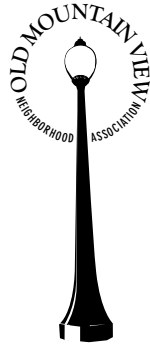


# HIGHLIGHTS

- Fire Safety** .....2
- What's Up** .....4
- Library Developments** .....5
- NEW - Club Corner** .....6

February 2026  
Volume 38, Number 1

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



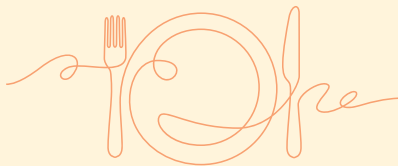
# LAMPPOST

Published and distributed by the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association

## Restaurant Scene

by Max Hauser

**NAR**, the new Azerbaijani restaurant, 286 W. El Camino at Ehrhorn, opened November 7 and promptly became a phenomenon, drawing publicity, strong public interest (diners coming from Palo Alto and beyond), the Azerbi Consul General, and (at this writing) 144 customer reviews on Google Maps, nearly all giving five stars. Lunch and some trial breakfast service followed (check with the restaurant for current hours). The pan-Caucasus menu concept includes Armenian wine. Open Table (the reservation service) hosts a customer loyalty program.



Soon after I cited it in last quarter's column, **Johnny and Sanny's** (110 Castro, a six-month-old venture from nearby Doppio Zero's owners) closed. A December 30 license-change notice indicates an unnamed new restaurant coming with new owners, "Mian MTV LLC." (Mian represents various meanings and proper names worldwide; in a food context, it denotes noodles or wheat products in China.)

Among closed restaurant spaces in transition, the pending **Yakiniku Ginza** (475 Castro) appears well along, advertising to hire employees since my last column. Yakiniku is a Japanese barbecue or grilling

Continued on page 7

## A Love Letter to Ava's

by Mark Flider

We all have that place in Old Mountain View. The one you'd be genuinely sad to lose, even if you don't say it out loud. For many of us, that place is Ava's Market on Castro Street: the small grocery where the shelves feel intentional, the staff recognizes you, and a "quick stop" somehow turns into a plan for dinner.

Ava's is run by a real human: his name is Juan. He works an unreasonable number of hours while competing with grocery chains that could buy our entire block as an "oops." Yet he still insists on fair prices and a thoughtful, high-quality selection. He's not doing this for shareholders. He's doing it for us.

Which brings us to the love letter part: Ava's weekly email newsletter.

This is not a corporate sales email in a trench coat. It's funny, oddly thoughtful, and occasionally unhinged in the best possible way. One week it dives into food traditions you didn't know you cared about. Another week it gently interrogates your snack choices or showcases a fun, seasonal recipe. No matter the theme, it sprinkles in a steady supply of admittedly corny jokes. Yes, from a grocery store.

Continued on page 7



**MIXER** Join us for a Neighborhood Mixer Feb 23rd  
**DETAILS & SPECIAL OFFER INSIDE**

Events Corner

# Egg Crawl Coming Sunday, March 29

by Joan Thunderbuilt

I can feel the anticipation already for the jolly good fun annual Neighborhood Egg Crawl.

If you missed it last year, you won't want to miss it again. Everyone can participate, it's not just for families.

Sign up as a hunter or a hider. Complete details: [www.omvna.org](http://www.omvna.org)

### Upcycling plastic eggs exchange starts March 1.

Drop off 181 Church porch. (please put matched sets into bags of no more than 1 dozen. You would be surprised how quickly the matching pairs become un-hinged!)

While we are encouraging this exchange, we can not guarantee how many eggs will be dropped off. You may email [social@omvna.org](mailto:social@omvna.org) to see what's on tap. •

## Jingle All the Way

by Joan Thunderbuilt

The Old Mountain View Caroling Crawl on Dec. 6, 2025 was a jolly success, drawing more than 90 (!) carolers of all ages. Neighbors met in Mercy-Bush Park to sing Christmas and Hanukkah tunes, from "Jingle Bells" to "Lots of Latkes," and then walked to host homes for more singing, warm drinks and cookies. Special thanks to our wonderful song leaders and generous hosts, including the Mountain View Cohousing

Continued on page 7

**NOTARY PUBLIC**



**Tori Ann Atwell**  
Your neighborhood  
Notary Public  
&  
Certified  
Signing Agent

**(650) 996-0123**

## Safety Tips

# Winter Holiday Fire Safety

by Robert Maitland (MVPD) and Monica Leon (MVPD)



Stay safe this winter, Mountain View! If you notice something concerning, please contact the relevant team so we can respond promptly and keep our community safe.

As winter storms roll in, here's a quick guide on who to contact when you see issues around town:

### Non-Emergency and Emergency Calls

Call 650-903-6344 to report non-emergencies. Call 911 to report emergencies

### Power Outages & Restoration

Call PG&E for updates and to obtain information about power outages and restoration times at 1-800-743-5000

### Report Downed Trees and Limbs

Report downed trees and limbs during normal business hours by calling the Forestry and Roadway Landscape Division at (650) 903-6273. For after business hours, please call (650) 903-6329.

### Report Flooding or Standing Water

Call the Public Services Division at (650) 903-6329 to report flooding or standing water during and after hours or on weekends.

Flooding caused by excessive rainfall is possible in rivers, creeks, streams and other low-lying and flood-prone locations. Flooding may occur in poor drainage and urban areas.

Sand and sandbags are available at no charge to City of Mountain View residents at the City's Municipal Operations Center, 231 N. Whisman Road. Bring a shovel to fill the sandbags.

For more information visit: <http://MountainView.gov/FloodPrep>. •



♥ **Thank You to Ann Chasson on Paul Ave. for all her support of feral rescues on Vincent Drive this summer.** ♥



Expires on March 31st, 2026

# 20% OFF

up to 5 people

A modern celebration of Caucasus Cuisine in the heart of Mountain view

Tuesday - Friday  
11:30 am - 2:00 pm  
5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday - Sunday  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

El Camino x Ehrhorn,  
286 W El Camino Real

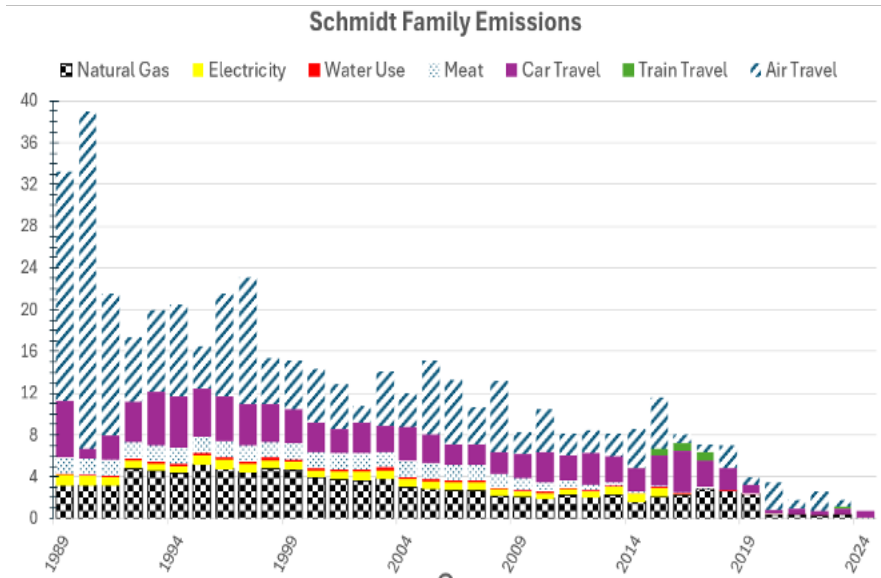
**OMVNA Eco News**

# Lead a Rich Life on a Tiny Carbon Footprint

by Bruce Karney

Like many Old Mountain View residents, Steve and Lisa Schmidt are a well-educated and financially secure couple in their sixties, the proud parents of two adventurous offspring now in their thirties. But in 2005 Steve had just become aware of human-caused climate change. He recalls, "As an engineer, when I found out I had a carbon footprint, I wanted to know how big it was."

He learned that in 1990 his family emitted more greenhouse gases than a small African village: 39 metric tons, or 9.75 tons/person. The Schmidts set out to shrink their footprint to a sustainable level of 1 ton/person. And they succeeded!



Steve and his son became fascinated with EVs, and like many of the earliest EV adopters, they had to build their own by removing the engine from a small sports car and installing batteries and a motor. They purchased an old school bus for longer trips and converted it to run on waste vegetable oil, a non-fossil

Continued on page 7

**Neighborhood Mixer**

# A Tasting Experience at NAR February 23<sup>rd</sup>

by Joan Thunderbuilt

One of our newest neighborhood restaurants is inviting **Old MV residents** to a special evening at **NAR Restaurant**.

Join us on Monday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, for an exclusive tasting experience created especially for our community. The chefs at NAR will showcase their cuisine inspired by the Caucasus region, offering a chance to explore new flavors, meet neighbors, and support a local business.

**Special offers for the evening:**

- **20% off** wines from the Caucasus region
- **50% off** soft drinks

Come mingle with fellow neighbors and discover the flavors of **NAR**, the Peninsula's first Caucasus restaurant.



**OLD MV MIXER at NAR**

Ehrhorn & El Camino  
286 W El Camino Real

**Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**

Learn more about the event at [www.omvna.org](http://www.omvna.org).

**stress ends where action begins™**

Not sure whether to *rent* or *sell* your home? We help you decide what's best for your goals. With expert guidance, high-retention property management, and proven sales experience ... we've got you covered with confidence.

Get your home's evaluation today at **650.967.8700**.

DRE 01877646

Events Corner

# Eventors Recap and What's Next

by Joan Thunderbuilt

2025 was filled with 4 fun standing events and a new addition that will surely become an Eventors staple.

Look forward to information about our 2026 Eventors offerings:

- A Mixer at NAR on Monday, February 23rd
- The Annual Egg Crawl on Sunday, March 29th
- Get a Clue Scavenger Hunt in April
- Wheels Party in May
- Ice Cream Social on Saturday August 22nd
- CERT Shake Out in September
- Caroling Crawl in December

Stay up to date and subscribe to the EVENTS ONLY email: OldMT-Vevents1+subscribe@groups.io

Learn more about the eventors online or email social@omvna.org

Building community engagement, one event at a time. •

**♥ To the best hubby and Asher's favorite baba: Happy Valentine's Day! You are the best things to happen to me. I'm so grateful to have a bunny and now an Asher Beebe. Here's to 8 wonderful years and a lifetime left to go. ♥**

## Neighborhood News Sources

- Join the neighborhood email list: OMVNAtalk2@groups.io send email to: [omvnatalk2+owner@groups.io](mailto:omvnatalk2+owner@groups.io)
- Online [www.omvna.org](http://www.omvna.org)
- Facebook [www.fb.com/omvna](http://www.fb.com/omvna)
- BlueSky [@oldmv.bsky.social](https://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](mailto:editor@omvna.org)

Submissions for our May 2026 issue are due by April 22, 2026.

## What's Up

# Update on New Development in Old MV

by Robert Cox

With regard to new development, we in Old Mountain View are living in bizarre times.

We are in a "housing crisis", but over 10% of the apartments built in Mountain View since 2016 ("newer" apartments) lie vacant. A vacancy rate of 5% is normal. Developers have received city approvals to build many large apartment complexes, but construction is on hold. In fact, at their approval hearings, multiple developers have requested as long as eight years before they will start construction. In normal times, a developer would need to begin construction within two years of receiving approval.

What's going on here? For the last four years, our city has been losing tech jobs and population. Two factors are in play here. COVID taught the world that tech workers need not assemble together in a common office to get their work done. This has led many major tech employers to relocate jobs to areas where tech salaries are lower. Sometimes this is in the United States, but often it is in countries like India and Poland. Consequently, COVID is over, but about 20% of the office space in Mountain View lies vacant.

The other issue is that as artificial intelligence (AI) matures, many entry level tech jobs can be done more efficiently or entirely using AI. Satya Nadella, the CEO of Microsoft, recently disclosed that as much as 30% of code at Microsoft is now being written by AI bots. The unemployment rate for new computer science graduates is at an all time high: 7%. While jobs for AI savvy programmers are increasing in San Francisco, the deployment of AI is decreasing employment in the software field overall.

The average rent for newer apartments in Mountain View is \$4461/month. Such apartments are typically rented out to young, usually tech, professionals. Since the number of these professionals is decreasing in Mountain View, developers don't have the financial incentive to go forward with their city approved projects. If conditions change, development may proceed. If not, these approved developments will remain mere paper concepts. •

## Performances

# Nova Vista Symphony at MVCPA

by Nancy Sitton



The Nova Vista Symphony will present a journey through musical inspirations in a program highlighted by Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* at MVCPA on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 7:30 pm. Helping the orchestra celebrate its 60th season are beloved soloists Debra Fong and Christopher Costanza in works by Saint-Saëns and Vivaldi. Tickets at <https://www.novavista.org/tickets> •

mountain view's  
modern yoga studio



[craveyoga-mv.com](http://craveyoga-mv.com) | see what's within



## Public Library

# What's New at Mountain View Public Library

by Katie Hom, library.mountainview.gov

### Silicon Valley Reads

Each year, Silicon Valley Reads brings Mountain View together with neighboring Santa Clara County libraries and community organizations to explore a theme designed to inspire conversations on meaningful topics.

This year's theme is "Bridges to Belonging." We invite you to read the featured books and participate in special events to explore the importance of connection, empathy, and community as we find ways to build and strengthen our relationships with one another.

The featured books for 2026 include:

- *The Power of Bridging: How to Build a World Where We All Belong* by John A. Powell
- *Mainline Mama* by Keeonna Harris
- *Unlikely Animals* by Annie Hartnett

Companion books for children and teens include:

- *Thank You, Neighbor* by Ruth Chan (Pre-K through new readers)
- *Together, A Forest* by Roz MacLean (elementary)
- *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang (middle grades)
- *Give Me a Sign* by Anna Sortino (high school/young adult)

Keep an eye on our Events Calendar at MountainView.gov/LibraryCalendar for upcoming Silicon Valley Reads programs.

### Wireless Printing

The Library now offers wireless printing. Simply download the SPOT Global Print app, select City of Mountain View (CA) as your location, and select which printer you'd like to retrieve your print job. Regular printing fees apply. You do not need to have a library account to print if paying with cash.

### Sew Sew Saturdays

Due to popular demand, the Library recently introduced Sew Sew Saturday, a drop-in program where residents can use one of our Baby Lock sewing machines to stitch clothing, hem garments, and work on simple sewing projects. Volunteers are available to assist novice sewers or troubleshoot the machines as needed.

Sew Sew Saturday occurs on the first Saturday of every month from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Library's Second Floor Program Room. •

## MVCPA Events

# The Art of Code Switching Reception

by Stephanie Lin

On Tuesday, **February 17, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.**, the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts will host an artist reception and moderated discussion celebrating Donald Hershman's exhibition, *The Art of Code Switching*.

The exhibit is part of the rotating exhibits selected by the Visual Arts Committee, and this event is a pilot program born from a collaboration between the Downtown, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts Committees.

This exhibition is a compelling exploration of identity and the ways individuals navigate multiple social and cultural spaces. Donald will discuss his creative process and the lived experiences that inform this body of work.

Tickets & Registration: While this is a free event, all guests should reserve a ticket in advance to help manage capacity. Register here: [tickets.mvcpa.com](https://tickets.mvcpa.com)•



## Your Downtown Mountain View Real Estate Experts!

[DowntownMountainView.com](https://DowntownMountainView.com)  
[OldMountainView.com](https://OldMountainView.com)

📞 650.800.1980

✉️ [Hello@GalliTeam.com](mailto:Hello@GalliTeam.com)

🌐 [GalliTeam.com](https://GalliTeam.com)



DRE# 01852633

COMPASS



Club Corner

# The Thursday Murder Club

by Joan Thunderbuilt

The Thursday Murder Club is a fictional club that meets weekly in the Jigsaw Room of Coopers Chase retirement village to investigate cold cases and local murders. But the Old MV Eventors is real, and wants to help build connections between neighbors. We are excited to introduce The Neighborhood Clubs page on omvna.org

Have you ever dreamed of starting a club (or joining others) in the neighborhood? You could meet at the library, in the quiet corner of a coffee shop, or in the park!

Clubs can be social or activity driven, the ideas are unlimited:

- Art History
- Conversational French
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Knit and Natter
- Lunch Club
- Coffee Chats
- Board Games
- Recipe Shares
- Ukelele

**We could go on...**

Share your interest (or your existing club) on our Google form and the Eventors will connect you with other neighbors so you can start your own club!

Check out the Neighborhood Clubs page on omvna.org for existing local clubs and an interest form for new clubs. Updated as we learn more.

Email social@omvna.org with questions or ideas!

Building community engagement, one event at a time. •



♥ **Happy Valentine's, Lemon! From best friend to wife and now Asher's mom, you're truly amazing! Looking forward to admiring you for the rest of our many years together! Love you more every day!** ♥

## Transportation in Old MV

### Life in the New Lanes

by Susan Bickford

Thought you knew how to drive? All the new markings on Mountain View streets might have you wondering. Can I turn right from that new bus-only lane??? Answers seemed mixed and inconsistent. Stay turned for clarification. Meanwhile...


The new traffic markings and signals have been implemented to improve safety and support the city's Vision Zero Action Plan, not confuse drivers.

- **Green Bike Lanes (El Camino Real):** Green-painted pavement has been added along El Camino Real to denote "conflict zones" where vehicles and bicycles are likely to interact. These markings are intended to increase driver awareness.
- **High-Visibility Crosswalks:** As part of recent rehabilitation projects, "high-visibility" crosswalk markings have been installed at major intersections, including along El Camino Real and Old Middlefield Way, to improve pedestrian safety.
- **Dedicated Left-Turn Markings (Rengstorff & Latham):** New markings and dedicated left-turn lanes were recently added at the intersection of Rengstorff Avenue and Latham Street to separate turning vehicles from pedestrians and through traffic.
- **Downtown Pedestrian Mall Markings:** On Castro Street the city is adding large 21-foot-wide central crosswalks at the Villa and Dana Street intersections. These delineate a continuous pedestrian path through the middle of the closed-off blocks.
- **Daylighting Restrictions:** While not a "marking" in the traditional sense, be aware of the "daylighting" law enforced since 2025. It is illegal to park within 20 feet of any crosswalk (marked or unmarked) to improve visibility for all road users.
- **Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons:** New flashing signal systems have been installed at Crestview Drive, Bonita Avenue, and Pettis Avenue along El Camino Real. These allow pedestrians to push a button to activate warning lights that stop traffic.
- **AI-Enhanced Signal (Rengstorff & Latham):** A new signal system at this intersection uses artificial intelligence to detect traffic and pedestrian issues in real-time to prevent collisions. •


♥ **The Eventors ♥ REPS Printing in Campbell – Thanks for all you do for us.** ♥

♥ **Ljubim te, zeno Iva, uvijek I zauvijek -- Tvoj Robert** ♥

Proud member of  
**Mountain View Rotary**



**Tori Ann Atwell**




**TipTop Roofing**  
 Daniel Travancic - Owner

Fully insured  
 Lic# 1076809  
**Call: 408-655-2639**  
 nkriptoproofing@gmail.com

**Your Local Roofer in Mountain View at 148 W Dana St.**

## Restaurant Scene

Continued from page 1

style, sometimes done at the table. **Mervyn's** at 236 Castro, and pending **Kitchen Story**, 171 Castro, have made visible interior remodeling progress but with much work apparently still to do, while the former **Fiesta Del Mar Too** site (735 Villa), windows papered-over for several months now, appears dormant. •

♥ **Sending love to all the Eldorables on Eldora Drive. Love, Evetta & Emmy** ♥

## OMVNA Leadership Neighborhood Meetings & Minutes

The OMVNA (Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association) Leadership team meets quarterly, and all neighbors are welcome to attend. Most regular meetings are held via Zoom for convenience. Our annual meeting—where elections take place—typically happens in December and, when possible, is held in person.



Interested in getting more involved? Elections are conducted at the annual meeting, and the search for new members begins each August. If you'd like to be considered, email the Nominating Committee (elections@omvna.org) to share your interest.

Want to stay informed about what's discussed and decided? Meeting minutes are posted on omvna.org for you to review anytime. [tinyurl.com/mv8e2uuh](http://tinyurl.com/mv8e2uuh) •

## Rich Life

Continued from page 3

fuel. In 2015 they took the bus on a 6,000-mile trip around the US. In 2019 the Schmidts bought a used Tesla Model S as their everyday vehicle. When they recently went to see their daughter in Fairbanks, they drove their Tesla and found charging stations were plentiful and inexpensive.

In 2008 they replaced their pool's natural gas heater with a solar thermal system. Later they replaced all of their home's gas appliances with electric ones.

Steve and Lisa also changed their diets, starting with "meatless Mondays" and gradually becoming nearly vegetarian. They also drastically reduced their flying. A round-trip flight to the east coast generates 1.5 metric tons of emissions per passenger: that's more than their annual budget.

Steve says, "I lead a rich life on a tiny carbon footprint." Steve and Lisa also founded a service to help others live more sustainably. It's free to join, and if you're able to reduce your footprint, the Schmidts get paid by PG&E! Check out the [HomeIntel website](#). For a deeper dive into the their decarbonization journey, read [this article](#) or watch Steve's 2023 [TedX talk](#) (18 minute video) or contact Steve at: [steve@schmidt.net](mailto:steve@schmidt.net). •

♥ **Legolas to Susan B. I love you. More cat treats please.** ♥

♥ **To Legolas: skritch skritch, chuck chuck, purr purr. Snaaaacks snaaaacks noooooow! Susan** ♥

## Ava's

Continued from page 1

It also does something shockingly rare: it pays attention to what's actually happening around downtown. Castro Street pop-ups, seasonal moments, neighborhood happenings... you know, the stuff that makes this place feel like a PLACE, not just a backdrop for parking apps.



If you like living here, this is an easy win: Subscribe! Then forward it to someone who thinks newsletters are boring. (If you're skeptical, the past issues are online for you to judge freely.)

This Valentine's Day, show a little love to Ava's. Preferably while buying groceries you were going to buy anyway.



Subscribe: <https://avasmkt.com/subscribe>  
Archive: <https://avasmkt.com>. •

## Jingles

Continued from page 2

Community, for making a night of joy, merriment and connection. To continue the community singing spirit into the new year, some of our song leaders held a Ukulele and Singing Jam at Ludwig's Biergarten on Tuesday, February 3 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Look for more fun things to come. •

♥ **Cassie and Pippin, best friends forever.** ♥

♥ **Eventors - Joan** ♥

♥ **Dear Rachel, looking forward to the next twenty years! Love, Stuart** ♥

## 2026 OMVNA Steering Committee

Chair:	Robert Cox	Subcommittee Chairs	
Vice-Chair:	David Lewis	CERT:	Sherril Brennan
Treasurer:	Carola Thompson	Historical Preservation:	Jerry Steach
Secretary:	Maureen Blando	Residential Parking:	Jamil Shaikh
At-Large:	Melanie Kaye, Shivika Nayyar		Carol Lewis
Newsletter Editor:	Susan Bickford	Newsletter Delivery:	Lorraine Wormald
Community Liaison:	Jamil Shaikh	Eventors:	Kristin Bailey
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	<b>April 27, 2026</b>	Advertising:	<a href="mailto:advertising@omvna.org">advertising@omvna.org</a>

# You Already Know Me!

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

**100%**  
Satisfaction Rating  
Customer Surveys

CALL ME FOR ALL OF YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS



## Nancy Adele Stuhr

Mountain View Neighborhood Specialist

**650.575.8300**

nstuhr@sereno.com

www.nancystuhr.com

CalDRE# 00963170

CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE  
SERENO



This information was supplied by reliable sources. Sales Associate believes this information to be correct but has not verified this information and assumes no legal responsibility for its accuracy. Buyers should investigate these issues to their own satisfaction. Buyer to verify enrollment. Buyer to verify school availability.



Buy or Sell in Mountain View with Confidence

Located downtown, right on Castro Street, our team knows and loves Mountain View inside and out.

**Selling?** We'll prep, stage, and market your home like it's our own.

**Buying?** We'll help you find the right fit—and win it.

From first conversation to final signature—Stress Ends Here.™

Schedule your free consultation today at **650.648.6737**.

DRE 01552506 | DRE 01877646

**Stress ends here.™**

# 600+ Transactions



*Tori Atwell*

*With over 600 homes sold in downtown Mountain View since 1986, I'm proud to be the neighborhood's trusted name in real estate.*



LET MY EXPERIENCE GUIDE YOUR NEXT MOVE. REACH OUT TODAY.

**TORI ATWELL**

BROKER-ASSOCIATE

TORI.ATWELL@THEAGENCYRE.COM | TORISELLSREALESTATE.COM

650.996.0123 | LIC. #00927794