



# OMVNA Newsletter

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## Out of the Frying Pan into Hot Water

by Susan Bickford

In case you were so absorbed by the pandemic that you forgot to pay attention to the weather, winter rainfall was well below average.

In fact, there is even talk of a mega drought, impacting more than just California. Governor Newsom has said he is not declaring a state-wide emergency-yet. However, now is the time to take care of the things we can control about our water use. Wasting water can add up financially as well as environmentally.

In case you've forgotten, here are a few quick tips:

- Check for leaks by looking at your water meter.
- Reduce outdoor water use:
  - Don't water the sidewalks.

Continued on page 4

## Congratulations to all our winners!

They were selected at random from all the entries received in response to our postcard mailing.

**Robert on Paul Ave.**  
**Allison on Oak St**  
**Susan on Sierra Ave.**  
**Pablo on Loreto**  
**Susanna on Church St.**  
**Deborah on W Dana**  
**Enrique on View St.**  
**Carmen on W Dana St.**  
**Nancy on Velarde St.**  
**Stefan on Paul Ave.**

When asked "where would you like to spend \$50", these were the top results.

**Ava's**  
**Books Inc.**  
**Cascal**  
**Therapy**

OMVNA is happy to send some gift card love to our downtown businesses.

## Restaurant Scene

by Max Hauser

Ramen turnover: After 10 years, **Shalala** closed in October at the Dana/Hope corner, citing the pandemic. Soon after which, **Afuri Ramen + Dumpling**, a chain from Japan named for a mountain there, opened for takeout and delivery at 124 Castro, former site of Crawfish Bros., Chop & Pub, and other restaurants.



**3 Kingdoms Hot Pot** opened at 134 Castro (formerly Han Gen restaurant).



**Savvy Cellar**, the wine bar/dealer in the "train-station" building (750 W. Evelyn at Castro), re-opened under new owners, offering wines, beers, and snack foods.



After a protracted remodeling process, in March **Ludwig's German Table** opened, 383 Castro at California, an expansion from the popular original in San José.



**Rootstock Wine Bar** recently opened at 331 Castro, formerly Le Plonc (another pandemic casualty).



Venerable **Frankie, Johnnie &**

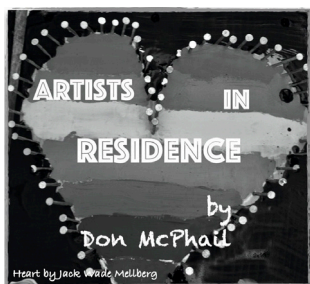
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## Ice Cream Social Planning Is Underway: Your Input Needed

The OMVNA Ice Cream Social has been a highlight event for our neighborhood for many years.

Now that options for gathering are starting to change, we would like your input on what sort of event would be both fun and safe.

Please visit [OMVNA.ORG](https://www.omvna.org) to fill out our poll and give us your input.



## Atrium Glass Wall and Skylight Artist Kenneth Frederick von Roenn Heart-Art by Jack Wade Mellberg

Mountain View is one of the focal points of Silicon Valley, but it was not always so. We used to be a sleepy and very rural town. With a population of 6,500 residents in 1950, Mountain View has grown to more than 80,000 today. In this article, we highlight the artwork that is in our city hall, opened to the public in 1991. The combined city hall and community center form a landmark that was designed by William Turnbull Associates. The visual focal point is actually the artwork we are featuring — a spectacular four-story atrium that displays the design of artist Frederick von Roenn. Next time you visit City Hall, take a moment to enjoy the artwork.

Kenneth Frederick von Roenn has designed and executed more than 1,500 commissions in the U. S., Middle East, Far East, Europe, Canada and Mexico. Born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1948, his early interests were athletic. As a talented springboard and platform diver, he attended Florida State University on a full athletic scholarship. His interests in fine art, philosophy and English led to an undergraduate degree in 1970. He then earned his Masters in Architecture from Yale. Von Roenn has written and lectured on the topics of Art in Architecture, the Evolution of Architectural Glass Art, and the Development and Issues of Public Art.

Here is a section taken from Architecture Magazine (January 1992), that describes the artistry:

*The 77,000-square-foot Mountain View City Hall is paired with a 46,000-square-foot community theater. The two buildings define a plaza and create a gateway between octagonal towers. At the center of the City Hall is a four-story atrium, where Ken von Roenn's glass artistry is given full rein. Turnbull evokes images of nearby Bay Area vernacular architecture through stucco-covered towers and bays, while von Roenn turned to San Francisco's most famous glass-and-iron landmark, the Hallidie Building, for his inspiration.*

*On the atrium's two upper floors blue and green glass at the outer edge of each bay is painted with cast-iron details from 19th-century building catalogs, while glass at the bay's center is sandblasted with profiles of Classical moldings and geometric patterns.*

*Fire codes dictated that the art glass be sandwiched between two pieces of tempered plate glass. Gridded designs of blue and green glass appear in the skylight, washing the atrium's side walls with a cascade of color. The design is applied with a colorfast paint, which does not discolor when exposed to ultraviolet light, to a polyvinyl-butyl film placed between the two sheets of tempered glass.*

Visit [omvna.org](http://omvna.org) for a color version of this article. ●



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## History Corner: It Used to Rain Jets: Part 2

by Bruce Karney

*Editor's note: Bruce wrote this for the newsletter in May / June 2004. He says: Much of the material contained in the first part of this series came from Lost Birds magazine, Jan./March, 1998. Lee Boyd and Ray Kong both shared their memories with Bruce via e-mail, and he was able to visit the crash site with Mr. Boyd.*

In the previous History Corner I wrote about the 1973 mid-air collision over the Sunnyvale Golf Course. While researching it, I read a story in the San Jose Mercury titled "It Used to Rain Jets." It detailed the incredibly poor reliability of jets in the 1950's and listed more than ten crashes of jets based at Moffett.

Most spectacular and best remembered is the crash that took place in our neighborhood on February 1, 1957. An F-84 Thunderjet was flying north toward Moffett, approximately following the route of Castro Street. It exploded at an altitude of about 2000 feet. Had the explosion happened only a few seconds earlier, the flaming debris would have landed on the Mountain View Union High School (near where City Hall now stands). A few seconds later, and the Mountain View Academy or the Dana Street School could have been hit.

The largest piece of the plane landed on the home of Mr. &

Mrs. Les Wright of 1093 California (near Oak). Mrs. Wright was slightly injured while escaping from her home through a window. She returned to try to get her purse, but was driven back by a wall of flame. The house and its contents were destroyed by the fire.

Fire also destroyed the second floor of the house at 427 Franklin St. and damaged several other buildings. The body of the pilot, Capt. Robert Mulvehill, fell at 445 Bryant St. The jet engine landed in front of 420 Franklin, which suffered some fire damage.

Just four months later, on June 20, 1957, a Moffett-based jet and a propeller-driven plane collided over Mtn. View-Alviso Road (Hwy. 237) just south of Bayshore Highway. Both pilots were killed, and the wreckage landed on a cement truck being driven on Mountain View-Alviso Road. The truck driver narrowly escaped death.

Another deadly crash in Mountain View took place on Feb. 15, 1960. An A4D Skyhawk jet returning to Moffett Field smashed into a home at 679 Emily Drive. Mrs. Margit Halmi, a refugee from Hungary who lived there, was killed instantly. The pilot, Lt. (j.g.) Gordon Blake, ejected from the plane, but his parachute did not fully deploy, and he also died.

The 1973 San Jose Mercury article said that "a safety crack-down in 1956 eventually lowered the accident rate from 3.8 per 10,000 hours flying time to 1.8." To put this in perspective, Southwest Airlines flies about 3,500 hours per day. If their fleet was as unreliable as military jets were fifty years ago (now sixty-five years), they would have a crash every day or two! In reality, commercial airlines now have only 2 to 3 accidents per million hours flying time.

The frequent crashes of Moffett jets caused an outcry from residents and elected officials. Consequently, in 1961 jet operations were moved from Moffett to the less-populated environs of Lemoore Naval Air Station in the Central Valley. But four-engine turboprop P-3s continued to operate, with an excellent safety record, until NAS Moffett was decommissioned in 1994. ●



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until we can  
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# What's Up?

## Update on New Development in Mountain View

by Robert Cox

As Mountain View continues to densify, how and to what extent we provide parks and open space will be a key issue in planning our future quality of life. Many new residents living in high density apartments will have no private green space to enjoy. Park trees provide shade and help reduce the effect of greenhouse gas emissions. Parks are gathering places where residents meet their neighbors and enjoy recreational opportunities.

In the next few months, our city council will be making two important decisions affecting the future of parks in our neighborhood. One is the future of

a development project at 880 Castro Street. The developer has recently purchased all the property adjacent to Gateway Park on the northeast corner of Castro and El Camino. The project architect Bill Maston reached out to the Old Mountain View Steering Committee and Livable Mountain View to share his interest in acquiring Gateway Park from the city. Livable Mountain View maintains that the City should either not sell the park or should relocate it in the same general area so that it faces Castro, per the Downtown Precise Plan. The developer will be approaching the council in the next few weeks.

The other decision regards the future of the large parcel at 711 Calderon. The owner has signaled her intent to sell at least part of the property. She is discussing with the City Council the possibility that this part be acquired by the City for a neighborhood park. Residents have shown their support by peppering the surrounding neighborhood with pro-park lawn signs.

You can express your views on these developments by writing to [city.council@mountainview.gov](mailto:city.council@mountainview.gov), or contacting the Old Mountain View at [editor@omvna.org](mailto:editor@omvna.org), or Livable Mountain View Steering Committees at [engage@livablemv.org](mailto:engage@livablemv.org). ●

## The Future Shape of Castro Street

Now that COVID-related restrictions are easing, City thoughts are turning to Castro Street.

The City of MV deserves a lot of credit for coming up with a model for Castro Street that has allowed many businesses to maintain a presence, but the successes were not universal. It also is not clear whether this is a sustainable model going forward.

Castro Street runs through the heart of Old Mountain View and we encourage neighbors to engage and follow this discussion. Regardless of your opinion, by all means, please voice your concerns to our City Council, the OMVNA steering committee, and other officials.

This recent article in the Voice is a good starting point:

<https://tinyurl.com/tp83yp7j>



Continued from Page 1:

### Hot Water

- Check your irrigation systems for broken parts and leaks.
- Use non-potable water, if possible.
- Go to the car wash.
- Cut down indoor usage:
  - Flush less often.
  - Shorter showers.
  - Always wash full loads of laundry.
  - Don't pre-wash dishes.

For more tips and guidance, go to <https://www.mountainview.gov/depts/pw/services/conserve/default.asp>. ●

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 August 2021 issue are due by July 20, 2021.

## Follow us!

### Keep in touch with OMVNA.

**OMVNAtalk**  
neighborhood email  
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Reminisce in the newly uncovered historical archives, and newsletters, old and new.

**Newsletter**  
[omvna.org](http://omvna.org)  
Read us online and in hand-delivered hardcopies. Submissions welcome.

# The Quality of Life in Old Mountain View

by David Lewis

Where does the notion of the quality of life come from?

The English philosopher Hobbes thought that, without a social contract between the ruled and their rulers (government), our lives would be "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short."

The English philosopher Locke felt people, born free and equal, could transfer some rights to a government to ensure safe, stable living conditions.

Has the City of Mountain View, and those paid to give it sage advice, forgotten the idea that residents contract with government, give up some freedoms, and pay for certain functions and services, in return for a better quality of life?

The City should remember who it is supposed to serve—its residents, not businesses or those seeking to profit from developments in the City. Instead, there was a recent move to 'disappear' the concept of 'quality of life' from the criteria the City would use in

revising the City's Master Plan.

From ancient times to the present, those honored with the title of "official, ruler, administrator, staff" have known that their position depends on public support and financing and providing an adequate quality of life. The City must be primarily responsive to what is needed to provide an adequate quality of life for its residents—parks, functioning roads and utilities, suitable housing; a pleasant and safe environment, where families can enjoy their city, leaders that listen to the needs of residents, and a place where residents actually have a say in what their government does.

The immediate danger is that the voices of a few, large, well-connected and heavily moneyed enterprises have the ears of City officials and staff.

Are the officials elected by the residents of Mountain View, and the staff they employ and oversee, answerable to those who elected them? ●

# Gazpacho Recipe

by Susan Bickford

After I graduated from college, I had an opportunity to spend two years in Spain. By late spring, the weather was broiling and AC was in short supply. That was when I fell in love with icy-cold gazpacho, a rich chilled soup that could be found everywhere from cafes to fancy restaurants. Ever since then, I have looked forward to making fresh gazpacho in the summer.

Searching recipes, I was very surprised to learn that the creamy texture of this primarily tomato-based soup came not from dairy products but from bread.

These days, I try to eat gluten free and also cut back on carbs. Fortunately, there are many varieties of gazpacho. All are tomato-based but otherwise, any combination of your favorite summer vegetables can work. Everything is "to taste."

Personally, I love adding a bit of hot pepper and garnishing with diced avocado and / or a blob of crème fraîche.

In your blender or food processor put relatively sized parts:

- 1 part tomatoes (Roma preferred)
- 1 part cucumbers
- 1 part green Peppers
- 1/2 part onions
- 1 part diced bread (optional)
- Plus: garlic (several cloves)

Blend that up until creamy, then emulsify in:

- Wine vinegar
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper

Once it tastes just right, let it chill and serve with your favorite garnish! ●

## Little Bush Art Gallery



Love to create? Do you like looking at local artwork? Come check out the Little Bush Art Gallery! If you see an art piece you like, take it home with you!



You don't need to replace the piece -- it's ok to leave the gallery empty. If you're an aspiring artist and would like to put your work on display, bring it over for other people to enjoy! All art media welcome. Located on the 300 block of Bush St (between W Dana St and California St). Learn more at: [zwsj.com/](http://zwsj.com/) ●



## Now Available at the Library

by Kyle Hval

After more than a year since the Library closure, we have re-opened our building to the public!

We are open for in-library browsing and holds pickups in the lobby Thursday - Saturday, 2 - 6 p.m.

A limited number of computers are also available by appointment Thursday - Saturday, 2 - 5:45 p.m. And the Library's popular Grab & Go Holds Pickup outside the Library will continue on Tuesday and Wednesday, 2 - 6 p.m.

For more information about our updated services, visit <https://www.mountainview.gov/depts/library/about/currentlibraryservices.asp>

On May 10, the Library is hosting a virtual concert with pianist Dan Fogel. Dan will perform iconic

themes from classic video games, anime, TV shows, and movies that you all know & love. The concert will include selections from video games such as Super Mario Bros and Zelda as well as TV shows and movies including The Addams Family, The Simpsons, Titanic and more.



Dan Fogel is a versatile cocktail and concert pianist who performs virtually for special private events, slide shows, holidays, senior communities, & libraries. He plays classical, jazz, musicals, hits from

any decade, holidays, Disney, video game, film, and folk tunes from around the world.

Don't forget: Our library is rich in services providing free digital content. Example: Kanopy (for free movies), Hoopla app (for ebooks and audio books and more movies). And don't forget subscriptions to sources like the New York Times. ●



## Update on Narrow Streets Ordinance

by Marilyn Gildea, Monta Loma Neighborhood Association

After voters approved the Measure C ballot measure in the November 2020 election, the City of Mountain View began implementing what is referred to as the Narrow Streets Ordinance. The city ordinance restricts the parking of oversized vehicles on narrow streets to address traffic safety concerns.

However, the ordinance cannot be enforced until signage

is installed on narrow streets, which are 40 feet wide or less.

The earliest that sign installation will begin is May 2021. The sign installation will start in the Monta Loma/Farley/Rock neighborhood area and move clockwise, ending with the San Antonio/Rengstorff/Del Medio neighborhood area. The City estimates that all of the "No

Parking" signs will be installed by December 2021. For the list of City streets to receive signage and updates on sign installation, visit [MountainView.gov/NarrowStreets](https://www.mountainview.gov/NarrowStreets).

The Narrow Streets webpage contains relevant information, including the resolution, Narrow Streets map and listing of narrow streets. ●

### OMVNA Steering Committee

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Vice-Chair:	Robert Cox
Treasurer:	Larry Rush
Secretary:	Samantha Blewis
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At-Large:	Lorraine Wormald
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Community Liaison:	Jamil Shaikh

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Historical Preservation:	Jerry Steach
Residential Parking:	Robert Cox Jamil Shaikh Roberto Miller
Ice Cream Social:	Samantha Blewis
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Next Meeting:	July 26, 2021

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## Restaurant News

**Luigi Too** earlier announced plans (see following link) to re-model its 939 W. El Camino Real property into a different restaurant concept with housing above. Reportedly the current restaurant will close at the end of May. [tinyurl.com/FJLplans](http://tinyurl.com/FJLplans)



Pending: **Nick the Greek**, 298 Castro (last occupied by Rocket Fizz); **Yifang Boba Shop** at 143 Castro.



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## Locked into Old Mountain View's History: The Ames Building



by Jerry Steach

This newsletter occasionally spotlights historically significant buildings in Old Mountain View, notably many in the city's downtown. Here, modernity blends with history and select properties dating back a century or more coalesce with today's vibrant atmosphere. While there may not be plaques or other official acknowledgements of their roles in the city's history, these historic buildings' obviously unmodern architectures and distinctive details tell a story of Mountain View's rich past. Their ownerships may have changed through the generations, but their histories endure.

Downtown abounds with structures that fit that description—at once both timeless and undergoing measured transition. Among them is the Ames Building, at 169 to 175 Castro St., which as of this writing is for sale. It was originally constructed in 1903 by and named for Prof. Daniel Titus Ames, a teacher, author, and penmanship expert renowned for his court testimony on handwriting. Like many other downtown properties at the time, the Ames Building was destroyed in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, and Ames lost most of his life savings. He soon rebuilt it, however, using a blend of architectural influences popular in the

early 20th Century. Upgrades to its façade were made at various times in following years. Prof. Ames, who also resided in the building, passed away not long after his namesake structure was rebuilt.

The Ames Building's commercial occupants over the past century have included a hardware store, a newspaper, a grocery, and various restaurants. Its ground floor retail space until recently was occupied by Mountain View Lock and Key on one side, and the quirky, one-of-a-kind Jehning Family Lock Museum on the other. (The lock store moved to Evelyn Ave. and the museum closed.) The Jehning family purchased the building from Ames's heirs, who donated some of his textbooks and other items to be displayed in the back of the museum. The mixed-use building has five private apartment units, most of them converted from offices.

Still owned by the Jehning family, the Ames Building is listed for sale as a "renovation opportunity," as opposed to a development option—an indication that when this architectural gem does sell, it will both retain much of its original character and serve as a powerful reminder of Mountain View's early years. ●



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