



# OMVNA Newsletter

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## Coffee? Tea? Old Mountain View History?

by Jerry Steach

In good news for those who both support local businesses and appreciate Old Mountain View's historic past, Red Rock Coffee and the 116-year-old building it's located in aren't going anywhere. Red Rock, under new ownership, signed a five-year lease in late 2020 and will continue to anchor the structure at the corner of Castro and Villa Streets. Additionally, the building's owner, John Akkaya, said he has zero intention of changing it. "It's too beautiful a building," said Akkaya, who also owns the popular Ristorante Don Giovanni a few doors away, on Castro St.

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## The Ice Cream Social Is Back!

We are thrilled to once again be able to hold our traditional OMVNA Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 22, from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. in Mercy Bush Park—with some added precautions.

We will be strictly following CDC, state, and county guidelines. Our current plans may need to shift a bit to meet those, but we will be hoping to see you on the big day.

All snacks, including *It's It* ice cream sandwiches, will be pre-packaged. Activities for children will be carefully planned and supervised to be as safe as possible.

Donations of \$1 for each *It's It* are requested but optional.

Masks are recommended for all, and required for unvaccinated attendees. 🦺

## Restaurant Scene

by Max Hauser

Mifen101 has been operating lately in 841 Villa, replacing the short-lived **Noodle King**, which specialized in biangbiang noodles. Mifen101's specialty is a different regional Chinese noodle type, mifen, made from rice, in various preparations.



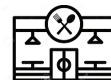
After a year-plus of closure, Xanh reopened at 110 Castro in May, with limited and evolving hours (currently dinner only, Thurs-Sun). During the closure a new restaurant, **Kobe Phở & Grill**, formerly in Cupertino, opened, sharing the address.



Since June, Ava's Market (340 Castro) has hosted a new concession where the popular HeyO Eats closed in the pandemic's wake. **Left Wing Bar** features Korean Fried Chicken, a popular genre in recent years.



In late June at 698 W. Dana (the space vacated by Shalala in October), **Bay Biryani** opened, offering a range of Biryani dishes and getting accolades from locals.



Pending at last word: **Nick the Greek**, 298 Castro (previously Rocket Fizz); **Yifang Boba Shop** at 143 Castro; **Happy Lemon**, 740 Villa (lately Tapioca Express). 🌸

## OLD MOUNTAIN VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ICE CREAM SOCIAL

**\$1 per  
It's It  
Ice Cream  
Sandwich**



**COVID  
Compliant**

**MERCY BUSH PARK  
AUGUST 22  
1:00 PM-3:00 PM**

**MASKS REQUIRED FOR THOSE NOT VACCINATED AND ENCOURAGED FOR ALL  
WHILE NOT ACTIVELY EATING OR DRINKING**

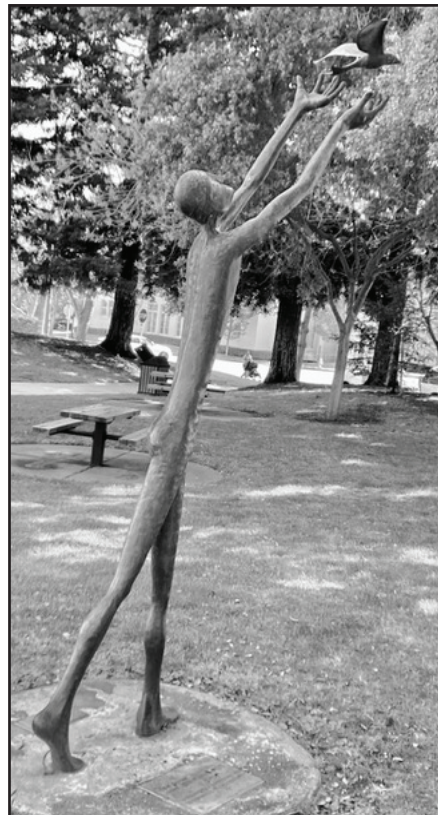


Eagle Park is a popular gathering spot for moms and dads watching kids on swings, families enjoying picnics, swimmers churning through laps, and enthusiastic soccer players showing deft footwork. Just near the corner of Church and Franklin is an interesting, exceedingly tall and calming bronze statue named Avatar.

Installed in 1989 by Santa Fe artist L.C. Shank, Avatar appears as a phantasm or deity, releasing (or catching) an elegant bird. For me, there is little doubt that the Hindu interpretation of Avatar is intended, with the joyous freeing of a soul.

Shank's artwork can be found in private and public venues across America as well as in Europe and Asia. He has created sculptures for public municipalities and private hotels, restaurants, sports teams and schools.

According to the artist: *My sculpture is simply an artful way of drawing upon my life experience and commenting on some aspect of the human condition that is universal and timeless. I have travelled widely in the Americas, Europe, Middle and Far East,*



*and the Pacific Islands. While I have found that all the traditional cultures I visited have their own unique ways of expressing themselves, what they have in common interests me as much as their uniqueness.*

The worldwide pandemic inspired Shank to create a sculpture in Santa Fe, that

celebrates life — a twelve-foot bronze sculpture that honors heroic healthcare workers who have tirelessly battled Covid19 at Christus St. Vincent hospital in Santa Fe. Artist L.C. Shank warrants a close look next time you visit Eagle Park. ✍



## Mountain View Art & Wine Festival Returns

A pint-sized version of the Mountain View Arts & Wine Festival will be held on September 11.

This reimagined version of the traditional Festival will be a one-day event, in the Caltrain lot on West Evelyn Ave. just off Castro Street.

Features include a "taste" of all the usual popular festival features—world class art, stellar live music, top shelf beverage and food offerings, an action-packed kidz fab funzone—that our devoted fan base has come to know and love. Admission is free.

**Saturday, September 11, 2021**  
**11:00am-7:00pm**  
**650 Evelyn Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94041**

Certificate in Teaching Online from Royal Conservatory of Music

## Learn to Play Flute

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# Keeping Mountain View Safe: Updates and Advice from the Mountain View Fire and Police Departments

by Robert Maitland

by Jodie Pierce



marks or flags, you must refer to your ticket created by the 8-1-1 center to confirm all utilities have responded before you begin digging. Do I need to call if I am planting a small flower bed? Yes! Do I need to call if I am installing a mailbox? Yes! What if I

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## Call Before You Dig

Anyone who plans to dig any depth, for any sized project, around their private property must call 8-1-1, USA North, and wait for the utilities to be marked before they can begin. Calling 8-1-1 protects the homeowner, laborers, and the community from costly repairs, injury, or even death.

Any digging of any depth around your property requires you to contact the 8-1-1 center at least three business days before the project. Utility companies will then send locators to your property and mark the approximate location of buried utilities. Each utility will spray chalk-paint or plant flags a specific color to correspond with the marked utility. For example, water lines are marked blue, gas lines are marked yellow, and buried electricity is marked red.

In addition to waiting for the

## Summer Safety Tips

It is nearing the end of summer, so many will be out and about to take advantage of the wonderful California weather before kids return to school. But while you are out exploring the outdoors, here are some reminders to keep you and your family safe while spending time together, having fun.

- Let someone know where you are going and when you think you will return.
- Have a plan for bike trips and hikes? Know the area, have a map, check cellular service often, have a compass—don't rely on a phone app as you may not have good service in the area—and take water.
- Carry identification, a cellular phone and some cash in case you need something unexpectedly.
- If you drive to a location,

be sure not to leave anything of value in your vehicle. But if you must, do not leave it in plain view and be sure to secure it in the trunk BEFORE you get to your destination so no one sees what you lock in your trunk.

- Also if you are parking your car, park in a well-lit area in case you return to your vehicle after dark.
- Walk with a friend and stay on well-lit streets and sidewalks.
- Be aware of your surroundings, even if you are familiar with the area—it's best to be safe and know what is going on around you.
- If you have to call 9-1-1, know where you are—an address or at least a location or business name to be able to provide to the call taker in order to send assistance to you as quick as possible. 🚓



**Gathering online  
until we can  
gather in person.**

**Join us on zoom**  
Sundays at 6<sup>PM</sup>

Details at [FrontPorchMV.org](http://FrontPorchMV.org)

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Just want critical alerts and  
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your smartphone by texting your  
Mountain View  
zip code to 888777.

# What's Up?

## Update on New Development in Mountain View

by Robert Cox

On June 8, Mountain View's City Council met to begin discussing amendments to our Downtown Precise Plan. The council met to give direction to city staff on two key issues affecting the Historic Retail District H, which is one block wide on either side of Castro Street, from the train tracks to California Street.

The first issue discussed was whether to prohibit administrative offices on the ground floor of District H. City staff and the advocacy group Livable Mountain View supported the prohibition. City staff warned that if the prohibition were not adopted "over time administrative offices may dominate the Castro Street

storefronts, which may diminish the vision of downtown." Livable Mountain View spokespeople concurred and noted that District H is "our city's living room" and must not be converted to an office park. The city council signaled unanimously that it agreed with staff and Livable Mountain View.

A second issue was whether the city had already done enough to preserve the historic buildings in District H. Here the city staff and their consultant stated that nothing new needed to be done. Livable Mountain View disagreed.

Their representatives pointed out that the council recently considered demolishing

or relocating the Tied and Weilheimer Houses on Villa Street and that the city's consultant stated those buildings were not worthy of historic preservation.

Livable Mountain View campaigned to qualify them for them National Register of Historic Places. Rather than waiting for a proposal for a historic building to be demolished, Livable Mountain View said the city should proactively determine which buildings in District H merited historic status. The council decided unanimously that more is needed to protect of our historic buildings and will discuss specific ideas at a future council session. 🏠

## Now Available at the Library

by Kyle Hval

The Library offers free programs on a variety of topics to help you explore new interests and hobbies.

Aspiring (or experienced) gardeners and chefs may be interested in joining the Master Food Preservers of San Mateo & San Francisco Counties to learn how to preserve Hatch green chile peppers on **Wednesday, August 11**.

On **Thursday, August 12**, you can learn about asset accumulation strategies from a Certified Financial Educator® to properly build toward your investment goals.

The next week, attend a virtual lecture about ancient Mediterranean history by historian, author and explorer Sanford Holst on **Thursday, August 19**.



Join us on **Wednesday, August 25** for a virtual book talk with award-winning author Charlie Jane Anders. Charlie Jane will discuss *Never Say You Can't Survive*, her latest nonfiction book about how to use creative writing to get through hard times.

Charlie Jane Anders writes science fiction, nonfiction, short stories and young adult fiction. Her novel *The City in the Middle of the Night* won the Locus Award for Best SF Novel and was named one of the year's

best books by The Guardian, among others. Her 2016 novel, *All the Birds in the Sky*, was No. 5 on Time magazine's list of the year's 10 best novels, and won the Nebula, Locus and Crawford awards. 📖

**Author Talk with  
Charlie Jane Anders**



**Wednesday, August 25  
6-7 p.m.  
Online via Zoom**

Registration required:  
[mountainview.gov/library](https://mountainview.gov/library)

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 November 2021 issue are due by October 20, 2021.

# COVID and Old Mountain View

by David Lewis

Be thankful you're living in an area where a very high percentage of our residents are vaccinated, and a lot of folks are still taking sensible precautions, such as wearing masks indoors in crowded situations, and, I assume, still doing a lot of hand washing and still using hand sanitizers.

Santa Clara County has been doing very well with the pandemic, with very low case rates and very, very few deaths from COVID. We are getting a bit of a surge, associated with the Delta variant, and possibly the relaxation of restrictions by the County, but because our case numbers were so low to start with, and so many individuals are vaccinated, this hasn't amounted to much yet.

As of July 18, SCC is at 39.6 cases/day-million population with only 2 deaths per week for the whole county. Comparable numbers for cases from California, Florida, Missouri, and Arkansas are at 107, 395, 468 and 444 respectively, and Florida has 23 times the COVID death rate of SCC.

Also, the Delta variant has real-

ly not taken hold in SCC, amounting to only 10.6% of cases, in contrast to many other areas with low vaccination rates, where the Delta variant is predominant.

Keep well and safe—get vaccinated if you're not already—all the vaccines are very effective against the Delta variant and extremely effective against serious illness from COVID, and keep practicing sensible precautions.

If you're planning on travelling somewhere this summer, check the local conditions for Covid where you're going—through worldometers (below), or the CDC—look under 'Your Community/County View' for very local conditions (by county). ([covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker](https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker)).

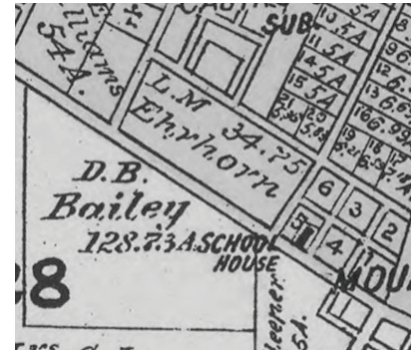
And finally, if you're hankering for another shot, we should shortly have booster shots available from Pfizer and Moderna—they should get FDA approval shortly. These may be tailored to the latest Covid variants.

Data from <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/usa>, <https://covid19.sccgov.org/dashboard-cases-and-deaths> ♥

# OMV Landowners from the late 1800s

by Susanne Martinez

Have you ever wondered who owned the land where you live before Mountain View was incorporated in 1902? Two maps, 1876 and 1889, provide some clues.



Today, a street named Ehrhorn runs between El Camino Real and Church Street. In 1889, the land was owned by a "L.M. Ehrhorn". L. M. stands for Louise Maria Ehrhorn who was born in Peru in 1827. She arrived in California in 1852 where she married Adolph Ehrhorn at Grace Church in San Francisco following a proxy marriage in Peru.

Adolph was a prosperous San Francisco merchant who had immigrated to California from Germany around 1836. The 1870 census shows the couple living in San Francisco with nine children. In 1873, Adolph died at the age of 46, and Louise Maria moved to Mountain View where she purchased large areas of land. When she died in 1903, she left a large estate which included 48 acres of fruit bearing orchard land and 40 acres of unimproved land in Mountain View.

If you are interested in knowing more about any of the early Old Mountain View landowners, contact the newsletter editor and we will try to find out! 🏠

## NEW: Curbside Clothing and Textile Collection Program

Place clothing and textiles in a secured, clear plastic bag marked for donation and put on the ground next to carts on your regular weekly collection day. It does not have to be on your recycling service day; the route picking up the material is the compost/yard trimmings truck. Holes, permanent stains and other imperfections are okay, but the clothing and textiles do need to be clean (as in washed) prior to placing in the clear plastic bag. Accepted clothing: socks, shirts, shorts, pants, dresses, skirts, tank tops, jackets, sweaters, pajamas and robes. Accepted textiles: laundered sheets, pillow cases, bed covers, towels and curtains. Shoes of all kinds (even single shoes) are also accepted if placed in a clear bag separate from clothing and textiles. Not accepted: pillows, underwear and bras, wet or unlaundered material and linens infested with bed bugs.



# Old Mountain View's First Cool Block

Carola Fellenz Thompson and Kristen McGuire-Husky

For some time, I had wanted to engage more with my neighborhood. My husband and I had lived in our house in Old Mountain View for 15 years and knew some of our neighbors but felt like we could have stronger connections. When the City of Mountain View announced the Cool Block program in January of 2020, we jumped at the chance.

Cool Block is a structured community building program organized around activities to help prepare households for emergencies, make them more resilient, foster interdependence, live more sustainably and engage in civic activities. Households that commit to the program divide up the topics and take turns leading the group. The program has 8 topics and takes 4 - 6 months to complete.

Through the Cool Block organizers, Sandra Slater and Kira Barsten, my husband and I were connected with our neighbor Kristen McGuire-Husky who became our co-organizer. We were so excited to get started and then... COVID hit. One of the foundational aspects of the Cool Block program is that everything from recruiting households to meetings happens in person...

not via phone or email, not via Zoom. And so there we were with a high contact, in-person program in the time of lock down when everything was going virtual. What to do?



Sandra and Kira suggested putting the formal program on hold and reaching out to neighbors to check-in to make sure everyone on our block was doing okay during this difficult time, so in April 2020, we set up a regular neighborhood Zoom call. Interest was high and we then used these meetings as a forum to drive interest for the more formal Cool Block program. Of the 25 households invited to the check-ins, we had 6 that joined the Cool Block program. We adapted the program as best we could to the lockdown restrictions. Some in-person activities such as organizing block parties had to be deferred.

A surprising and delightful aspect of the program was how passionately the households in our group researched their topics and presented them. Through this shared experience, we became a very close-knit group. When we officially completed the Cool Block program in October of 2020 we decided that we wanted to keep meeting on a monthly basis. We've also kept up the check-ins with the larger block, often bringing topics inspired by our Cool Block work to the check-ins.

A year and change later, the changes on the block are palpable. We are closer than ever.



For more info, check out <https://coolblock.org>. The City of Mountain View also has information:

<https://collaborate.mountainview.gov/cool-block> ♥

## OMVNA Steering Committee

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Jamil Shaikh  
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Ice Cream Social: Samantha Blewis  
Advertising: Kristin Bailey  
Next Meeting: October 25, 2021

## NOTARY PUBLIC



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The sandstone-facade structure with a distinctive 45-degree-angle entryway has a rich history rooted in banking. Originally named the Farmers and Merchants Bank Building, it was constructed in 1905 on the site of what had been a market. In addition to hosting its namesake bank on the ground floor, the building's upper floor served as office spaces. Farmers and Merchants Bank was purchased in the 1920s by the then-named Bank of Italy, which evolved into

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**Tori Ann  
Atwell**



the behemoth Bank of America. The First National Bank became the building's next banking tenant in the 1940s, having moved across the street from what is now home to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows' local lodge, at 206 Castro St., also built in the early 20th Century.

The building was the site of a disturbing event in the early 1950s. A disgruntled bank customer placed explosives against one of its doors, which when ignited blew out windows throughout the intersection. Fortunately, though, no one was hurt in the blast and it did little structural damage to the sturdy building.

Locals today refer to it simply as "the Red Rock building," whose core tenant is a long-time fixture in the downtown's vibrant atmosphere and for many the go-to spot for coffee and other drinks, two floors of tables (including some outdoors) to enjoy them, and support of local artists. Its popularity, coupled with the building's colorful past, provides Old Mountain View with another one-of-a-kind venue. 🏢



## Call Before You Dig

hired a contractor or landscaper to do the digging? Be sure to check with your contractor to ensure they will contact 8-1-1 at least three business days before digging begins.

The information you will need to have before submitting your ticket includes:

- Your contact information (including email and phone number).
- The name and contact information of the person doing the work or site contact if other than you.
- The starting date and time the work will begin (remember you are required to give a minimum of three business days' notice, not including the day of your notification to 8-1-1, before the start of the planned excavation).
- Pre-mark/delineation type (did you pre-mark your site in white paint or flags or another method/color?).
- The type of work you are doing or what you are digging for specifically.
- The location of where the work is being done, including the county and city it is in, the address or location of the planned dig. Include specific details of where the work will be performed at the site, such as the front of the address, NW corner of the intersection, east side of the building, etc..

For additional information and to read the full report, please visit <https://www.usanorth811.org> 🚧

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## Looking to sell your home and have questions?

- Not sure what home improvements you need to make if any to sell your home for the highest value?
- Where do I start?
- What is my home worth?
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