfect avocado.

There is a good selection grass-fed and humanely raised meat and poultry. The chicken thighs (Smart Chicken) are exceptionally good. The grass-fed beef from Dakota is delicious and their top sirloin steaks are tender. We've also been exploring Elk and Waygu steaks.

The specialty cheese selection is over the top, especially local cheeses. My personal new favorite is the Golden Gate from Marin French Cheese Co. – a unique washed rind triple crème cheese. Sierra Nevada, Point Reyes

Continued on page 7

**We Buy & Sell Network Hardware**1-866-HULANET | [www.HulaNetworks.com](http://www.HulaNetworks.com)**2024 OMVNA Steering Committee**

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Vice-Chair:	Robert Cox	CERT: Sherril Brennan
Treasurer:	Carola Thompson	Historical Preservation: Jerry Steach
Secretary:	Deborah Vasquez	Residential Parking: Robert Cox
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Newsletter:	Susan Bickford	Advertising: <a href="mailto:advertising@omvna.org">advertising@omvna.org</a>
Community Liaison:	Jamil Shaikh	<b>Next SC Meeting: April 29, 2024</b>



## MVFD Anniversary

Continued from page 2

Street, ending at City Hall Plaza. We will have on display antique police, fire vehicles and ambulances, including a historic working steam fire engine pulled by horses!

There will be public education booths, including an inflatable fire-house for kids and adults to learn about fire safety, a bucket brigade, and dozens of fire and police agencies with their career recruitment booths. These activities are for your whole family; this once-in-a-lifetime event is an experience kids will love and talk about for days, and adults do not want to miss it.

The event is free to attend. •

## CSAs

Continued from page 4

CSA (short for community supported agriculture), a program where farmers can sell shares of their harvest. People pay money to the farmer, and receive fresh produce every set amount of time, picking it up at one of the pickup spots. The steady influx of money gives the farmer more financial stability and freedom.

**Live Earth Farms** is incredible. It is a 150 acre farm near Watsonville devoted to regenerative farming techniques. Multiple generations of employees live on the farm, working alongside the seasonal workers to nurture the land that they grow on. Not only do they provide a CSA program with the delicious produce from their farm, but they also help other farms resell their produce through the CSA. Visit: [liveearthfarms.net](http://liveearthfarms.net) •

## What's Up

Continued from page 4

would need to be taken on whether a non-compliant project would be able to start. After much debate, the council voted 4-3 to require an initial council vote on most gatekeeper projects. 100% affordable housing projects were exempted.

In our Old Mountain View neighborhood, the most watched potential gatekeeper proposal is the Castro Commons project. GPR Ventures, the developer, seeks to redevelop land surrounding Gateway Park, at the northeast corner of Castro St. and El Camino Real. Several project concepts have been suggested by GPR in the last couple years. Their latest proposal is for a seven-story project with 104 units. The project would surround Gateway Park and build on a portion of Fairmont Street. The council is likely to discuss the project proposal sometime in the second quarter of 2024. •

**♥ Margaret, best days of my life have been with you. So grateful for our relationship. Happy Valentines day. Tony ♥**

**♥ Ann, You are my Valentine for Always! Rob ♥**

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](mailto:editor@omvna.org)

Submissions for our May 2024 issue are due by April 17, 2024.

## Exploring Ava's

Continued from page 6

Farmstead, Cowgirl Creamery are a few of the other brands.

### Prices and Loyalty program

As one would expect, prices are generally a bit higher, but I would say in the reasonable range for a small neighborhood grocery.

The loyalty program does take some of the sting out of that. By joining, you earn cash discount on future purchases as well as getting certain free items such as bananas and oranges that are listed when you checkout. •

## Ramblings

Continued from page 4

Your Steering Committee succeeded in doing something that hasn't been done in a very long while—we amended the bylaws to permit voting by the hard-working subcommittee chairs, in addition to the other Steering Committee members. The revised bylaws should be up on the website shortly.

Finally, to end on a good note—our warm winter and abundant rainfall have led to some nice stuff: our camellias in full bloom on New Years Day, and a few weeks later, our outdoor orchids are convinced it's springtime, and will be blooming by the time this newsletter gets out, and maybe we'll have some other early blooms to keep them company. •

**♥ To Carol, for nearly 60 years of love, understanding, companionship, forbearance, and for always being there when I need you! Dave ♥**

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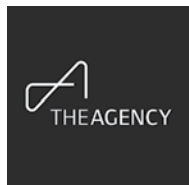
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