



# OMVNA Newsletter

Published and distributed by the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association

February 2022

Volume 34, Number 1

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

## Up in the Air

by Robert Holbrook

It's winter, which means airplane traffic over Mountain View has increased. Shifts in wind patterns sometimes require aircraft to land at Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC) by way of the Bay—taking them over us—rather than from the southeast. Such 'South Flow' conditions usually occur when skies are overcast, as they often are in winter.

Airplane noise has changed here over the last decade. Between 2012 and 2015, the FAA shifted much of the South Flow traffic west to Mountain View. Then, in 2015, to increase the capacity of the nation's airports, the FAA concentrated flights into narrow corridors—including over us—with its NextGen initiative, sparking community backlash across the country.

Last year, the FAA published its Neighborhood Environmental Survey, which took eight years to complete. Residents' levels of annoyance previously thought to exist within a few miles of airports were found much farther away. This means that the number of people affected by airplane noise is vastly larger than the FAA had assumed with its previous standards, defined in the 1970s. The FAA wants to undertake more research before updating its noise policies, which will take years.

Meanwhile, airplane traffic has decreased because of COVID. In recent months, airplane operations at SJC have been about 60% of their pre-pandemic levels.

Continued on page 7

## COVID Tests and You

by David Lewis

As I wrote this, we were in the midst of a huge wave of COVID cases from the more infectious Omicron variant of the COVID virus, which may (or may not) start subsiding by the end of January.

Fortunately for the virus, and unfortunately for us, this was, and is, largely the result of the variant producing more mild or asymptomatic cases of COVID, so some sick folk who don't realize they're infected may go out and infect others. There are also a large number of unvaccinated individuals who are much more susceptible.

One way around this is more testing to catch these milder cases in time to prevent spread of the virus. There are currently two kinds of COVID tests available: the PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test, that typically takes at least a day or two for results, but is very definitive. These can be gotten for free through a number of places including Santa Clara County (SCCFreeVax.org).

The other type of test is an antigen test, that is widely available over the counter, and can be done at home and produces results in a few minutes. The Biden administration is making the antigen tests available for free from your health-care provider (8 tests per person per month as of Jan. 15), or, if you don't have health insurance, free directly from the federal government. You can also buy them yourselves from various sources, drug-stores, etc., at a cost that should be about \$10 per test or \$20/kit

Continued on page 7

## Tamales and More

by Carol Lewis and Susan Bickford

Not all wonderful food in MV is found in restaurants. There are also wonderful specialty grocery stores that can help.

Carol Lewis and I took a short trip outside OMV to visit **The California Market** at the corner of California and Mariposa, a two room bodega, typical of small town grocery stores in Latin America.

Like those bodegas, it is jam-packed with Central American goodies. The tamales come in pork, chicken and spicy cheese. Fresh or frozen, they taste like the ones from Mexico or Guatemala.

The ice cream is a la Mejicana with real fruit chunks, sweet but delicious. Then comes the array of pasteles (Mexican pastries). Ditto with a variety of packaged Mexican cookies, three brands of "Marias" and a many types of crackers.

The array of spices runs from stick cinnamon to all types of dried chile powders. If you want prepared masa, chorizo, salchichas (hot dogs to sausages), or Mexican cheeses, they are in the refrigeration department. The store even has Lotería, or bingo games for children.

In short, if you want authentic bodega-style foods, with plátanos, savilla, and even frozen red bell peppers, plus a variety of Mexican beers, the bodega awaits. Wear a good mask as space is limited and customers come in and out frequently. 🍌



## Solar System V. G. by Susan Pascal Beran

Artist Susan Pascal Beran's Solar System V.G. is a delicate structure that stands high above the fountain at Mountain View's Performing Arts Center Plaza. The cryptic title adds a touch of intrigue: What is a V.G.? And does it really matter what V.G. means, in order to appreciate her work?

From an electrical power perspective, V.G. means variable generation. This refers to the unpredictability of wind, solar, and load. There are multiple other contexts.

Since artwork should be appreciated on its artistic merit, the full meaning may not matter, though greater knowledge can bring greater appreciation.



Besides, the artist may have simply pulled the term out of the air, so to speak, to enhance the perceived depth of the work.

Through her interesting abstract shapes and forms, Beran provides a unique work to grace the

entry to our Performing Arts Center. She uses concentric circles to suggest our solar system. One could observe that the different shapes and forms that adorn each circle are there to capture variable generation technologies to measure the impact of wind and solar generation. Or to simply draw interest and create an attractive, intriguing interpretation of our universe.

Beran is a California artist who studied at Stanford and Sorbonne. Her kinetic sculptures are admired in New York's Lincoln Center, in Santa Fe, Miami, Los Altos, Palm Springs and multiple locations around the United States. 🌐



*Action Properties*  
Sales & Management

Hundreds of Homes sold

Serving Mountain View for over 30 years

**OVER 400 UNITS MANAGED**

**650.967.8700**

Action Properties, Inc. 268 Castro Street, Mountain View

VISIT US: **ActionProperties.com**

#01877646



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

by Robert Maitland

by Jodie Pierce



## Residential Building Electrical Fires

According to the United States Fire Administration, electrical fires frequently occur throughout the U.S., causing injury, claiming lives, and resulting in losses of property.

From 2014 to 2016, an estimated 24,000 residential building electrical fires were reported by U.S. fire departments annually. These fires caused an estimated 310 deaths, 850 injuries, and \$871 million in property loss. Residential building electrical fires continued to be a part of the residential fire problem and accounted for six percent of all residential building fires.

- Residential building electrical fires most often started in bedrooms, attics, and vacant crawl spaces.
- The leading specific items most often first ignited in residential building electrical fires were electrical wire, cable insulation, and structural member or framing.

Over the last 35 years, homes have been transformed by electrical devices. Today's electrical demands can overburden the electrical system in a home, putting it at a higher risk of an electrical fire. This may be particularly true for homes more than 40 years old that have older wiring, electrical systems, and devices. There is also the likelihood that older homes may not comply with more modern electric code requirements, which

Continued on page 6

## Property Crime Prevention

Property crimes are on the rise in the Bay Area and that includes in the City of Mountain View. In Mountain View, the main issues related to property crime are mail theft, catalytic converter thefts and auto burglaries.

In regards to auto burglaries, the main thing is not to leave anything inside the car, be it in plain view or even in the trunk. If you have to leave items in the car, place them in the trunk *before* you arrive to your destination to avoid people seeing you place things in your trunk.

In order to avoid mail theft and package theft, it is important to try to get your mail from the mailbox daily and front porch as soon as possible.



USPS offers a service where they document the items of mail you receive. This allows you to know if anything has been taken.

Additionally, when you order items for delivery, most companies have an ability to notify you when the item is delivered. These notifications allow for you to get the item immediately to avoid theft.

It does not take too long to remove catalytic converters from vehicles. So if you have the ability to do so, you should park your vehicles inside a garage. It is also beneficial to have lighting outside of garages and carport areas to also help prevent thefts from vehicles. Well-lit areas help with personal safety and help with protecting property as well.

As always, remember not to hesitate if you need to call MVPD. In an emergency, dial 9-1-1. Or for non-emergencies, you can call 650-903-6395. Be safe and stay healthy. 🍷

We're all about engaging in the  
Sacred Act of Neighboring.

Come join us and discover why  
neighbor is a verb.

Sundays at 6:00 PM  
96 Paul Avenue

Go to [FrontPorchMV.org](http://FrontPorchMV.org)  
to find out more!



## NOTARY PUBLIC



**Tori Ann  
Atwell**

Your neighborhood  
Notary Public  
&  
Certified  
Signing Agent

**(650) 996-0123**



# What's Up?

## Update on Development in Mountain View

by Robert Cox


California state laws regulate how our city council interacts with the public as they make decisions for us as our governing body. In general, these laws provide that all deliberations of the council be done in public sessions with transparent council discussion, accompanied by public comment.

But there is one case where council discussion is closed to the public. This is when a proposal involves acquisition or sale of land by the City. Council discussions on such proposals are done in "closed sessions". While the public may write letters and address the council before such sessions, the content of

these sessions, including what each council member says and how he or she votes is entirely secret.

There are two important issues affecting our Old Mountain View neighborhood currently in closed session council negotiation. The first is the potential acquisition of all or part of parcel at 711 Calderon Avenue. Residents in the vicinity have lobbied the council to purchase the property and create a local park in our neighborhood. Many homes in the surrounding area display signs asking the city for a park on this location. Negotiations are still in progress, but no official word on the outcome is available.

The second issue concerns a proposed up to seven story condo development on the northeast corner of Castro Street and El Camino Real. The developer would like to acquire the City's Gateway Park at that location to increase the size of his project. He proposes relocating the park to the rear of his development near Hope and Fairmont Streets. Many residents are concerned about the loss of Gateway Park's central location.

As always, you can address the council on this and other issues by e-mailing them at [city.council@mountainview.gov](mailto:city.council@mountainview.gov). 

---

## Yearly Tradition: The State of Old Mountain View

by David Lewis

With a typical presidential State of the Union Address, we would start off with the phrase, 'the state of the union is strong...', regardless of the actual situation.

We won't do that here. Besides all the problems from the COVID pandemic, that may go away this spring, and the probable conversion of much of Castro Street to a pedestrian mall, we have major problems from a group of California legislators, who, with the support of Governor Newsom, wish to turn Old Mountain View into Manhattan West with our streets lined with high rise office and apartment buildings and condos, narrow sidewalks, no sunlight and parking and traffic problems everywhere.


The nearest green space would be Rancho San Antonio—if you can find a parking spot—all in supposed quest of more affordable housing for Californians, despite the fact that Mountain View

has been the leader in the whole Bay area, in providing rental and owner-occupied housing, and affordable housing.

We're being punished for our good deeds, or perhaps because we happen to have a train station and bus lines running through our City, or because we have a lot of folks working in Mountain View, something else the City has encouraged for many years. Other jurisdictions like Los Altos, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Monte Sereno, Belmont, Hillsdale, etc. haven't done much of anything in terms of jobs or housing, but aren't the target for the folks in Sacramento.

Presumably, some folks came to Mountain View, and specifically to Old Mountain View, because they viewed it as a nice place to live, not because they had fond memories of living in Manhattan, with concrete canyons, and perennial darkness.

If you value the quality of life here in Mountain View, and you wish to preserve it, I would encourage you to keep after your City Council, keep after your local CA Assembly Member, keep after your local CA Senator, and your California Governor.

Currently, the new mayor, Lucas Ramirez, has indicated that Mountain View doesn't need any drastic new measures, such as rezoning all the R3 districts, to meet our goals for new housing, and particularly for affordable housing. I suggest we hold him to his word. 

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 2022 issue are due by April 20, 2022.

# Mountain View Public Library: Silicon Valley Reads 2022

by Kyle Hval

Silicon Valley Reads is back at Mountain View Public Library! Silicon Valley Reads is a region-wide community engagement program that features books and an annual theme to bring people together by providing free, public events each year across many neighboring libraries. This year's theme is The Power of Kindness, Hope and Resilience.



On February 8, join us for a virtual discussion of life, philosophy and perspective with Rachel Riggio, author of The Power in Being Kind. Rachel will give an

overview of her book and talk about what inspired her to write it. She will share how she worked through trauma, addiction and self-sabotaging patterns and now devotes her energy to making the world a better place. Learn from Rachel how to cultivate a joyful heart and spread kindness in the world. Registration is required.



On February 10, professional musician Karlus Trapp will offer a delightful, educational and entertaining presentation called "The Roots of Black Music." In

this virtual presentation, Karlus will cover a 100 year journey back through time to hear, experience anew, and learn about the music of America's Black musical giants. If you view this show, you may find yourself uncontrollably smiling, singing or humming for hours afterward. Registration is required.

Finally on March 8, join our children's librarians at Pioneer Park (behind the Library) for an outdoor story time and puppet show related to the theme of kindness. Bring your blankets and coats with you. Registration is not required for this event.

For more information about Silicon Valley Reads 2022 events and book selections, visit [siliconvalleyreads.org](https://siliconvalleyreads.org). 🏠

## Old Mountain View Streets in 1887!

by Susanne Martinez

Have you ever wondered how some of the streets in Old Mountain View were laid out? In the late 1800s, much of the area we know today as Old Mountain View was a mixture of agricultural plots, a scattering of commercial entities, and a handful of residences.

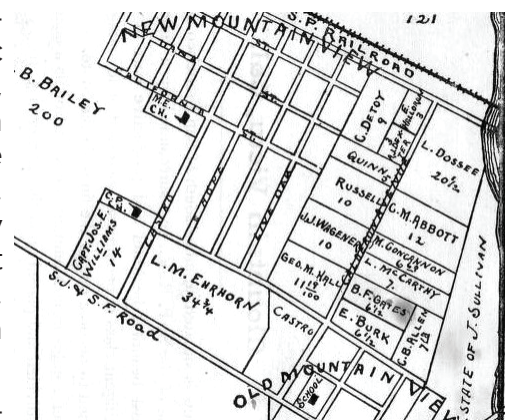
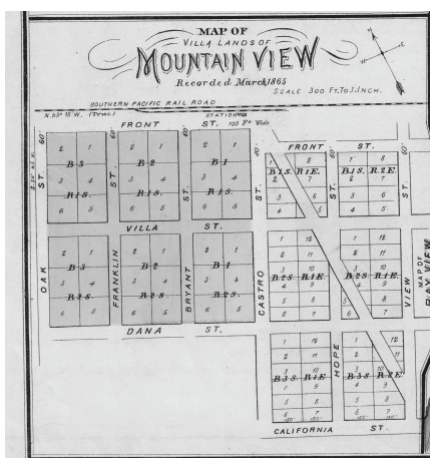
In 1887 a group of citizens living in what was then the Town

of Mountain View who owned property on both sides of a "Market Street" running from the downtown railroad depot and El Camino (then called the San Francisco and San Jose Road) petitioned the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to close this Market Street along with portions of Villa, California, and Dana Streets.

They asked that the following streets be opened as public highways: Villa, California, Dana, Live Oak, View, and Hope, with Villa, California, and Dana to be opened only to Live Oak Street. Live Oak appears on some very old maps of the area and is what today is named Bush Street. The Market Street mentioned in their petition no longer exists.

As reported in the San Jose Mer-

cury News (January 4, 1887) these petitioners asserted that closing Market Street and opening of the other streets as public roads would provide "ample room and be equally convenient" as Market Street. It would also, they argued, "enhance the value of their land without inconvenience to the traveling public." 🏠



## Lowering Speed Limit on Calderon Avenue

By Susanne Martinez

When the Calderon Avenue Bike Route extension was approved last summer, there were numerous public comments urging that the speed limit be reduced from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour to protect pedestrians and bicyclists using this route.

Last November, a group of residents on Calderon Avenue sent a follow-up letter to the Mountain View City Council asking for a time table and the criteria to be used in re-evaluating the Calderon speed limit.

In the past, most cities set their speed limits using what is called the 85% rule, which basically sets limits based on the speed drivers feel comfortable driving at, rather than what's actually safe!

A number of state and federal task forces, however, have found the 85% rule to be outdated. A new state law, AB 43, signed into law in October 2021, increases the authority of localities to set speed limits to promote traffic safety, particularly on routes with high concentrations of bicyclists or pedestrians, rather than rely on the 85% rule alone.

In fact, existing law already authorizes local authorities to consider factors such as pedestrian and bicyclist safety in setting speed limits. Hopefully, Mountain View will take these factors into consideration in establishing the speed limit for the expanded Calderon Bike Route. If you share these concerns, be sure and let the City Council know. 🗣️

To subscribe to the OMVNAtalk2@groups.io list, send email to: [omvnatalk2+owner@groups.io](mailto:omvnatalk2+owner@groups.io) or go to [omvna.org](http://omvna.org)

Continued from page 3

puts them at an elevated risk of hazardous conditions that could lead to an electrical fire. Eventually, given enough time, any home can be at risk of an electrical fire as wire insulation ages, connections loosen, receptacles and switches come loose or wear out, and oil and dirt cause electrical components to overheat.

Fire fatalities and injuries have declined over the last 35 years, partly due to new technologies to detect and extinguish fires. Smoke alarms are present in most homes. Smoke alarms were present in 50 percent of residences where electrical fires occurred. In 25 percent of electrical fires, no smoke alarms were present. In another 25 percent of these fires, firefighters were unable to determine if a smoke alarm was present.

To help keep your home fire-safe, make sure all electrical work in your home is performed by a qualified electrician and follow these electrical safety tips.

### Appliances:

- Always plug major appliances, directly into a wall outlet.
- Never use an extension cord with a major appliance—it can easily overheat and start a fire.
- Always plug small appliances directly into a wall outlet.
- Unplug small appliances when you are not using them.
- Keep lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs away from anything

## MVFD Electrical Fires

that can burn.

- Replace cracked, damaged, and loose electrical cords

### Outlets:

- Do not overload wall outlets.
- Never force a three-prong cord into a two-slot outlet.

### Extension cords, power strips, and surge protectors:

- Replace worn, old, or damaged extension cords right away.
- Use extension cords for temporary purposes only.
- Avoid putting cords where they can be damaged, like under a carpet or rug.

### Daisy Chains:

To meet power supply needs, extension cords or surge protected power strips are often interconnected, or "daisy chained," to provide more outlets and/or reach greater distances. Doing so can cause these devices to become overloaded, leading to their failure and a possible fire.

Only power strips with internal fuses are acceptable as permanent wiring. Devices lacking these fuses are equivalent to extension cords. Take care to ensure when a power strip is installed that it is not suspended in mid-air by its power cord or cords plugged into it. When there are not enough outlets to supply power to meet your needs, hire an electrician. 🏠

## 2022 OMVNA Steering Committee

Chair:	David Lewis
Vice-Chair:	Robert Cox
Treasurer:	Larry Rush
Secretary:	Annette Nielsen
At-Large:	Larry Rosenberg
At-Large:	Lorraine Wormald
Newsletter:	Susan Bickford
Community Liaison:	Jamil Shaikh

Subcommittee Chairs	
CERT:	Sherril Brennan
Historical Preservation:	Jerry Steach
Residential Parking:	Robert Cox
	Jamil Shaikh
	Roberto Miller
Ice Cream Social:	Samantha Blewis
Advertising:	Seema Quon
Next Regular Meeting:	April 25, 2022



Continued from page 1

of two tests. Don't overpay for an antigen test kit.

The antigen tests are not as accurate as the PCR tests, but offer instant gratification. The story is that if you get a positive antigen test, you most likely have COVID. If you get a negative test, you may or may not have Covid. The typical recommendation is that if you have symptoms, take a test. If it comes back positive, get a PCR test to confirm and take precautions to prevent spread of COVID (Isolation, quarantine). If it comes back negative, wait a day or two and take a second test. If the second test comes back negative, you're probably good to go. If the second test comes back positive, you likely

have Covid, and a follow-up PCR test would be advisable. You need to take precautions in the meantime.

There are a bunch of different antigen tests from different companies approved by the FDA; they're basically the same as far as accuracy, and all will detect the Omicron variant of COVID to some extent. The Abbott BinaxNow is the best of the older tests. There are now two new antigen test kits that are even better at picking up Omicron, from Roche and Siemens, if you can get them. There are also at-home PCR test kits, from Cue Health, but these are both quite expensive, about \$200 to get the equipment, and about

## COVID Update

\$70 per test, and still aren't as accurate as the lab-based PCR tests, that you should be able to get for free from either Santa Clara County or your healthcare provider: <https://bit.ly/3H2qlXH>

The Abbott BinaxNow test is one of the oldest and perhaps the most widely available. Others include: Quidel QuickVue; SD Biosensor; Siemens Healthineers; iHealth Labs; Access Bio; Becton Dickinson Veritor; Orasure Technologies; Celltrion USA, Acon Labs Flowflex, and more. Note you shouldn't be paying more than \$25-\$30 for a kit of two tests, if you're doing it privately. Remember, you can get these for free from the federal government or your healthcare provider. 📺

Continued from page 1

In addition, a proposed change to arrival procedures impacting us might soon allow a little of the dispersion of aircraft we lost with NextGen, which could reduce the concentration. Specifically, Air Traffic Control (ATC) would be able to redirect airplanes once they reach highway 280 rather than a later location closer to El Camino Real, as has been the case. However, the default course setting will remain the same, so any improvement will depend on whether ATC finds reasons to redirect some airplanes earlier.

Less encouraging has been the demise of the Santa Clara/

Santa Cruz Counties Airport/Community Roundtable, where the FAA engages with local representatives to discuss airplane noise. San Francisco and Oakland airports have community roundtables, but until 2019 SJC was not covered by one. At the suggestion of Rep. Eshoo, the Cities Association of Santa Clara County established our Roundtable. Its operations were complicated by the City of San Jose's decision not to join (the airport is theirs) and a lack of funding for the Roundtable from the airport, but these challenges were overcome. Unfortunately, the Cities' Association withdrew

## Up in the Air: Airplane Noise

their support late last year and the Roundtable disbanded.

Also disappointing: the Roundtable never took up the FAA response to the 2018 Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on South Flow Arrivals drafted by local officials, which proposed policies and solutions to our South Flow noise problems. While the FAA found very few of the suggestions feasible, the next step would have been for the Roundtable to engage with the FAA to try to work out compromises. That never happened.

Will a follow-on body be formed? The path forward is unclear. ✈️

Certificate in Teaching Online from Royal Conservatory of Music

### Learn to Play Flute

Zoom • Facetime • In-Person

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](mailto:mconcus@mac.com)



[www.mconcusflutist.com](http://www.mconcusflutist.com)

Proud member of

**Mountain View Rotary**



**Tori Ann  
Atwell**



# 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**

nancy@nancystuhr.com

www.nancystuhr.com

facebook.com/nancyadelestuhr

CalDRE# 00963170



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.

## 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?
- Why The Dave Keefe Real Estate Team?
- What can I expect when I list my house with you?

*Call for your personalized assessment*



*Call or Text*

**650-887-3721**

**Dave Keefe**  
Broker Associate

DRE#01352506

Mountain View Expert - Trusted Advice

**KW**  
KELLERWILLIAMS

## Serving Old Mountain View since 1986.

With over 1,500 past sales,  
and more than 500 being in  
Old Mountain View.



**Tori Atwell**

650.996.0123

tori.atwell@compass.com

torisellsrealestate.com

DRE 00927794



Compass is the brand name used for services provided by one or more of the Compass group of subsidiary companies. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

**COMPASS**