



OMVNA Newsletter

Published and distributed by the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association

May 2017

Volume 29, Number 1

www.omvna.org

Back in Business

by Susan Bickford

As most of you know, long-time Mountain View resident Julie Lovins suffered a health crisis last fall, shortly after the unexpected passing of her husband, Greg Fowler. Greg and Julie were passionate guardians of OMV and participated in so many activities that they have been dearly missed.

Julie handled the newsletter distribution process and was also a key member of the newsletter team. We took a pause this winter to figure out how to deliver over 2,500 newsletters every issue.

A major challenge was how to reach the newer, multi-unit complexes with locked mail rooms. We looked at using the U.S. Postal Service option called EDDM, but ultimately decided we could not justify the expense at this time.

Thankfully, Lorraine Wormald, an OMVNA Steering Committee member and long time newsletter delivery team participant, has stepped up to take over Julie's role. This is no small feat as Julie had developed her own way of doing things over many years. Hurray Lorraine!

Many thanks also go to all the people who have helped with aspects of delivery over the years and responded to our calls for help.

continued on page 2

**City of Mountain View
Multicultural
Event
June 10, 2017
11 AM - 4 PM
Civic Center Plaza
500 Castro Street
Free parking & admission
Live Music & Dancing**

A View from the Past

by Susan Bickford

Thanks to Julie Lovins, I now have a box of almost every issue of the newsletter going back 28 years.

The first Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association Newsletter (Volume 1, Number 1) was published on Saturday, February 4, 1989. It was only one page, front side only. There were no ads.

Jeff and Kim Farmer, Chuck Darrah and Janie Konevich, Eric Schweitzer and Marian Concus, Paul and Raquel McJones, and Nancy Ogaz made up the newsletter team.

The topics for that issue were: *What is the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association?*; *A City Council meeting worth attending*; *What do you think?*; and *Coming up next month: the City Council Neighborhoods Committee*.

By the second issue, the street light logo was in place and by issue 6, there was content on both front and back of the single page. The first ad seems to be have been placed in 1992 by Tori Atwell,

continued on page 7

OMVNA Community Block Parties

Summer is a great time to gather with your neighbors and share time together.

OMVNA wants to encourage residents to organize block parties. Our by-laws allow us to provide a small donation of \$50 (if budget is available) to help bring neighbors together in this way.

After approval by the City, you may to apply for the donation. Send email to Treasurer Larry Rush: larry.rush@outlook.com, and he will handle the approval process. Please provide:

- Your name, address, email, and telephone contact
- City permit information
- The block and number of households / people invited
- Time and date for the event

Restaurant Scene

by Max Hauser

Updates since last report, in order of latest news at each address:



420 Castro (previously Mixx) began remodeling last summer, reverting to two business spaces (Cantankerous Fish had merged them in 2006). One pending new tenant is **Sweetgreen** (a salad restaurant), the other has been identified as **Peet's Coffee**.



Pokeworks, a compact take-out restaurant for the Hawaiian fish salads, opened at 211 Castro (former home of Alpine Books).



Popular vegetarian eatery **Yam Leaf Bistro** (699 Calderon) closed in August with a note "New Operation Coming Soon."



Midtown (formerly Yoogl Yogurt Cafe) closed in September at 260 Castro. A site of the Korea-based **Bonchon** ("Hometown") **Fried Chicken** franchise (which I've heard good things about) is in construction.



Venerable locals' favorite **Los Charros** was renamed **La Espuela** (both the downtown taqueria and breakfast place at 854 W. Dana, and the El Camino "Restaurant & Cantina" at 89 W. ECR).



In December, the **Paris Baguette** chain announced plans to move into the subdivided former Bookbuyers storefront (315-319 Castro), pending permits and remodeling to repurpose the premises as a bakery.



continued on page 7



OMVNA Artists in Residence: Susan Alice Bickford

by Don McPhail

Our beautiful and eclectic neighborhood is home to artists of all kinds: painters, illustrators, designers, musicians, singers, writers, potters and more. This initial "Artists In Residence" column features an artist with multiple talents, who came to Mountain View for a career in computer graphics and animation, and is now a nationally published mystery writer. Her first novel, "A Short Time To Die," was launched in February at our neighborhood bookstore, Books, Inc.

Susan Bickford came to Old Mountain View from New York City in the early Nineties. A graduate of Hamilton College with an MFA from Pratt Institute, she moved here to work for Sun Microsystems. "I wasn't interested in a long commute and didn't know many people, so I thought living in Mountain View would be a good fit. Being from New York, I loved being close to Castro Street where there was lots of activity."

Susan was first drawn to visual arts, but also studied writing with a prominent Young Adult writer, Natalie Babbitt. Her early career involved computer graphics and animation for Digital Effects, Inc., making animated movies and commercials. This evolved into programming and her high tech career. In 2006 Susan immersed herself in writing, without a particular focus in mind. "However, it didn't take long for me to realize that I was writing junk. I decided not to worry and just keep writing because I was

obsessed and it made me happy. One day the beginning of a story popped out and I knew I had found my first real book."

She feels fortunate to have recognized this new opportunity as a writer. "I'm most pleased with my ability to change direction and embrace new careers. I give a lot of credit to an education that taught me how to learn rather than just rote memorization. I taught myself programming, I learned about running organizations, and I figured out how to write." Both Dashiell Hammett and Ross MacDonald were early influences, but the greatest impact came from two respected women writers, Sue Grafton and Sara Paretsky.

"A Short Time To Die" was influenced by the death of two of Susan's high school classmates. "We were not close friends but I sat next to them in homeroom every day. It didn't make sense to me that they had 'run off'." About two months later their bodies were found just steps away from their homes. Their murders remain unsolved.

"Many years later, I realized I needed to address a deep ache. I needed to write about a young woman who is faced with mortal danger and manages to escape." The novel is set in Central New York, where Susan grew up, and also here in Mountain View and Silicon Valley. OMV residents will enjoy finding her many references to actual places in and around Old

Mountain View.

What's next? Last year Susan stopped her consulting career to focus fully on writing. She is currently working on a second book, "Dread of Winter", which is due out in 2018. Look for Susan's work at Books, Inc., and check out her web site at <http://susanalicebickford.com>.



Back in Business

continued from page 1

We ask for your patience as we work out the hiccups. Please let us know about delivery problems. And we definitely still will need volunteers. Contact Lorraine at worlor@sbcglobal.net.

In 1989, the newsletter delivery team included: Jean Anderson, Jo Ann Beckham, Ronit Bryant, June Casey, Howard and Leanne Lauren, Debby and Vence Ketchens, Jean Kraus, Loren Pollert, Marilyn Powell, Curtis Schneider, and Goldie Tasisa, as well as the newsletter crew of Chuck Darrah and Janice Konevich, Jeff and Kim Farmer, Linda Heineke, Tom and Judy Hunter, Stephen and Ann Lewis, Paul and Raquel McJones, Nancy Ogaz, Rich Baker, and Eric and Marian Concus.

These days, we have a much larger group, but still going strong. Heartfelt thanks to all those original volunteers and our crew today. ☺

UNLOCK YOUR INNER POWER

Our authentic, transformative, full-body boxing and kickboxing workouts reawaken the fighting spirit in you.

How far can you push yourself?
Start pushing and see.
First class free.



TITLE BOXING CLUB
TITLEBoxingClub.com

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

by Lynn Brown

by Jodie Pierce



Smoke Alarms

Editor: After this issue, Lynn will be retiring. We send him our thanks and wish him well. We hope to be able to continue this helpful column going forward!



Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- There are two kinds of alarms.

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, at <http://mountainviewpoliceblog.com>, 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.

Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.

- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping area, outside of each separate sleeping area and every level.
- Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or alarms that are not working.

Shredding and Identity Theft

Everyone is usually happy and relieved when tax time is over and done with. But now that you have filed your taxes, you realize the overabundance of paperwork you have collected over the last few years, maybe even decades. One way to help avoid becoming a victim of Identity Theft is to never throw out any documents which have your personal information on them. You can invest in a personal shredder for your home in order to shred those documents which contain personal information. But there are also other avenues to dispose of or eliminate a lot of those extra documents.

As a resident in the City of Mountain View, you can take your documents to the SMaRT Station located at 301 Carl Rd., Sunnyvale. On Saturday July 22, 2017 and Saturday, November 4, 2017 between 8am and noon, with proof of residency, they will take up to five bags or banker boxes per household at no charge. Other locations do document shredding in the Bay Area, but they usually charge per box to shred.



There are ways to attempt to prevent some mail from being sent to you. The following are ways to Opt-Out of credit card offers and unsolicited mail according to the Federal Trade Commission: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0262-stopping-unsolicited-mail-phone-calls-and-email>.

If you receive a lot of pre-approved credit card or insurance offers, you have two choices: You can opt out of receiving them for five years or opt out of receiving them permanently. To opt out for five years: Call toll-free 1-888-5-OPT-OUT (1-888-567-8688) or visit www.optoutprescreen.com. The phone number and website are operated by the major consumer reporting companies. To opt out permanently: You may begin the permanent Opt-Out process online at www.optoutprescreen.com. To complete your request, you must return the signed Permanent Opt-Out Election form, which will be provided after you initiate your online request.

The Direct Marketing Association's (DMA) Mail Preference Service (MPS) lets you opt out of receiving unsolicited commercial mail from many national companies for five years. However, your registration will not stop mailings from organizations that do not use the DMA's Mail Preference Service. To register with DMA's Mail Preference Service, go to www.dmachoice.org.



Changes to the Highways Above Us



by Robert Holbrook

People who have lived in Mountain View for 25 years or more remember noisy airplanes flying into Moffett Field. While we still get some of those flights today, in recent years airplane noise has increased sharply over Old Mountain View due to shifts in routes to other airports. These changes have coincided with the rollout of the FAA's airspace modernization program, called NextGen.

By far the biggest source of noise is airplanes bound for San Jose, flying at about 3000'. Fortunately, this happens only when winds require airplanes to land from the North. When this happens—about an eighth of the time—almost all airplanes bound for San Jose are routed over Mountain View. Sometimes flights can be heard two minutes apart. Moreover, the number of flights is growing rapidly: last year, staff at Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC) projected that flights into SJC would double in twelve years.

Noise has worsened because the FAA changed arrival procedures for San Jose Airport, shifting flights westward to a corridor that now runs over the heart of Old Mountain View. Data from the FAA shows that since the FAA made its changes, we've had 2.75 times as many flights bound for San Jose over that corridor. While there have been more "south flow" days in recent years, that's a small part of the problem. After adjusting for the increase in south flow days and the increase in flights to SJC, we still have 2.2 times as many flights as before. Moreover, many people believe the airplanes are flying louder. That's possible: higher speeds and more use of engines and speedbrakes can all cause huge increases in noise.

Meanwhile, residents in Los Altos, Portola Valley, Palo Alto and Menlo Park were heavily impacted by changes to arrival procedures for San Francisco International Air-

port (SFO). Unfortunately, one of the proposals the FAA was asked to consider would redirect this traffic over Los Altos and Mountain View instead. That would bring almost two hundred planes a day, at all hours of the day and night.

What can be done? Make your voice heard! Reacting to complaints from the community in March, the San Jose Airport Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the San Jose City Council, which owns the airport, establish a Roundtable to address the recent increase in noise. In March, Congressman Ro Khanna called a meeting with the FAA, SJC staff and Council members from four cities to discuss options. Councilmember Lisa Matichak attended for Mountain View. Earlier in March, Vice Mayor Lenny Siegel met with the FAA in Washington, DC. Hopefully, this activism will lead to a forum where alternatives to reduce the impact of south flow traffic will be considered. Regarding SFO, if the FAA indicates it is willing to reroute air traffic bound for San Francisco over Mountain View, our city will need a forceful response.

For more information and to sign a petition encouraging our elected officials to engage, please visit BayAreaJetNoise.com. ✈



Food Scraps Update



by Susanne Martinez

The City of Mountain View is scheduled to begin a city-wide Curbside Food Scraps Composting Program.

A good number of Old Mountain View residents participated in the pilot project and pretty much know what it entails, but for many others, this will be a new experience.

The program will begin in mid-July after Recology sets up the collection routes and delivers a complimentary kitchen counter-top pail with compostable bags and instructions to signal the start of the program in each neighborhood.

Those Old Mountain View residents in the current pilot area can continue placing food scraps and food-soiled paper in the yard trimmings cart for weekly collection (garbage is now also collected weekly in both zones). But if you are not in the pilot area, don't start putting food scraps in the yard trimmings cart until you get the materials from the City.

Once your area is given the green light to get started, the program is fairly simple, but there is a bit of a learning curve to getting the sorting right between what goes into the yard trimmings, recycling, and garbage carts.

Basically, all food scraps (including meat, shells and bones) and food-soiled paper (coffee filters, paper plates and napkins, and

continued on page 5

OMVNA Steering Committee

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

CERT:	Aaron Grossman
Historical	
Preservation:	Marina Marinovich
Residential Parking:	Robert Cox
Advertising:	Kristin Bailey
Next Meeting:	July 24, 2017

Flute Lessons in Old Mountain View

with Marian Concus

Instructor is: conservatory trained, member of two professional symphony orchestras, Flute Coach at Bellarmine Preparatory School.
mconcus@mac.com • www.mconcusflutist.com



Opinion Piece: View from the Chair

by David Lewis

Editor: Once a year, we invite our OMVNA Chair to express his opinions on neighborhood issues and trends.

OMVNA (and Kiwanis) had an informative presentation by Robert Holbrook on aircraft noise, something that has increasingly bothered many of us, with changes in aircraft routing, increased traffic into San Jose and San Carlos, and southerly winds. It seems like some of the City Council – Council Members Matichak and Siegel – are interested in doing something about this and getting a voice for Mountain View with the FAA. I'm not sure why the others don't seem to care. I can offer three explanations: (1) they enjoy the aircraft noise; (2) they, like many of us, don't hear so well, and (3) they grew up in a noisy city and think this is normal.

While the problem has diminished with the change in seasons, it won't go away. It will only get worse, and OMV residents who care about living in a peaceful community should work to be sure the City actually tries to do something about this.

Oak Street and Mountain View continue with rampant abuse of traffic laws by those who value their time over the safety of the rest of us. On Oak Street we see speeders going down our short block at twice the speed limit, to save a few seconds, (accelerating to 50 mph and taking the stop sign at the end at 25 mph saves a whole 9 seconds over driving legally) and there is near total disregard of stop signs and traffic lights and speed limits.

The City Council still is uninterested in passive traffic control measures (speed humps, speed cameras, red light cameras) that would minimize traffic problems without the added cost of more police. Why can't Mountain View be a pioneer here, using passive measures and advanced technology to do what we can't do with our limited police force?

On Oak Street and elsewhere in OMV, we have folks renting out part of their homes via AirBnB in single-family residential areas. Even if they want to, these folks are not able to pay the 10% transient occupancy tax (TOT) that hotels pay.

The City Council could have hired 5 more sworn officers or perhaps as many as 10 more parking enforcement staff if they were charging AirBnB users the TOT but the Council has so far neglected to do this.

AirBnB hosts don't have to provide parking for their 'guests', using some of our precious on-street parking. They don't need to obey regulations regarding bathrooms, smoke detectors, fire exits, etc. that hotels must follow. For an interesting comparison on regulations, check what is required to operate a day care center in your home, another plausible home enterprise.

Last, on a happier note, every weekday morning, as I drive out to Church Street and Shoreline, I have the joy of seeing the line of parked trucks on Church and Shoreline, waiting to go to the Big Dig on Castro Street (the St. Joseph's project). Fortunately, Oak Street is far enough away that I can't hear the construction noise, don't inhale the dust, and don't have to worry about the giant crane toppling onto my home.



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

Contact the newsletter team at: editorOMVNA@yahoo.com

Submissions for our August issue are due by July 12, 2017.

To sign up for neighborhood alerts by OMVNA talk email:

- Send a blank message (no subject or content needed) from your preferred email address to omvnatalk-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- You will get back an automated message from yahoogroups
- Select option 2 ("Reply, Send") to confirm your request.

For more information about the OMVNA talk list, please see <http://www.omvna.org/omvnatalk.html>

For newsletter delivery problems or to volunteer to help, send email to delivery@omvna.org

Save the date:
Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association
ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Sunday, August 27, 2017

Food Scraps

those big take-out pizzeria boxes) can be placed in the yard trimmings cart.

Refrigerated or frozen food boxes for things like pizza, ice cream, butter or cream cheese are garbage because they are made to withstand moisture and do not break down in the composting process. The Mountain View "What Goes Where" guide can help you learn what is compostable, recyclable or not (garbage).

According to a survey of pilot project participants, satisfaction rates with the program were high and most agreed it was easy to separate the compostable items from

continued from page 4

the things that end up in the garbage cart.

Our family, however, still keeps the instruction sheet handy when in doubt about what goes where! The City will have a food scraps table at special events, speakers at neighborhood meetings, and post information when the program is about to launch through neighborhood email lists, Next Door, and on the website at www.MVrecycle.org. Stay tuned for more information as the new program rolls out.



Is the Drought Over?



The U.S. Drought Monitor, hosted at the University of Nebraska and funded by USDA and NOAA, uses several measurements including precipitation, streamflow, soil moisture and other indicators. It shows that most of California has emerged from "exceptional drought" (the worst of five categories).

Only parts of southern California are still abnormally dry or in moderate drought by those measures. On April 7, our governor made the call that the drought emergency in California was over. He did so after the wettest winter since at least 1982/83, which some people living in Old Mountain View still remember.

The rains have increased reservoir levels and created a huge snowpack in the Sierras, but it is too early to tell whether groundwater has been replenished much. The intense rainstorms and parched conditions of the soils meant that recharge may be lower than in previous wet years.

Our area could return to drought conditions quickly next winter depending on how rainy it is next season. Climate forecasting indicates that the likelihood of future dry conditions is high throughout the west.

It's only reasonable to keep up our water-conserving efforts this year, while enjoying the green leaves and colorful flowers in neighborhood gardens and parks this spring.

There are some great local resources available to help us do that, including a "Water Calculator" at www.bayareaecogardens.org/calc that has recommended days between watering, minutes per cycle, and cycles per day on a monthly basis for different types of yard such as lawn, garden and drought-tolerant garden and for different watering methods.

Note that this website has a place to enter your email address, but you can skip that step and still get the information. If you are interested in getting rid of your lawn and want some advice, there are still two more classes in May in the free series on creating a low-water garden at the Mountain View Library—check out bayareaconservation.org/landscape. Finally, there are many handy links at conservewater.mountainview.gov.



Immigrant House Update

by Mary Kay Marinovich

Immigrant House and Heritage Park are open to the public! On Saturday December 10th 2016, Mountain View's new Heritage Park held its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony.

The day's persistent rainfall deterred neither Mountain View's City Officials, nor the hundred and fifty or so enthusiastic citizens who showed their support for this new concept in park design by coming out. With historic Immigrant House as its central focal point, and an authentic windmill, interpretive signage, heritage trees and a community demonstration garden, the park is intended for relaxation, quietude, and education.

The celebration's speakers included then-Mayor Pat Showalter, Community Service Director JP de la Montague, City Manager Dan Rich, Friends of Immigrant House Founder Mary Kay Marinovich, and The Soil and Water Project's representative, Kavita Coombe. Vice Mayor Ken Rosenberg, council members Christopher Clark, Michael Kasperzak Jr., John McAlister, and Lenny Siegel, former council members Margaret Abe-Koga (re-elected), and Ronit Bryant all joined Mayor Pat Showalter in the official ribbon cutting.

Also present was Frances Stieper, who sold the property to the city below market rate under the condition that it become either a park or senior housing. She had a front row seat for the installation of

continued on page 7

Local Author *Susan Alice Bickford* presents a novel of suspense

Escape is
impossible.



Buy it now at
Books Inc., Target,
and Online

www.susanalicebickford.com

Immigrant House

continued from page 3

Heritage Park's official plaque, and seemed very happy with the outcome of the project.

According to the new plaque on its front, Immigrant House is officially recognized as a Santa Clara County Historical Structure. The house is now reinforced and looks beautiful thanks to excellent craftsmanship and the kitchen's 1920's-style wallpaper, which was re-created by Bradbury and Bradbury.

The Pear family (who are long-standing members of the Mountain View Historical Association) generously donated authentic furnishings of the era from their old farm in Mountain View. Items include a wonderful ice-box, stools, and tables.

The interior of Immigrant House is still in need of more furnishing. On the master list of items needed are a stove, heat source, bed, items for the kitchen, washbasin etc. Those interested in joining in the volunteer effort to obtain furnishings are encouraged to get in touch with Friends of Immigrant House.

View from the Past

continued from page 1

joined by Nancy Adele Stuhr a bit later, and eventually by Kim Copher, all staunch supporters of our newsletter today.

A scan of 1989 topics shows that many of our concerns today were also topics then: neighborhood preservation, traffic, public transportation (would the light rail come to Mountain View?), recycling, concerns about city government and how to participate. One of the first issues was dedicated to a Neighborhood Preservation Plan Workshop.

In March of 1989, Castro Street was about to undergo the major reconstruction that transformed our downtown area into the vibrant area we know so well today, but merchants were concerned about the transition phase and how to keep patrons happy. The October 1990 issue announced completion of that project.

I hope we can find a good home for these reminders, including a digital archive in the near future.

Restaurants

continued from page 1

246 Castro: First, **Izzo Asian-Fusion Tapas**, which opened April 2016 as an expansion of a San José original, closed after only five months. In December **Shalimar Sizzle**, a new Indian restaurant featuring non-buffet lunches, opened there. (Its cooking has stood out to me against local competition.)



Fu Lam Mum, the 153-155 Castro custom-built dim-sum restaurant, closed in January for a long-planned conversion of upstairs seating floor to office space. Reopening is now projected for August or September.



Oyster bar **Shell Shock** (124 Castro) converted in January to **East Street Tacos** under the same owner, an "international" taqueria offering diverse (including vegetarian) fillings and wraps.



Verde Tea Kitchen, 210 Hope at Villa, closed in February after a year in business. It was a large expansion sibling of longtime nearby **Verde Tea Café** (852 Villa), and had remodeled the dormant corner restaurant property (last occupied by Spice Islands in 2009).



Notable local restaurateur family Poon had opened a second location of its popular, unique **Srasa Kitchen** in July at 292 Castro, but closed it in April. Tentative plans are for a new handmade ice cream rolls shop, **Pushcart Creamery**, at the address.



Under review: a redevelopment proposal to replace **Chez TJ** and **Tied House** with a 4-story office building and ground floor restaurant, in which both current restaurants' owners would partner.



A new "coffee shop" is coming soon to 833 Villa, next to **Song Pa Korean** restaurant.



Herbs and Gardening

by Kathy Ormiston

Are you looking to eat more locally? Grow some of your own food in Mountain View?

One of the easiest ways to get started gardening is an herb garden. For the price of a wilted bunch of parsley you can buy a packet of seeds or a six pack of small plants.

Good places to grow herbs are a patio, a flower border or a sunny window inside a house.

The best way to get started is to think about the herbs you cook with most frequently. My favorites are parsley, bay, sage, rosemary, chives, thyme, mint, and basil.

I grow parsley year-round from small plants and from seed. The plants prefer regular water and some shade in the summer. I like to grow parsley in a pot with drip irrigation or a self watering container.

Sage, rosemary, thyme, and chives grow well in sunny areas of the garden. These plants don't use much water, but are happier with weekly irrigation in the summer. These herbs have attractive flowers and foliage and can be easily tucked into an ornamental border.

Mint is super easy to grow, but it can quickly take over a garden. Grow it in a pot with some sort of root barrier.

Basil likes the warm summer sun and regular water. It is another plant that seems to do better for me in a self watering pot or a container with drip irrigation.

I love fresh bay leaves with roast chicken, but small culinary bay plants can be hard to find. It is worth seeking out the plants on the Internet if you can't find them at the local nursery.

Be sure to cook with leaves from culinary bay (*Laurus nobilis*) and not leaves from California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), which can cause an allergic reaction in some people.

Kathy Ormiston lives and gardens on California Street in Old Mountain View.



When you *think*
Real Estate
think Kim.

1. Honesty
2. Integrity
3. Professionalism



Kim Copher

650.917.7995
kim.copher@cbnorcal.com
www.justcallkim.com
DRE #01423875



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
CalBRE# 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.

*Serving Old Mountain View since 1986...
With over 1,500 past sales, and more than 500
being in Old Mountain View.*

The choice is clear:

Tori



*No one can offer you
more knowledge, insight
and service!*

650.996.0123 | www.ToriSellsRealEstate.com | CalBRE# 00927794

