Old Mountain View
Neighborhood Association
(OMVNA)
580 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

********** ECRWSS ****
LOCAL
OLD MOUNTAIN VIEW NEIGHBOR

OMVNA Quarterly Newsletter

HIGHLIGHTS

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THE LAMPPOST

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Restaurant News

by Max Hauser

Why does 124 Castro's **Joyous Cuisine**, open for 20 months, display a new "Soft Opening" banner? The restaurant's ownership changed and the menu expanded. Which includes very fresh fish offerings (kept live on-site), and an appealing new "dumpling and bun" menu section.

If you haven't visited **Johnny and Sanny's** (110 Castro), Doppio Zero's expansion site (with similar menu) that replaced **Vida** in May, I suggest at least looking around inside. The interior is dazzling, with colorful bottles creating a light show up front, and a more intimate semi-separate dining section in the rear.

Four Seasons Tea House Hot Pot opened in September at 134 Castro, replacing **3 Kingdoms Hot Pot**. Some information describes Four Seasons as a China-based chain. It features unusual tea-infused broths (such as jasmine tomato) in tabletop "hot pot" main courses.

Embrace Luck, the four-year-old upscale Chinese restaurant (286 El Camino Real at Ehrhorn), closed recently. Remodeling is underway for

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Welcome All Old Mountain View Residents

by Susan Bickforrd

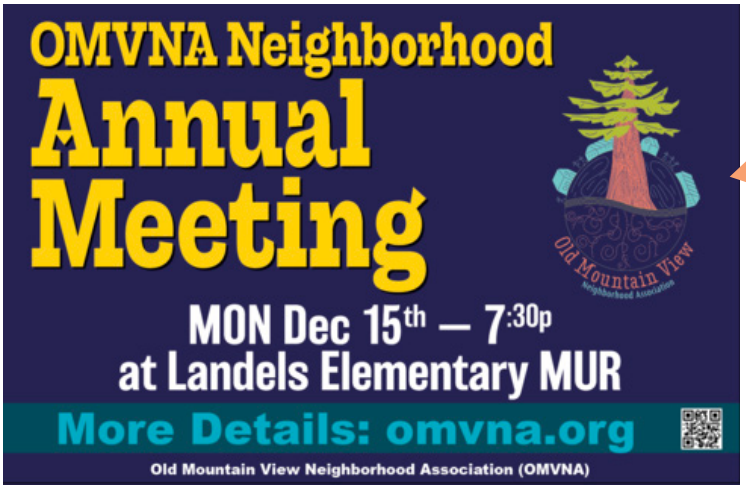
If you are receiving our newsletter for the first time, you may be one of the over 2,000 Old Mountain View residents who cannot receive our newsletters delivered by hand due to issues such as locked mailrooms and facilities.

Our leadership committee has decided to try using a USPS delivery service to reach more of our neighbors. We are planning to do this once a year.

Meanwhile, be sure to check out **omvna.org** where you will find PDF versions of all our newsletters and lots more good information. Also sign up for our OMVNA email list, omvnatalk at main+subscribe@OMVNAtalk2.groups.io. You'll be able to talk to your neighbors and keep updated on all the issues and activities that OMVNA members pursue related to keeping this a healthy and wonderful place to live.

Let us know your thoughts! Send email to **editor@omvna.org**. Are there things you would like to see in this newsletter? Did you just hear about OMVNA for the first time?

Our Annual Meeting will be Monday, December 15 at Landels Elementary School Auditorium on Dana St. Doors open at 7:00 PM. Come early and get acquainted. •



In Person

Safety Tips

Winter Holiday Fire Safety

by Robert Maitland

According to the United States Fire Administration, nearly half of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

- Inspect holiday lights each year before you put them up.
- Water your Christmas tree every day. A dry tree is dangerous because it can catch on fire easily.
- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell, and feel like real candles.
- If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be knocked down easily.

Source: United States Fire Administration. Find more safety tips at https://www.usfa.fema.gov/ •

What's Up

Update on New Development in Old MV

by Robert Cox

A few months ago, you may have seen signs titled "YOU ARE IN THE ZONE" popping up around our neighborhood. They were part of an educational campaign to inform our residents about California Senate Bill 79. This bill proposed five to nine-story buildings by right (no city council opposition allowed) within one-half mile of qualifying transit centers, like our downtown transit center. Much of our neighborhood north of Church Street would be included in this rezoned area.

While OMVNA as an organization does not take a position on development issues, we did highlight the potential impacts of this bill on our neighborhood, and urged residents to contact our state legislators to make their views known. I want to thank all of those who displayed a sign on their properties.

SB79 was passed by the California Senate and Assembly and signed into law by Governor Newsom on October 10. Senator Becker and Assemblymember Berman both voted YES in their respective bodies, while Senator Becker declined to vote when the bill came back to the Senate with amendments from the Assembly. Vice Mayor Emily Ramos and Councilmember Lucas Ramirez wrote letters in support of SB79, while other councilmembers were silent on the legislation.

A chief concern for those opposed to SB79 was its potential impact on our downtown's historic retail district. This is the area on and around the 100-300 blocks of Castro Street. The initial version of the bill could have enabled its destruction and replacement by seven-story or higher residential towers. The final version of the bill allows the city to propose a "local alternative plan" that would exempt buildings on the local historic register as long as the density is increased elsewhere. Since the city is updating its local historic register now, it will be essential for the council to integrate work on the register update with its proposed SB79 local alternative plan. Residents interested in saving our downtown's historic retail district should reach out to the council and express their views. •

OMVNA Governance

Proposed 2026 OMVNA Leadership Slate

The following slate will be proposed for voting at our annual meeting, Dec. 15, 2025. Note that additional nominations may also be added during the meeting.

Chair: Robert Cox
Vice Chair: David Lewis
Secretary: Maureen Blando
Treasurer: Carola Thompson
At Large: Melanie Kaye, Shivika Nayyar
Newsletter Editor: Susan Bickford
Newsletter Distribution: Lorraine Wormald
Community Liaison: Jamil Shaikh
CERT: Sherril Brennan
Historical Preservation: Jerry Steach
Residential Parking: Carol Lewis, Jamil Shaikh
Eventors: Kristin Bailey

OMVNA Eco News

Measuring Your Carbon Footprint

by Bruce Karney

Here's a paradox: Everyone I surveyed at the 2025 Earth Day Expo said they were "committed to doing what I can to reduce my family's carbon footprint." But only 20% said they knew roughly how big their carbon footprint was! Here's where the majority of most families' carbon footprint comes from.

1. Flying

Flying is likely the biggest contributor to your footprint if your family takes more than two round trips a year. Flying 3,500 miles increases your carbon footprint by about one metric ton (MT). The most carbon-intensive part of a flight is the ascent. Best practices: fly less; choose non-stops and avoid connecting flights (which require two ascents). Some people say that business travel should count against your employer's carbon footprint, not your own. That choice is up to you.

2. Driving a non-electric vehicle

Good news: over 40% of new vehicles registered in our county last year were EVs or PHEVs. Gasoline powered cars spew 1 MT of CO2 pollution for each 113 gallons burned. At 30 MPG, that's 1 MT per 3,390 miles driven. This is probably the second largest part of your footprint.

3. Using natural gas in your home

A typical home in OMV uses 250 to 500 therms of natural gas (methane) per year for water heating, space heating, cooking and other uses. The CO2 emissions from these levels of natural gas consumption are 1.33 to 2.66 MT. Leaking methane is very damaging to the environment, and the gas distribution system has many leaks, so I recommend doubling the figures above to account for that.

4. Eating beef or lamb

Everything you eat, except things you grow yourself, has a carbon footprint. It's challenging to quantify it, but eating beef, lamb, and products made from cow's milk has huge climate impacts. A diet that includes beef, lamb or dairy in most meals will have about 3 times the carbon footprint of a vegetarian diet.

What doesn't increase your carbon footprint?

Using electricity

On an annual average basis, our electricity is varies. Some hours of the day and seasons are more carbon intensive, though. Use power during mid-day, if

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OMVNA Events

🎶 It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year—The Old MV Caroling Crawl 🎶

by Joan Thunderbuilt

It's time to don our gay apparel! Our second neighborhood Caroling Crawl will be Rockin' around the Palm Tree at 4 p.m. Saturday, December 6 at Mercy-Bush Park. We'll meet at the park and sing both Christmas and Hanukkah songs, then follow a planned route through the neighborhood. We'll end at a host location to sing a few more songs and enjoy seasonal treats.

No singing talent? No problem! We will be an enthusiastic and friendly group of all ages. Lyrics will be provided.

If you'd like to join as a Singer, a Host Home or a Song Leader, please fill out this interest survey. Note that hosting is outdoor-only! Hosts just keep lights on, clear the driveway, and cheer for the singers… providing cookies is optional. 🍪🍪

https://tinyurl.com/58s2shsu

Caroling Crawl, December 6, Mercy Bush Park, 4 PMhdx

Events Corner

Cream of the Crop

by Joan Thunderbuilt

Here's the scoop from Mercy-Bush Park on Saturday, August 23, 2025:

The annual neighborhood Ice Cream Social once again brought sweet treats and sweeter moments as we wrapped up another beautiful summer. This year's gathering was bigger and better—with something new for everyone.

In addition to our favorite community tables, the ever-popular Baskin-Robbins cart, and smooth jazz from The David Brigham Quartet, guests were treated to a dazzling performance by Miss Molly Bubbles. Her enchanting bubble show had kids and adults alike laughing, clapping, and chasing shimmering orbs through the sunshine.

The park was alive with joyful noise—and plenty of sprinkles.

Over 425 neighbors showed up to enjoy the fun, consuming an impressive 459 scoops of ice cream!

If you couldn't make it this time, don't worry—we'll be back next year! Keep an eye out in late August for signs around the neighborhood, and don't forget to check omvna.org and newsletter for updates. You won't want to miss it.•

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 Feb 2026 issue are due by Jan 21, 2026.

History Spot

The MVPD's Evolving Home

by Jerry Steach

A visit to the Mountain View Police Department, inside the Police and Fire Administration building at Villa and Franklin streets, reveals contrasts between the old and the new. A display along one hallway, for example, showcases vintage equipment the MVPD had used over the decades and is situated just around a corner from the department's state-of-the-art communications center. Also presenting a contrast is the PFA building itself, which opened in 1980 and has gotten a bit long in the tooth considering the two public-safety departments serve a city in the heart of Silicon Valley modernity.

It's not just those departments' operations located inside the distinct Old Mountain View structure, with its clocktower and entrance that faces the street at a 45-degree angle; an emergency dispatch center, fire department administration, emergency operations, and support staff all work out of the same 45-year-old structure. However, plans are underway to replace and modernize the entire complex, expanding it more fully across its 4.3-acre site—including sleeping quarters for police and fire personnel who live far from Mountain View—and address the city's evolving public-safety needs. The city council is presently reviewing those plans.

It won't be the first time the MVPD, established in 1902, has moved into larger and updated facilities. Doug Johnson, the department's resident historian—a veritable fountain of information on the subject—wrote an excellent history of the MVPD. In it he points out that the first station was "….actually just an office within the first City Hall at Castro and California Street. The office was divided into two rooms, one of which was the jail. The jail consisted of an iron cage within a slightly larger room, and most of the jail's 'tenants' were transients passing through town looking for a warm, dry place to sleep."

By 1952, the MVPD's then force of 11 officers were working out of an increasingly crowded office within City Hall—so crowded interviews often had to be conducted outside in patrol cars—necessitating the construction of a new police station at 947 Villa St. Over following years, additions made to that building weren't sufficient for a department that was, in Doug's words, "bursting at the seams." Mountain View, in the late 1970s, finally approved construction what is now the present Police and Fire Administration building, kitty-corner from the MVPD's previous home.

Certainly, Mountain Views finest will appreciate their eventual new, expanded home. •

Public Library

What's New at Mountain View Public Library

by Katie Hom, library.mountainview.gov

Lactation Pod

We are pleased to announce the installation of a new lactation pod in the Children's Room at the Library. This private, safe, and comfortable space is designed to support nursing mothers and caregivers feeding young children.

The pod is available to users on a first-come, first-served basis.

We're proud to offer this new resource as part of our ongoing commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for families.

New Collections in the Children's Room

The Library now offers a collection of Hindi books available for borrowing in the Children's Room. These books, primarily aimed toward younger children, are located in the World Languages section between the German and Japanese materials.

In addition, the holiday section along the back wall of the Children's Room now includes collections for Diwali and Ramadan, giving families the opportunity to read, explore, and celebrate these meaningful cultural traditions together.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Inspire your child's love of reading with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

If you have a child from 0-5 years old, register them today to receive a new book every month.

- Enroll your child online at https://sccld.org/imaginationlibrary
- In 6-8 weeks, your child will receive their first book in the mail.

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Public Extras

Community Art Strategy Input

by Cliff Bryant

The City of Mountain View is asking for our input on a new Community Art Strategy. In the late 1990s, the City created an art program focused on City-funded developments. This was the era of major redevelopments (think the new City Hall and the Center for Performing Arts). The art program resulted in such wonders as the Boy/Girl sculpture in Pioneer Park. Today, and likely in the next few years, we can expect fewer City-funded developments. And what of public art then?

About seven years ago, the City Council requested City staff to work with the seven-member Visual Arts Committee (VAC) to update the art program with a new art strategy. Work was reaching a critical milestone when COVID struck and all work was halted.

Several years later (with a new staff lead and new VAC members), work resumed. The VAC looked at the art programs in neighboring cities (like Sunnyvale) and recognized that neighboring cities had more robust and established art programs than we do.

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Neighborhood Corner

Nextdoor: Useful or Toxic?

by Susanne Martinez

Nextdoor, launched in 2011, is a social media platform created to serve as a local neighborhood online meeting place. Old Mountain View has its own special neighborhood. As Nextdoor has expanded and evolved, many users feel it is "less neighborly" but still provides useful information like where to find the best pizza or help in searching for a missing pet.

Here are some tips:

Select who sees your post. Nextdoor allows you to decide, when you post, if you want it seen only by people in your own neighborhood, nearby neighborhoods (e.g., Cuesta Park or Shoreline West) or "Anyone." "Anyone" refers to geography and can mean people in Sunnyvale or Palo Alto or beyond. Nextdoor set the default to "Anyone" so you must manually choose to limit distribution.

Create a title for your post. Begin your post with descriptive words, like "Lost Dog" or "Major Accident." Otherwise, Nextdoor will take the first few words you write and use that as your title, reducing the chance that the people you want to reach will read it.

Giving away or selling items on Nextdoor. There is a separate area called "For Sale & Free" where these items should be posted. You must select "For Sale & Free" when you first create the post or risk having it removed as being "posted in error."

Political debate on Nextdoor. You can talk about state and local political issues, but not national politics. Some

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Transportation in Old MV

Life in the Slow Lane

by Tara Whiteside

You've probably seen our electric golf cart zipping past your house, piled high with giggling kids. This sight has sparked a lot of questions—which is why The Lamppost asked me to write about owning one. If you've seen us driving by then you've witnessed the real reason we bought it: *pure fun*.

The DMV defines our golf cart as an L.S.V. (Low-Speed Vehicle), meaning it's street-legal on any road that is 35 MPH or lower. This makes Mountain View and the surrounding cities an ideal place to own one. Why crank up a gas-guzzler for a short trip when you can cruise in the fresh air and look cool doing it?

Our cart is equipped with seat belts, blinkers, and has a long range on a single charge—about 60 miles. Has it ever seen a golf course? Nope! But it has seen the parking lot of the local Sav Mor Food Store more times than we can count.

Our beautiful local weather means it's perfect to drive all year-round. Our two daughters live for "cart rides," and our neighbors are constantly popping over to ask, "Is the cart available for a quick errand?" We love sharing the fun!

The neighborhood kids treat our driveway like an unofficial transit station. If we try to drive by without stopping, we're met with a chorus of shouts demanding a ride (with their questionable music always on request). We wouldn't have it any other way; it's been a fun way to connect with our community. Looking back, we probably should have bought the 6-seater!

At about $12,000, it's not cheap, but we justify the cost in two ways: we no longer own a second car, and we've stopped fighting about who has to run those last minute errands.

If you see us rolling by, don't be shy. Flag us down and say hello—we might just have an empty seat for you! •

OMVNA Leadership

OMVNA Leadership Team Minutes

Want to keep informed about the discussions and decisions made in OMVNA Leadership Council meetings?

Meeting minutes are posted on omvna.org • https://tinyurl.com/mv8e2uuh

Restaurant News

Continued from page 1

NAR, a sit-down restaurant promising "the rich culinary heritage of the Caucasus" (Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia), from the local Olivia Brothers Group. Partner Hikmat Babayev told me that kitchen facilities in the building will also supply the Group's more casual food services, which include food trucks. Stay tuned. •

Nextdoor: Useful or Toxic

Continued from page 6

people don't like political debates. There is an option to "mute" a discussion, which hides it from your view.

Moderation: keep it civil and follow the rules. Nextdoor User Guidelines emphasize "civil" discussions—no name calling or demeaning your neighbors. Respectful debate is fine. Content is moderated in various ways, including automatic filters, neighborhood volunteer moderators, and Nextdoor support staff. Comments that violate Nextdoor guidelines can be reported and local moderators vote whether to remove them. If you feel your post was unfairly removed, there is an appeal process. If you violate the rules too many times, Nextdoor may suspend or delete your account.

A "Help" section has information on how to use the site and links to the Guidelines. Although debates on social media platforms can become heated, Nextdoor is still a great place to find out what is happening in our community, recover a missing dog or cat, find a skilled craftsperson, or give away stuff.•

Measuring Carbon Footprint

Continued from page 3

possible (when solar power is plentiful), especially on weekends when demand is lowest.

Thrifting or participating in the "gift economy"

If you buy something new, whether it's a sweatshirt or a dining room table, you are responsible for the emissions caused by creating the item and shipping it to you. When you buy something secondhand, or are given it for free, the item is essentially emission free. Check out Buy Nothing Mountain View (Central), CA on Facebook, Mountain View Freecycle, and local thrift stores and yard sales.

Want a deeper dive? Visit UC Berkeley's Cool Climate Calculator.

Here's an example of what one family of learned from the Calculator.

Total emissions: 37 tons of CO2e per year:

- 14 tons from travel
- 8 tons from goods
- 7 tons from services
- 5 tons from home energy use
- 3 tons from food

By the way, the social cost of carbon, an attempt to estimate the cost of the many damages stemming from GHG pollution, was pegged at $190/MT according to the Biden administration. So, emitting 10 MT produces $1,900 of damage. Most families emit far more than 10 MT. •

New at Public Library

Continued from page 5

• Books arrive in the mail monthly until your child's 5th birthday.

Book Club in a Bag

Host your own book club by checking out a Book Club in a Bag! Each bag comes with several copies of the same title along with discussion questions and background information on the book and author.

If you're ready to start your book club, come to the first floor of the Library near the holds area to see what we have today. Learn more about Book Club in a Bag at MountainView.gov/BookClubKit •

Art Strategy Input

Continued from page 5

On the VAC (which includes several OMVNA residents) we discussed expanding the role of art in celebrating our City's diversity, identity and unique heritage. Art can help define major developments; art can energize and invigorate our pedestrian downtown; art can enrich neighborhood-centered activities.

The new Community Art Strategy was crafted by the VAC and a staff lead; City Council studied and reviewed the Strategy in 2023. A local art consulting firm is now helping staff to engage in wider community outreach.

The City needs all OUR feedback and ideas. You can participate in the in-person workshops, and you can easily, NOW, take a short online survey: https://form.typeform.com/to/cmH9vpqr

For more info, go to: https://tinyurl.com/mkwwxev9 •

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
Residential Parking:	Jamil Shaikh
	Carol Lewis
Eventors:	Kristin Bailey
Advertising:	advertising@omvna.org
Next Meeting:	**January 26, 2026**

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