OMVNA Newsletter

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Love in the Time of Corona

by Elisabeth Seaman

Viktor Frankl wrote in his book, *Man's Search for Meaning* that, "Forces beyond your control can take away everything you possess except one thing, your freedom to choose how you will respond to the situation. You cannot control what happens to you in life, but you can always control what you will feel and do about what happens to you."

Frankl's words came from his observations of prisoners in Nazi concentration camps in World War II.

I can testify that Frankl's words ring true for at least some of the survivors of those camps, because my mother and I were among them. In the last days of the war, on April 13, 1945, American soldiers liberated my mother and me from the train on which we'd been sent out from the Bergen-Belsen camp.

Sadly, my father had died there in January. My extremely ill mother weighed only seventy pounds. She kept going and exerted herself to keep on living despite starvation and sickness because she had me—a six-year-old—to love and live for.

Now, faced with the worldwide threat of the coronavirus, we find ourselves in a situation that seems to be way out of our control. And yet, how we respond to it is, in fact, within our control, if we put into practice Winston Churchill's sage advice, "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

We can respond to the pandemic by blaming governments, and feel demoralized by the restrictions placed upon us and by overwhelmingly depressing news reports. Or we can appreciate what we do have, see the needs of others and help them as best we can. We can also graciously accept offers from those who extend a helping hand to us.

There are ways to grow and to stay connected. I am walking my neighborhood more often and have begun listening to podcasts, which are also new to me. My daughter and I have Skyped so she could help me with a task at which she is more proficient than I am. I've learned to use the internet to conduct mediations, attend board meetings, participate in church services, listen to a talk I would not have attended in person and played games with far flung family members. Friends exchange email "letters" and photographs of our events and activities. The internet is becoming a means of giving each other such "gifts".

Yes, we can be in control of how we respond to situations that impact us—we can make opportunities to grow and to respond to others—and ourselves—with love.

Elisabeth Seaman, with assistance from Jack Hamilton, co-authors of "Conflict – the Unexpected Gift"

Restaurant Scene

by Max Hauser

This column is focused on currently available resources during the evolving pandemic.

Public-health regulations (as of this writing) deem our restaurants "essential" (food-supplying) businesses, but prohibit eating there. Many are offering food for take-out and/or delivery. Here are some online directories of operating restaurants and other "essential" services:

iLoveMV.org is a portal to detail pages maintained by MV's Chamber of Commerce, listing restaurants open, other essential services, and "nonessential" stores doing online sales. (These lists are updated often. Each includes a contact address near the top, to send additions or corrections.) The lists cover all of MV, not just our neighborhood.

https://www.mv-voice.com/restaurants is another open-restaurant list for the wider area, from Embarcadero Media (publishers of the MV Voice newspaper). Scroll down through the alphabetical city names for Mountain View. Although the MV entries mostly overlap those in our Chamber of Commerce's list mentioned above, there can be unique content on either.

A city-wide gift card program is a prospect being explored among local business groups. Check lovemv.org for updates.

ARTISTS (SHELTERED) IN RESIDENCE: April, 2020

An Editorial by Don McPhail

ARTIST/HERO IN RESIDENCE: Juan Origel, Ava's Downtown Market

Our friend and neighborhood grocer, Juan Origel, is more than an artist; he is a local treasure. For those of us who have known and supported Juan since he opened our community's long-needed grocery story on Castro Street, Juan is an artist in his own way. He listens, takes risks, shows creativity, and is a fine, classy guy.

During the current pandemic, Juan, his manager Juana, and his team of grocers have arranged for shipments when other stores can't seem to get key items. His shelves are stocked and restocked with Midwife & the Baker, Acme and a range of baked goods, fresh organic vegetables and fruits, coffees, canned goods, baking items, herbs and spices, and a wide range of dairy products, wines and beers. Old Mountain View is blessed to have a high quality man like Juan Origel and Ava's Downtown Market.

ARTISTS DURING SHUT-DOWN

Old Mountain View artists are a creative lot, and several have found new ways to carry on during our sheltered status. The old adage that "writers write" and "singers sing" also applies to dancers, painters, photographers and teachers. Some neighborly examples are scattered through this issue.

Musician Rocky Austin

Last week I got together with a fellow Mountain View resident who I play uke with in Santa Cruz on the weekends. We sat on our front porch and driveway, to maintain proper separation, and played and sang. Neighbors that were out for their walks paused and enjoyed the music before moving along. One friend found out that she knew our next door neighbors and neighbors across the street. They visited with us for a while, there was as much conversation as music. All this took place while maintaining six feet of separation at the very least.

Artist Cliff Bryant

With the COVID-19 pandemic, I practice art each morning but I no longer paint outside in plain air nor join a figure drawing session with other artists and a model, nor paint indoors using very messy oils and thick bristle brushes that need cleaning. I have switched back to drawing in my studio using vine charcoal on large paper (18 x 24 inch). Using my photos as models, I relive moments and places from my past. I create in charcoal scenes that may later become oil paintings once the pandemic is passed. https://www.cliffbryant.studio

Vocalist Mia Whitfield & Smorgaschord

I've been using the extra time at home to revive my piano skills, and am enjoying learning local musician, Vienna Teng's song, Harbor, which I find inspiring in uncertain times, both musically and lyrically. As for Smorgaschord, we have moved our rehearsals to video conference. Because of the delay inherent in video conference connections, it's almost impossible to rehearse six part tight harmonies and rhythms musically. We have been friends for a long time, so we also appreciate our weekly connection.

Musician, Artist & Teacher Chi Chen

I have been working on a creative project since the beginning of the year with students of all ages (kids, teens, adults.) I had no idea then, the world was going to be faced with a tremendous global pandemic dark age! The project is called: "2020 Vision; Becoming the Light!" Three months into this project, I am proud to say that the results have been beautiful, magical, uplifting and incredibly moving! Not only to thrive under the current circumstances but also to co-create a better world! Art and music can heal and inspire!

Photographer Tim Auer

We are displaying some bear photography on our front porch for people to look at while they go on their teddy bear hunting walks. We are also learning dog agility (both the dog + me) in our front yard with our puppy in afternoons as well while our 8 month old baby watches.

Keeping Mountain View Safe:
Updates and Advice from the Mountain View Fire Department

The Hazards of Home Grill Fires

by Robert Maitland

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), "In 2013-2017 grills, hibachis, or barbecues were involved in an average of 10,200 home fires per year, including an average of 4,500 structure fires and 5,700 outside or unclassified fires. These fires caused annual averages of 10 civilian deaths, 160 reported civilian injuries, and $123 million in direct property damage. Almost all the losses resulted from structure fires."

Statistics and Factors Contributing to Grill Fires

- July (17%) was the peak month for grill fires, followed by June (14%), May (13%) and August (12%).
- The grill had not been cleaned in roughly one-quarter of the fires.
- Eighty-five percent of grills involved in home fires were fueled by gas while 10% used charcoal or other solid fuel.
- Gas grills were involved in an average of 8,700 home fires per year, including 3,600 structure fires and 5,100 outdoor fires annually. Leaks or breaks were primarily a problem with gas grills. Eleven percent of gas grill structure fires and 23% of outside gas grill fires were caused by leaks or breaks.
- Charcoal or other solid-fueled grills were involved in 1,100 home fires per year, including 600 structure fires and 500 outside fires annually.

Where Grill Fires Start

Thirty-two percent of grill fires on residential properties start on patios, terraces, screened-in porches, or courtyards. Another 24% of these fires start on exterior balconies and unenclosed porches, while an additional 17% start in other, unspecified outside areas. Less common are grill fires on residential properties that start on exterior wall surfaces (4%) and outside open areas including lawns, farmland, fields, and vacant lots (4%).

Fire Safety Tips for Safe Grilling:

- Do clean your grill regularly
- Do check for gas leaks
- Do keep decorations away from your grill
- Do keep a spray bottle of water handy
- Do keep a fire extinguisher within a couple steps of your grill
- Do not turn on the gas while your grill lid is closed
- Do keep 10 feet of separation between the barbecue (BBQ) and combustible materials
- Do not leave a grill unattended
- Do not overload your grill with food
- Do not use a grill indoors

For Fire Department BBQ guidelines and regulations on balconies see the link https://bit.ly/2yjl3bZ .

Conclusion

Grills, hibachis, and barbecues on residential properties continue to be a high fire risk and, on average, result in more injuries and slightly higher dollar losses when compared to all other fires. As a result, it is crucial that each household diligently practice fire safety when cooking on one of these pieces of equipment. Practicing fire safety can prevent these fires and their resultant injuries, deaths, and property loss.

For grilling and other types of cooking fire safety, please visit https://bit.ly/2WM7z1Q .

FRONT PORCH
MOUNTAIN VIEW

This time may have shown you a need for connection.

We are here for you.

When we can once again gather, let's gather together.

FrontPorchMV.org

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

Contact the newsletter team at: s.bickford@comcast.net.

Submissions for our August 2020 issue are due by July 21, 2020.

Keeping Mountain View Safe:
Updates and Advice from the Mountain View Police Department

Updated Safety Tips for Very New Times

by Jodie Pierce

These are very strange times and what we are all experiencing is unfamiliar for us all.

The shelter in place has had us staying safe in our homes for over two months and we are not sure when the quarantine might change and how it will change the life we were living before the Pandemic.

Whether you are staying with your family, home schooling your kids, working from home, or are one of the valuable essential workers, it's important to recognize that there are so many emotions and feelings that everyone may be experiencing due to the uncertainty of this situation.

This uncertainty of day-to-day changes can cause feelings of sadness, loss, grief, frustration and anger. Additionally, it is normal to have less energy and motivation, feelings of loss, sleeping a lot or having difficulties sleeping, and even changes in eating—be it too much or not enough.

Remember to try to get outside and move around, even if it is just for a walk around the block.

There are also apps available, many of which are discounted or free during this time, which provide exercise and activities to keep you active.

It is important to remember to talk to your family and friends about what you might be experiencing.

There are also options within the community available for you during times like this that can help you stay mentally healthy and help promote wellness and self-care for you and your family during this time. Here are just a few of the local resources you can contact should you find the need.

Above all, try to remember we are all in this together. Stay healthy and stay safe. And MVPD is always here if you need anything from us.

KARA Grief Counseling: 650-321-5272

Bill Wilson Center Crisis Line: (24/7) 408-850-6125

Suicide and Crisis Hotline-Santa Clara County (24/7): 1-800-704-0900// Option 1

Community Line Mobile Crisis Response (Mon-Fri: 8am-8pm) 1-800-704-0900// Option 2

Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741

Rotary

Proud member of

Mountain View Rotary

Tori Ann Atwell

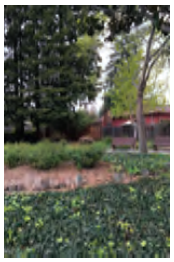
Keep in Touch with Mountain View's Finest

Want to get the latest on the Mountain View Police Department? Read about it on Twitter @MountainViewPD, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mountainviewpolicedepartment

Just want critical alerts and advisories? Sign-up for Nixle via your smartphone by texting your Mountain View zip code to 888777.

Neighborhood Corner Park

by Elisabeth Seaman



Since the five-plus years I've lived in the Old Mountain View neighborhood, I enjoy seeing the "pocket park" at the corner of Calderon and Eldora, every time I walk past it. It's a lovely oasis among the homes that surround it, anchored by seven large redwoods in the rear corner. Between the majestic trees and the adjacent streets are a variety of attractive plantings and a couple of benches that invite passersby to sit and enjoy the day in this restful, attractive spot.

Often, as I walked past or through the park, I wondered that it seemed to have no name as none is indicated anywhere. I thought that a possible name might be Elderon or Caldora. Finally, my curiosity got the better of me and I sent a message on OMNVAtalk, asking who could tell me about this park. Very soon I received a response from long-time Eldora resident, Bernadette (Bernie) Wieland, who wrote me of its history. She also followed up by contacting her former neighbor, Sally Luotto, who sent some additional background. I asked Bernie to share her account on OMVNATalk, which she did. However, since not all readers may have seen it, with her permission, I share here what she wrote me, with additions sent her by Sally Luotto.

"I live on Eldora and was here when this park was created by the folks who lived on Eldora Drive. There once was a house on this corner and a different house across the street where now stands the two story house with a picket fence around it. Both houses were removed with the intention of widening Calderon. When neighbors protested and it was decided that Calderon would not be widened, we now had two vacant lots. The current two-story house was moved from what used to be Sylvania, off hwy 237, by two women, who also put on the rear addition. A core group from the neighborhood (Jim and Sally Luotto, Tom and Judy Hunter, and Maarten and Kim Korringa) approached the City planning committee with the idea of a passive park (open space). After many meetings and revised plans, the city agreed to what is now the pretty park on the corner of Eldora and Calderon Avenues. The neighbors convinced the City that they would provide the maintenance for this park if the City would provide the material. This was in 1986. For many years neighbors would plant, rake and pull weeds, etc. It was a wonderful neighborhood effort by those on Eldora Drive. As those (then) current neighbors left the area, the City of MV parks took over the maintenance. If a name was to be chosen, Sally suggests 'Eldora Neighborhood Park' with established date on a plaque under the name."

Bernie wrote: "I never did hear of a name for the park but that would be a great idea!"

Following up on Bernie's account on OMVNAtalk, Paul Donahue contributed the following on OMVNAtalk:

"It is not a park per se and is listed in the City's 2014 Parks and Open Space Plan under the central planning area's "other open space" section:

"Four City-owned parcels (1.83 acres total) on South Shoreline Boulevard have been zoned as visual open space. The City maintains a 0.14-acre parcel at the corner of Calderon Avenue and Eldora Drive and a 0.18-acre parcel at El Camino Real and Castro Street." https://bit.ly/2AcfwEM

What's Up?

Update on New Development in Mountain View

by Robert Cox

Before being approved, each new development project proposal is evaluated according to its impact on the surrounding environment. This is done using rules defined by CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act. Among the most important of CEQA's metrics is the transportation impact.

A major change to that metric will happen in July, when that impact will start to be measured in terms of VMT (vehicle miles traveled), rather than LOS (level of service). This means that the key impact will no longer be how the additional trips generated by the project slow down car traffic. The key impact will be whether the number of miles driven per person increases or decreases. A project may slow traffic in the immediate vicinity but will be deemed to have a positive impact if it permits people to live closer to where they work, thereby decreasing each person's total miles travelled.

In implementing the new rules, city council will be deciding whether to implement Transit Priority Areas. These are areas within a half mile of the train stations, light rail, and El Camino bus routes. Projects proposed in these areas would be exempt from formal transportation impact review. The theory is that anyone living within the transit priority area could easily switch from driving to using transit. This theory is controversial because commuting via transit is much more time consuming. Also, in the wake of COVID-19, some wonder whether using transit is still safe and healthy.

As an alternative, some advocate for more telecommuting. Currently the 6% of people telecommuting do more to reduce greenhouse gas emissions than all those riding transit. Increasing this to 15% would also solve all of the Bay Area traffic problems.

Fraternal Organizations: Active in Old Mountain View for Generations

by Jerry Steach

Often overlooked as we go about our busy lives in Old Mountain View is an array of fraternal groups that for generations have quietly gone about performing noble deeds locally and beyond. There's a rich heritage in OMV of not-for-profit organizations such as the **Eagles, Freemasons, Kiwanis, Odd Fellows, Rotary Club,** and **Sociedade da Festa Velha do Divino Espirito Santo (SFV),** most of which function from historically significant buildings—some nearly a hundred years old.

The **Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 2356** has occupied three different locations on the historic 100 block of Castro St. since it was chartered in 1946. The aerie (lodge) originally met in the Jurian Building, built in 1913 at the corner of Villa and Castro streets. It then relocated across and down the street to where Olympus Caffe & Bakery is now, and later purchased the property of its present location a few doors away, which was the original Meyer Electric (later Meyer Appliance) site. That building was destroyed by a fire in 2002 but soon rebuilt to its present form, using more contemporary architecture. Founded in the 1890s, the **Eagles** organization is guided by its motto People Helping People, reflected in Aerie 2356's ongoing support of local and national causes, including Mountain View Police Department-sponsored community programs, the Community Services Agency and national charities such as the National Diabetes Fund and St. Jude's Hospital. For more information, see https://bit.ly/3bpgKcJ

The **Freemasons' Mountain View De Anza Lodge 194**, located on Church St. adjacent to Pioneer Park, was built in 1932 originally for the American Legion, and purchased three years later by the **Freemasons**. Designed in the Spanish Eclectic architectural style, it has changed little. The building presently hosts the Lodge 194's meetings, while its downstairs can be rented by the public for various events. The lodge, following the **Freemasons**' stated mission to foster personal growth and improve the lives of others, supports the Mountain View community members by donating their time and resources to causes such as music and the arts for local public schools. For more information, see https://bit.ly/3fDwjRf

Though not operating from its own building—it meets at Ristorante Don Giovanni downtown—the **Kiwanis** Club of Mountain View remains active in supporting charities and non-profits throughout the city and neighboring communities (see more on the Kiwanis in a separate article, Page 7).

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows – Mountain View Lodge #244 is located at the corner of Castro and Villa streets. It turns out the building was actually built in 1909 (and not 1913), originally a First National Bank branch whose facade once sported grand, two-story columns. The **Odd Fellows** in 1970 purchased the building, which to this day retains much of its original look inside and out. The lodge holds regular public events that encourage fledgling writers and hosts gender-diverse groups, as well as crafts fairs that support Rebeka Children's Services and an annual Halloween haunted house. For more information, see https://bit.ly/3dya8dw

What locals commonly refer to as "the Portuguese Hall," (Villa St. near Calderon Ave.) is actually a complex of **SFV**-owned buildings, including social halls and a chapel. The society traces its founding to fraternal councils in and around Mountain View whose members were primarily farmers and dairymen of Portuguese descent after settling in the area in the 1800s and who, in 1926, first observed a traditional Portuguese Holy Ghost celebration (Festa do Espirito Santo). Built in 1937—before Villa St. was even extended to run in front of it—in the Spanish Eclectic architectural style, the SFV's halls today are rented for weddings and other events, as well as used for some of the **SFV's** own fund-raising dinners that support disaster-relieve programs and building churches. For more information, see https://bit.ly/2xWOXmm

The Rotary Club of Mountain View, chartered in 1924, is part of a worldwide organization supporting educational, cultural and humanitarian projects locally and internationally. Like the **Kiwanis**, the **Rotarians** don't operate out of their own building in Old Mountain View but instead meet at the Historic Adobe Building, on Moffett Blvd., at which speakers from diverse civic, political and business backgrounds give presentations to members and guests. More information on the Rotarians can be found here: https://bit.ly/3coh1hr

The process of joining these fraternal organizations varies; some involve straightforward applications, whereas others require referrals by members. Applicants are screened before being accepted, and each organization has some form of membership fees. It's recommended that anyone interested in joining one contact them directly.

Kiwanis Club Profile

by Carol Lewis

In 1926, Mountain View Kiwanis was founded with the intent of raising funds to buy land for use by the local Scout troops. By the end of WW II, MV Kiwanis had acquired significant amounts of land in Mountain View.

In 1995, when the needs of the Scouts had changed, the land was sold and a trust was formed to help local Scouts, children, the elderly, and the mentally-challenged.

In the past two decades, MV Kiwanis has given over 2 million dollars to the local MV community. This year it is funding more than $150,000 in grants for local groups. The grants include college scholarships, to the tune of $36,000 this year, and donations to the Scouts, Animal Assisted Happiness, Avenidas, Bill Wilson House, Canopy, Catholic Charities, Challenge Team, Child Advocates of Silicon Valley, CHAC, The Community School of Music and Arts, Community Services Agency, Day Worker Center of MV, Friends of Deer Hollow Farm, Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation, Just READ, Kiwanis Club of Milpitas Foundation, MVPD Dreams & Futures, MVPD PAL Program, MV Recreation Dept., NCEFT, Peninsula Youth Theater, Quadre, and Senior Adults Legal Assistance.

Many of these non-profits have received Kiwanis grants for over 20 years.

Other ventures by Kiwanis include the founding and funding for Leadership MV, funding for a room at the YMCA, the yearly Child Spree that, in conjunction with Kohl's, gives needy children clothes for the school year, and seed money for new nonprofits in the area.

In addition, Kiwanis provides area schools backpacks loaded with school supplies. Kiwanis has also played a leadership role in partnering with the City to establish Heritage Park (its windmill, Immigrant House, vegetable gardens and orchard). Kiwanis is currently helping the Girl Scouts design a butterfly garden in a local park.

The sole purpose of MV Kiwanis is to support deserving local charities and nonprofits. It welcomes new members. It meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at Ristorante Don Giovanni at 12 noon. Interested parties can enjoy several free lunches at Don Giovani's to meet with Kiwanis officers and members to see if they'd be interested in joining. Please contact Carol Lewis, carolanddavidlewis@gmail.com for more information on membership.

New Services from the Mountain View Public Library

by Kyle Hval

The Library is thrilled to announce the launch of two new digital services: Kanopy and Knowledge City. Kanopy is a streaming video service that offers over 30,000 films. This vast collection includes award-winning films, classics, documentaries, children's movies, foreign films, and educational content from well-known publishers and collections such as Paramount, the Criterion Collection, BBC, The Great Courses, and much more. This resource can be accessed for free with your Mountain View Public Library card at mountainview.gov/kanopy or through the Kanopy app on your smartphone, tablet, or smart TV.

Knowledge City is an online learning platform with video courses that allow learners of all ages to acquire new skills at their own pace. Available courses cover topics on business, computers, safety, compliance, and finance. All courses are crafted by industry experts and college professors from around the world. Users can select courses on specific topics such as Microsoft Office applications, Adobe Creative Suite, Java programming and more. Library patrons can set up their free account at mountainview.gov/knowledgecity

For more information on all of the Library's digital resources, visit our Digital Library page on our website at mountainview.gov/digitallibrary

The Library also offers two language learning virtual programs conducted via Zoom. We host a Virtual Language Swap program every Tuesday from 4:00-6:00 pm where the community can get practice speaking in a wide range of different languages and help others learn their native language. Additionally, we host a Virtual ESL Conversation Club every Thursday from 5:00-6:00 PM to help English language learners get practice speaking in an informal chat with friendly company. Patrons can sign up for these virtual programs through the Library events calendar at mountainview.libcal.com to receive the Zoom invitation via email.

How to Become a Biking Family

By Kristen McGuire

Do you hate how much time you spend in the car? Ever wish you could leave your home, and get right to where you need to go without all the stress of being late because you are stuck in traffic or circling for a parking spot? Do you feel like you never get enough exercise or time outdoors? If this describes you, you should consider becoming a biking family.

"But I don't even have a bike," you say. Well we are blessed to have a neighborhood bike shop, Cognition Cyclery on Castro. They both sell new bikes and repair older bikes. If you find their prices too high, check out other local bike shops, or look for a used bike. There is a thriving market for used bikes on Nextdoor, Craigslist and local bike swaps like the Silicon Valley Bicycle Exchange. Used bikes will be less than half the price of a new bike. There is no need to invest in a fancy bike!

Already have a bike gathering dust in your garage? Make sure your bikes are tuned up and ready to go when you need them. Pump the tires, check the brakes and lube the chains. If you are not sure how to do these things, once things are re-opened, visit the Library's Drop-in Bike Clinic on the third Saturday of the month from 11::00 am—12:30 pm at the Bike Fix-it Station on Franklin street. At the clinic professional bike mechanic Ryan Murphy is available for advice and help with: changing a tire, adjusting gears and brakes, identifying that mysterious noise, and more! The bike clinic is a fabulous neighborhood resource, Ryan doesn't just fix your bike, he shows you how to fix and maintain your own bike.

Now that your bike is ready to go, plan some short rides to a nearby destination like the library or the farmers market. When you're feeling more comfortable, plan a longer trip. My favorite destination is Shoreline lake. It is a lovely ride for novice bikers. Family bike trips are a great opportunity to teach your kids the rules of the road and encourage safe behaviors such as carefully observing cars around you, yielding to pedestrians, keeping to the right side of the road or trail and coming to a complete stop at stop signs and pedestrian crossings. Modeling good habits will make your kids safer bikers later on.

If you have kids in school, find a day that your family can bike to and from school. Landels has Bike-n-roll Fridays with prizes for kids to encourage biking once a week. Mountain View High is also easily accessible from Old Mountain View via the Stevens Creek Trail. Biking with young kids gives them the skills to independently bike to school when they are older.

Think about integrating biking into your family routines. Take a look at your calendar and figure out which activities are bikable. Anything during daylight hours, at locations that are less than 5 miles away are a good place to start. Once you start biking regularly, you will likely find that you prefer biking over driving and will want to add more biking into your routines. Most locations within Mountain View are just as quick and easy to access on bike as they are by car. Did you know Los Altos and Sunnyvale are only a 15 minute bike ride away. Once you start biking more often you will find that many of your trips are both faster and more pleasant when done by bike.

OMVNA Steering Committee

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CERT:	Sherril Brennan
Historical Preservation:	Jerry Steach
Residential Parking:	Robert Cox Jamil Shaikh
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Next Meeting:	July 27, 2020

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Sunshine Gardens: A Fresh Approach to Housing

by Dobrah Vasquez

Deborah Vasquez is the property manager for Sunshine Gardens on Dana Street. She offers an inside view of choosing a different path for rental properties

What's going on near West Dana Street and Calderon Street?

We all recognize the demolished corner plot for sixteen million-dollar condos @Montecito, but behind that is an older apartment complex with gleaming silver water heaters on its rooftops. After Measure V passed in 2016, many landlords chose to sell holdings and exit the market. On the other hand, Sunshine Gardens Apartments steadily changed course.

Our approach is different. We hope to stay competitive but also keep the flavor of Mountain View's diversity. While upgrades tend to be about luxury amenities and finishes, we focused on becoming eco-conscious. We needed creative solutions to keep a functional business which could also benefit our residents.

In 2015, Sunshine Gardens ownership changed. The new owners opted in for a Recology program to reduce trash and waste. After some success they looked into more sustainable business practices. BT Properties carried out this directive with sustainability as the focus ever since.

According to Scott Bartner, Senior Regional Manager at BT, work will continue beyond five years because they are smaller and hard work takes time. He pointed out that large housing corporations complete planning, demolition and construction in one to three years, plus they pay $10-30 million or more just for the property.

We understand why Mountain View landlords sell their properties. Without mortgage funding and utilizing energy rebates, green renovations would be impossible. Despite high rents as revenue, there are also high labor costs.

Since 2017, we have worked with energy rebate programs such as BayREN and PG&E Multifamily Program. After completing specified measures, Sunshine Garden's Energy Star score increased from 42 to 92. These vintage buildings are now Energy Star rated among the top 10% of buildings in the country.

By the way, we know this site was built around 1964 because that was stamped on a 2 gallon toilet we found. Things had to be updated, but vintage buildings can be of exceptional quality and their layouts can be more expansive than modern ones.

Vacancies are few and far between these days. Given the proximity to Castro and easy access to on-ramps, many find the location ideal. Our only upcoming vacancy is an extended stay rental, generally for visiting families, scholars and professionals. Overall, it is peaceful here because of our long-term residents. After all, it is the people who make the place.

Zoom and Facetime options available

Learn to Play Flute

with OMV resident Marian Concus
CONSERVATORY TRAINED

Instructor is: conservatory trained, member of two professional symphony orchestras, Flute Coach at Bellarmine Preparatory School.

mconcus@mac.com
More information: www.mconcusflutist.com

To subscribe to the OMVNAtalk2@groups.io list, send email to: s.bickford@comcast.net or omvnatalk2+owner@groups.io

The Traffic Circle

Exercise kindness

While quieter streets are liberating, pedestrians should maintain caution and exercise kindness. Control what you can. Wear lighter/brighter clothing. Stay aware.

Trailblazers and kids who speed along (perhaps with headphones pounding) should take heed when they come upon meandering pedestrians. Know that runners appear quickly, especially when coming from behind. Please allow plenty of space to pass. Faster, more able bodies should move to the street to pass neighbors.

Meanwhile, twilight, fog, rain and darkness make people less visible in the street, regardless of what they wear. Live longer, look all ways, make eye contact with drivers and use a light when dark. Be safe. Be kind.

Don't Be Crushed! The Ice Cream Social Will Return (But Not Right Now)

Backup Systems

by David Lewis

Recently, besides the occasional squirrel outage, we have had the possibility of power outages courtesy of PG&E trying to avoid electrical line-generated wildfires, in addition to our usual worries about earthquakes.

There are three possible solutions, aside from owning an electric car that you might consider to keep your home going during an outage.

The first is to buy a generator. A gasoline-powered generator, not terribly expensive, might be capable of providing power for most of the critical things in your home, but requires a supply of gasoline, needs to be physically distant from your home to avoid the CO in its exhaust, but only needs plugging it in to your AC system and starting.

Another option here is powering a generator from natural gas (or propane), giving you unlimited runtime, automatic operation, and less CO, but these generators are much more expensive, require professional installation, and won't work when the earthquake has cut off the natural gas supply. The can of gas in your garage might survive an earthquake and the gasoline-powered generators need about 1/2 gallon/hour.

There are also portable lithium battery-powered power supplies, that you would need to keep charged, but might be able to keep some things in your house going for a night or so when the power goes out.

The next possibility is having a rooftop solar array, that should survive an earthquake (if your house doesn't collapse). Properly wired (you would need an inverter and a way to shut off the link to PG&E), this array could provide power to your house during daylight hours. We could hope for an earthquake during the summer months, but clearly won't help much after the sun sets.

The final option is a battery backup system, that is kept charged by your solar system, e.g. Tesla PowerWall, when it is generating excess power, or by PG&E otherwise.

This kind of system, depending on size, might be capable of just running your home during the night, or keeping your home going for several days. These battery systems are now all lithium batteries, quite compact and reliable.

If you had both a solar array and a battery system, that would survive an earthquake, you could keep going almost indefinitely.

The same would be true with a natural gas-powered generator—if we could depend on a continuing gas supply in an emergency.

These systems come with a wide range of costs:

- From $500-$1200 for a gasoline-fueled generator,
- About twice as much for an inverter generator that will produce cleaner electricity,
- About $3,000 for a portable battery-powered supply (1500W maximum and about 3000 W-hr),
- $1,000-$3,000 for a natural gas (or propane)-fueled generator (plus installation costs),
- About $10,000 to $20,000 for a rooftop solar array installed, and similar amounts for a backup battery system, with installation extra.

There are some federal and state tax credits and rebates for some of these. With these a rooftop solar system might pay for itself in 5-10 years. You won't get your money back on a battery backup system, and the gasoline or natural gas powered generators will only buy you some peace of mind.

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