#### **OMVNA Quarterly Newsletter**

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August 2025 Volume 37, Number 3

www.omvna.org

# The state of the s

Published and distributed by the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association

#### Restaurant Scene

by Max Hauser

Earlier this year, **Tandoori Junction** replaced **Bay Biryanis**, 698 W. Dana at Hope.

Steins Beer Garden and Restaurant, 895 Villa at Bryant, seamlessly changed owners in June; this 12-year-old local institution was going strong when I checked in, late in July.

People ask the significance of **Chez TJ** (938 Villa) losing a Michelin star award. There's context: Michelin's criteria change. From a Bay Area guide recommending hundreds of restaurants here, there's now just a "California" edition dividing similar attention across the whole state. TJ, which has held zero, one, and two stars, also got a new chef last year, which would



trigger new evaluation even if the Guide awarded as many stars locally as in years past.

On July 15 **Fish With You** opened at 156 Castro, former Bushido site. This chain from China has other Bay Area locations and names (in Cupertino, Wei's Fish). Sichuanese dishes in bowls (à-la the "boiled" whitefish filets in broth floated with fierce-looking red chilies, a specialty long popular at area restaurants and less spicy than the peppers' appearance suggests). Bowls in the pictorial menu are mainly, but not only, seafood dishes. The restaurant's name reflects a wordplay in the

Continued on page 7

#### **OMVNA** Newsletter carriers: Thank You

by Lorraine Wormald

Where would the OMVNA Lamppost newsletter be without the dedication of so many volunteers who tirelessly deliver door-to-door? This month we offer a huge **Thank You and goodbye** to some of the most wonderful newsletter team members.

You will be so missed! I don't know the exact numbers but these wonderful people have each volunteered for 25 - 30 years!

- Don and Gretchen McPhail: Castro St businesses & downtown routes
- Lydia and Paul Sherrill: Delivering bundles to carriers & own route
- Linda & Greg Kannall: Delivering bundles to carriers. Happily, they will continue to deliver their own route
  - June Casey retired in 2023
  - Eric and Lisa Windes retired in 2022

Our neighborhood newsletter has been published since approximately 1998 (OMVNA was formally established in 1992). It has about 60 routes faithfully staffed by so many.

Other approximate "30-year veterans" who are still out there pounding the pavement are Bruce Karney, Brad & Kathy Bettman, and Russ & Jennifer Parman. And then there are the 10-20 year veterans! Thank you, thank you.

If you are interested in being part of our illustrious team, please contact Lorraine Wormald, Newsletter Delivery: <a href="mailto:delivery@omvna.org">delivery@omvna.org</a>. We can always use more people! I check each quarter to verify who is available—we all take vacations or have illnesses. •

#### Volunteers Wanted for Ice Cream Social

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity in the neighborhood? Look no further. We are looking for an adult lead, for community face painting at the ice cream social. Looking for youth and adult volunteers to paint in short shifts (and you get free ice cream!) **Saturday Aug 23rd, 1-3pm**. Email: <a href="mailto:social@omvna.org">social@omvna.org</a>



# Safety Tips Lithium-Ion Battery Safety



by Robert Maitland

Lithium-ion rechargeable batteries are commonly used to supply power to countless devices, many of which are in our homes and businesses. These items include smartphones, laptops, e-scooters, e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even automobiles. 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.

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

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory (Underwriters Laboratories, Electrical Testing Laboratories, etc.).
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery designed for the device.
- Do not use aftermarket or generic batteries or chargers.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not keep charging the battery after it is fully charged.
- Do not charge a device near exits.
- Do not leave batteries unattended while charging.
- Maintain all fire protection equipment.
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#### What's Up

# Update on New Development in Old MV

by Robert Cox

The current Mountain View City Council has a strong interest in making it easier for developers to build new high-density housing in our city. Two city programs are likely to have the biggest impact. Those are the R3 zoning update and the new gatekeeper process.

The purpose of the R3 zoning update is to make it easier to build higher multifamily apartment buildings in areas already zoned for them. The main areas affected in our neighborhood are sites of the Eaves (formerly Avalon) Creekside and Sunshine Gardens Apartment complexes. They are located near the northeast corner of West Dana and Calderon. The land will be rezoned to allow a base height of four to six story buildings. If the developer is willing to provide additional affordable housing, heights of up to eight to twelve stories would be permitted. The greatest heights would be permitted near Highway 85. In addition, a few areas in our neighborhood would be upzoned from R2 (duplex) zoning to allow buildings of up to five stories, if additional affordable housing is provided. The final council vote on these rezoning is expected near the end of this year.

The new gatekeeper process will allow developers to more easily and more frequently propose redevelopments which are not currently zoning compliant to the City Council. The City is required by the state of California to hold two meetings per year to examine such developer proposals. Additionally, developers can also use a streamlined process that allows them to bypass this initial examination if they provide some benefit from a predefined list certified by the Council. Park land and more affordable housing are among the benefits on this list. The Council made several areas in our neighborhood, primarily along Bush Street, eligible for this streamlined process.

Feel free to contact me at <u>robert.cox.cit@gmail.com</u>, if you want further details on the process, learn how to get involved, or know exactly which properties are affected. There will be regular updates on these development programs at upcoming OMVNA Steering Committee meetings. •

#### **Cultural Opportunities**

# Ushering: A Fun Way to Support the Arts

Support the arts by becoming an MVCPA Volunteer Usher! The enthusiasm and dedication of the Mountain View Center for the

Performing Arts' 300 plus Volunteer Ushers is at the core of the theater's success. Ushers help to make the theater-going experience memorable, enjoyable, and safe. The position's duties include welcoming patrons, taking tickets, assisting patrons with seating, and distributing Assisted Listening Devices to those in need.

For more information, email: audienceservices@mvcpa.com





#### **Old MV From the Archives**

# History Corner: The Doors Lead Singer Jim Morrison Lived in Old Mountain View

by Lisa Windes and Bruce Karney Originally published in the April, 2000 OMVNA Newsletter Editor: A fun nod to OMV baby boomers.



Fifty-five years ago, Jim Morrison was one of the most famous (or notorious) rock and rollers in the world. But seventy-five 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 on 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. Long-time 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, organ bass lines of classically trained keyboardist

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#### **OMVNA Eco News**

# Easier and More Affordable Home Electrification

by Bruce Karney

Our 80-year-old home is more pleasant to live in these days thanks to our quiet new heating and cooling system. A program from Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) called Full Service Home Upgrades made it affordable. (As will \$2,000 of federal tax credits which, unfortunately, won't be available in 2026.)

Let me describe what we bought and why we like it and then outline SVCE's program. Before we upgraded, we had floor and wall furnaces to heat our home and a whole-house fan and three window ACs to cool it. Neither furnace had a blower, so they heated slowly and unevenly. The ACs were old, inefficient, and noisy.

The new system is called a "heat pump mini-split." It was manufactured by Daikin and installed by FUSE Service, a local HVAC, electrical, and plumbing company. It consists of a large outdoor heat exchanger that is connected to indoor units by "line sets," each about the size of a fat garden hose. These run through our attic to four individually controllable indoor HVAC units. Two rooms have ceiling-mounted units controlled by a 5" panel mounted on the wall. The

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#### **Events Corner**

# A Wheely Good Time

by Joan Thunderbuilt

Our Wheels Party event on Sunday, June 1 from 1–3 PM was a sparkling success! More than 75 neighbors enjoyed a delightful afternoon decorating bikes, wagons, and strollers before setting off on a guided ride through the neighborhood and along the scenic Stevens Creek Trail.



For those preferring a slower pace, a shorter loop around the block offered a fun alternative.

Our fearless firefighter crew made a special appearance, proudly showing off Engine 51 before waving the orange flags to kick off the ride.

As promised, everyone cooled down with colorful frozen treats after the ride—a simple, sweet way to roll into summer! •

#### **Neighborhood News Sources**

- Join the neighborhood email list: OMVNAtalk2@groups.io send email to:
  - omvnatalk2+owner@groups.io
- Online www.omvna.org
- Facebook www.fb.com/omvna
- BlueSky @oldmv.bsky.social

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 Nov 2025 issue are due by Oct 15, 2025.

#### **Silicon Valley Cultural Environment**

#### Gem in the Heart of Old Mountain View

by Nancy Sitton

There's a gem in the heart of Old Mountain View: the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts (MVC-PA) was built as part of the new civic center in 1991. With three stages, the 600 seat Main Theater, 200 seat Second Stage, and the open-air Park Stage, the MVCPA has been host to a wide variety of performances from all over the world.

Most recently the Nova Vista Symphony and the San Jose Symphonic



Fury and Heartbreak: Sunday, Oct. 19



Silicon Valley Twelfth Night



Dos maridos pa' Enriqueta | Two Husbands for Enriqueta

choir held a nearly sell-out performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony on the Main Stage. Resident theater companies Theatre-Works Silicon Valley and Peninsula Youth Theatre (PYT) and dance companies Smuin Ballet and Pacific Ballet all have performances scheduled for the fall at MVCPA. Nova Vista Symphony will be playing Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition" in February as part of their 60th season. PYT has "Shrek: The Musical" in November and "Newsies" next March.

TheatreWorks begins their 55th season with "Little Women" September 24-October 12 on the Main Stage, the world premiere of "A Driving Beat" on SecondStage in October and will present the very popular Hershey Felder January 17-February 8 in "The Piano and Me". Pacific Ballet will once again present "The Nutcracker" in November and the Smuin Ballet will perform the world premiere of "Extremely Close" September 12-14 on the Main Stage.

For more information, go to: www.mvcpa.com •



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#### **Public Library**

## What's New at Mountain View Public Library

by Katie Hom, library.mountainview.gov

The Library recently saw two big changes with the Mountain View History Center. Get a glimpse of what it was like to be a teen in Mountain View from 1904 to 1929 with the History Center's digitized collection of Mountain View High School yearbooks. This collection chronicles Mountain View High School's first 25 years from its founding along El Camino Real and its first graduating class in 1904 to the opening of its building on Castro Street, which the school occupied until 1982.

The yearbooks contain the names and photographs of faculty and students, as well as information about student activities, advertisements from local businesses, written reflections, short fiction, and inside jokes. Most of these early yearbooks also contain details about MVHS alumni and their lives





post-graduation. Inside, viewers will find details about the experience of World War I, the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919, and the Prune & Apricot Exposition. As you move through the collection from the oldest to the most recent issue you can perceive the growing importance of secondary education and the emergence of youth culture facilitated by the automobile.

This valuable collection of yearbooks has long been housed in the

History Center, but it is now available online thanks to a grant through the California Revealed's digitization initiative. The yearbooks are part of the Mountain View Historical Association collection. Access the collection for free at the Library. <u>Mountain View.gov/learn/mountain-view-history</u>

Those who'd prefer to view print copies of these yearbooks may visit the History Center on Tuesdays, 1-5 p.m. and Thursdays, 4-8 p.m. or by appointment. Extended Thursday hours were recently added to allow more residents to explore its unique resources and deepen interest in Mountain View's history. •

# Public Library Extras

### MVPL Volunteering

by Susanne Martinez

Looking for volunteer opportunities nearby? If you love books, there are



great opportunities through Friends of the Mountain View Library. They range from volunteering at the book sales to working at the Friends of Library desk in the main lobby.

A few years ago, I had the opportunity to work with the on-line sales team. When you donate books to the library, volunteers sort them and some of those in the best condition are sold in places like Amazon's marketplace to help fund library activities. As part of the online team, I spent a few hours each week with some other volunteers using my laptop to scan the codes and list the books on Amazon, determine the price (checking what other similar volumes were selling at), write a brief description and describe the condition of the book.

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#### **Neighborhood Corner**

# Step Up for Old MV

by Susan Bickford

Great neighborhoods do not happen by accident. And they don't continue to thrive and improve without the participation of their residents.

Participation can take many forms. Personally, the idea of attending City Council meetings and the like sounds like torture. Happily, others are fine with that and even seem to enjoy it! I put together the newsletter and several talented people help me with that, like Shivika Nayyar with corralling ads.

Delivering the newsletter has its own set of logistics and people who help, from coordinating routes, to distributing bundles, to getting the newsletter delivered to our doorsteps. Please consider helping out: delivery@omvna.org

A group called the Eventors works on planning gatherings and fun experiences throughout the year, not just the Ice Cream Social. Coming up with ideas, owning an event, helping out with setup and cleaning up are all important pieces the add up to success. Send email to social@omvna.org

Every issue we try to highlight other types of volunteering, from CERT to the Historical Association.

In December we will hold our Annual Meeting. Please plan to attend to present your ideas and concerns, plus vote on the candidates for our OMVNA Steering Committee, as well as interacting with your neighbors.

If you would like to be on the Steering Committee, it's time to put your name on the ballot. Jerry Steach elections@omvna.org heads the election subcommittee. Keep in mind that all Steering Committee meetings are open to the public. Please attend. •

# Proud member of **Mountain View Rotary** Tori Ann

#### **Best of Old MV**

# Old MV Shines in the Best of Mountain View

by Susan Bickford

Old Mountain View is well represented and really shines in the Best of Mountain View "restaurants, retail shops, service providers, and hometown hangouts" survey conducted by The Mountain View Voice, based on input from over 7,800 voters. tinyurl.com/mt9hmdwa

Not surprisingly, OMV did particularly well in the categories related to food, but there are other categories as well.

Congratulations to all. Don't forget to check out these as well as other highlighted winners in Mountain View.

- BREAKFAST / BRUNCH: Crepevine
- FINE DINING RESTAURANT: Cascal
- INDEPENDENT COFFEE HOUSE: Red Rock Coffee
- MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT: Mediterranean Grill House
- MEXICAN RESTAURANT: La Fiesta Restaurant
- MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT: Oren's Hummus
- PATIO / OUTDOOR DINING: Cascal
- PLACE FOR A BUSINESS LUNCH: La Fontaine
- SUSHI RESTAURANT: Sushi Tomi
- VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT: Pho To Chau 999
- BAKERY: Maison Alyzée
- BAR: St. Stephens Green
- BURGER: Eureka!

Continued on page 7

#### **Historic Preservation**

# **Useful Tips**

Here are a few helpful tips found in a recent Monta Loma newsletter:

#### Walkable Sidewalks

Remember to please trim greenery back across the full width of the sidewalk and to a height of at least seven feet.

#### Get free mosquitofish!

Santa Clara County provides free mosquitofish to all residents and businesses for placement in ornamental ponds, unmaintained swimming pools/jacuzzi, watering troughs, fountains, rain barrels. Go to:

vector.santaclaracounty.gov/services/request-free-mosquitofish

#### Free Bike Registration Program

Submit your name, bike manufacturer, serial number, and component information to enter your bike into the most widely used bike registry on the planet at Bike Index, a non-profit bike registry: bikeindex.org •



#### **Restaurant News**

Continued from page 1

Chinese original, changing "with" to "fish" in a sentimental idiom ("with you together"). A commenter online opined that the translation might have used "Fish You Were Here" to better capture the original's spirit.

Works-In-Progress: **Kitchen Story** (171 Castro) and Yakiniku Ginza (475 Castro) per prior columns. Remodeling is now underway at 236 Castro (long-closed **Mervyn's**) and 735 Villa, former **Fiesta Del Mar Too**. Stay tuned. •

#### **Best of Old MV**

Continued from page 6

- ICE CREAM / FROZEN YOGURT: Gelato Classico
- NOODLE PLACE: Ramen Izakaya
- ITALIAN RESTAURANT: Doppio Zero
- PIZZA: Doppio Zero
- PEARL TEA: Tea Era
- BOOKSTORE: Books Inc.
- FLORIST: Fleur De Lis
- BEST STORE FOR UNUSUAL GIFTS: Therapy Stores
- PRODUCE: Mountain View Farmers' Market
- SMALL GROCERY STORE: Ava's Downtown Market & Deli
- CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE: Moving Optimal Chiropractic
- FITNESS CLASSES: Transform Fitness Studio
- HAIR SALON: Essence Salon
- MANICURE / PEDICURE: **Excellent Nails**
- MASSAGE: Happy Feet Foot Spa
- PHOTOGRAPHER: Upma Sharma Photography
- YOGA: Crave Yoga
- DENTAL OFFICE: Dental Fabulous

#### **MVPL Volunteering**

Other team members handled preparing shipping labels and confirming the sales. Although we were focused on getting the information uploaded to Amazon's marketplace, we had time to talk about the books we were listing, which was a side bonus of the job! It was also thrilling when we noticed that a book we had just listed sold immediately after it was listed. Someone far away may have been searching for a copy of an old favorite book and we helped them find it!

Check out the different ways you can volunteer to help support our wonderful library at:

mvlibraryfriends.org/volunteer •

#### Jim Morrison

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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.

Iim 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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#### **Home Electrification**

Continued from page 3

office and family rooms have wall-mounted units controlled by remotes. We can set different tempera-

each room. The units are whisper-quiet compared to our old ACs and do a great job keeping each room at our desired temperature.



SVCE's Full Service Home Upgrade program makes home electrification easy. SVCE manages every aspect of upgrade including assessment, installation, and applying for permits and rebates. Transparent fixed pricing ensures there are no hidden fees or surprises. We got a bid from one company prior to engaging with SVCE, and SVCE's bid was about 40% lower.

This is a great new program and our home was one of the first to participate. It covers other products, including induction stoves, heat pump water heaters, and more. Check it out!

svcleanenergy.org/full-service •

#### **Lithium-Ion Batteries**

Continued from page 2

#### Signs of a Problem

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

#### **Battery Disposal**

Never put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycling is always the best option. Take the batteries to a battery recycling location or contact https:// *hhw.santaclaracounty.gov/home* for disposal instructions.

For more information, visit the City of Mountain View Fire Department's educational material regarding lithium-ion batteries at MountainView.gov/FirePrevention •

#### 2025 OMVNA Steering Committee

Chair: Robert Cox Vice-Chair: David Lewis Treasurer: Carola Thompson Secretary: Melanie Kaye At-Large: Max Hauser, Shivika Nayyar Newsletter Delivery: Lorraine Wormald Newsletter Editor: Susan Bickford Community Liaison: Jamil Shaikh

Subcommittee Chairs CERT: Sherril Brennan Historical Preservation: **Jerry Steach** Jamil Shaikh Residential Parking: Carol Lewis **Eventors:** Kristin Bailey Advertising: advertising@omvna.org

October 27, 2025

**Next Meeting:** 



- · 25 years successfully serving Mountain View and surrounding communities
- · Mountain View resident

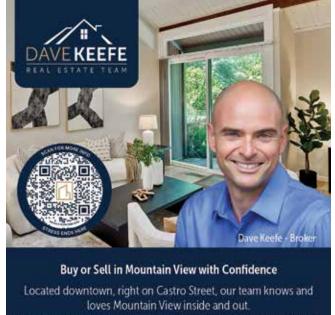
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