

View From The Chair

by David Lewis

First, I would like to thank Bierhaus for their wonderful efforts on our OMVNA mixer, organized by Max Hauser, this last October 12th. Our newsletter schedule didn't permit a proper response immediately after the event. Bierhaus, at Castro and California, offered OMVNA residents a wonderful German culinary afternoon where neighbors enjoyed the restaurant's specialties and draft beers, and my wife and I had a great time. We'd also like to thank Gelato on Castro Street for their continuing support for OMVNA and the volunteers who distribute the OMVNA newsletter, who presumably benefit from the free ice cream.

Second, following a very active campaign, we have a (partially) new City Council in 2015. We will want to watch what the new Council does, when it has a voice in how Mountain View and Old Mountain View are developed. The critical votes are those when a new development needs a zoning change to proceed—here the City Council actually has a chance to make a choice.

Third, aside from attending City Council or Zoning Administrator or EPC or DRC meetings, there is a lot OMV residents can do to keep our

City and neighborhood a nice place to live. There are lots of positions on City boards and commissions that need filling by those with the time and interest.

Check the City website for these opportunities. There are also lots of other volunteering opportunities for those with the time—at the Mountain View Library, at our local schools, at the Day Worker Center, and many others. Instead of bemoaning what is happening to Mountain View, get out and do something to change it!

Finally, if you appreciate trees and flowers and greenery and open spaces, you have a special stake in how Mountain View grows. Every development project exchanges smaller new trees for heritage trees. (Project submissions must now include information on how quickly the canopy will grow.) Every new project that doesn't provide public open space or parkland in the development, through paying in lieu fees instead, deprives Mountain View of the open space, public space, and parkland that we are critically short of. Our 'City of Trees' is challenged by the loss of trees, tree canopy, open spaces and parks.

Can you show the City Council how to change this, and convince them that they should?

Stadium Parking Survey

by Tiffany J. Chew

Review of the Levi's Stadium Parking Pilot Program will begin in January through March with City staff and the Downtown Committee.

The review process will also include input from the downtown businesses and surrounding residential neighborhoods.

Staff will be collecting input via an online survey, which will be available soon.

To fill out the survey, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/Event-Parking-Survey>

Once the information is collected, the Downtown Committee and City Council will review the program and proposed recommendations in the Spring of 2015.



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 May Issue are due by April 15, 2015.



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

by Jaime Garrett

by Sgt. Saul Jaeger



Medication Recycling

Looking for a place to recycle your expired and unused medication? Here are some options of how to safely dispose of them:

<http://baywise.org/> An overall good resource for recycling where you type in your zip code and what you're trying to get rid of (in this case medications) and it will generate a list of facilities nearest to your location.

The closest location that's free is the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant which is located at 2501 Embarcadero Way, Palo Alto, CA 94303. Their phone number is 650.329.2122, though you do not need to make an appointment or to call ahead, just show up (M-F 8-5) and drop off the medications.

Candle Safety

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires — and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn. The Fire Departments asks you to think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles.

Should you choose to use open flame candles we ask that you

"CANDLE WITH CARE"

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.

- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.

- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.

- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.

- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.

- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.

- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.

As a final note: have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.

Sidewalk Safety

The sidewalk is a safe place for pedestrians to walk or run on the city streets without the need to worry about vehicles. Even so there are hazards. The sidewalks are often overgrown with vegetation, roots and broken concrete which can cause a person to trip, slip or fall.

It is important to keep shrubs, plants and ground cover cleared from the sidewalk areas in order to allow safe travel on the sidewalk. If you are not sure if the property is your responsibility or the responsibility of the city, you can contact Public Works at 650-903-6300.

Another safety concern is vehicles parked partially in a driveway and partially protruding across the sidewalk. This forces pedestrians to walk into the street and possibly into traffic in order to maneuver



around the parked vehicle. Avoid parking your vehicle in a manner that it is blocking the sidewalk, even if it is only for a short period of time (you can receive a citation for this).

For traffic-related or other questions use the AskMV shortcut on www.mountainview.gov to contact the Mountain View Police Department.

Wet Weather Driving and Safety

Many of us are not used to driving in wet weather and there's more wet weather on the way. Wet weather driving safety starts before you even start the car.

Replace your windshield wipers so that they clear the glass in one swipe. Also make sure all your lighting equipment is working properly and your tires have the proper tread depth.

Keep in mind that if your windshield wipers are on, your headlights should be on.

Some things to keep in mind:

- Allow extra time to get where you need to go.

- Speed is the most common contributing factor in traffic collisions.

Wet weather = slow down.

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, our blog 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.

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Our Village Harvest

by Craig Diserens

Our Village Harvest organization does something simple: we get extra fruit from backyards and small orchards to people who need it. In 2014 Village Harvest volunteers served 610 homeowners and orchards, and picked 207,000 pounds of fruit.

As tree owners generously offer their extra fruit, tens of thousands of children, seniors, and families receive free food through the local food pantries that we donate it to.

We'd like to serve even more homeowners and orchards in 2015. Please:

- Request Harvesting through our web site two months before you expect your fruit will be ripe.
- Encourage your neighbors to offer their extra fruit!
- Support us with funds as well as fruit. We've volunteer powered, but it still takes money for trucks, equipment, insurance, and organizing staff.

Because of sometimes overwhelming demand, even with advance notice we may not make it to every home that requests assistance. If you're able to pick your fruit or have a smaller amount, most food pantries, food banks, and meal kitchens are delighted to receive fruit and produce from home gardens.

Find Community Food Drop Off Locations and "how to harvest" info on our website (www.villageharvest.org), and feel free to call us at (888) FRUIT 411 for advice.

Thanks for offering your extra fruit to the community!



Immigrant House Renovation Plans

by Marina Marinovich

It's official! Immigrant House is to be incorporated into the design of Mountain View's newest park.

The Old Mountain View neighborhood's 1880's historic little laborer's house will be included in the design of the 1.22 acre park at 771 North Rengstorff Ave. On December 9, the City Council approved the funding of design services for the park. The selected design group, Callander and Associates, has worked with several cities on very successful park projects, which include moving the Neutra House in Los Altos.

Once Immigrant House has been renovated and relocated to the new park, it will stand as a humble remnant of Old Mountain View's pioneer past. It is to be hoped that the property will remain as undisturbed and natural as possible as this is a jewel of a site, reminding Mountain View residents of all generations of their agrarian roots. The park will also provide a sanctuary for indigenous wildlife, right in the middle of the very busy North Rengstorff area.

Immigrant House incorporates building techniques that have not been seen in more than 100 years. It also exemplifies the difficult living conditions that immigrants endured while trying to improve their lives in America. It is probably the oldest surviving home in Mountain View, and the last remaining laborer's cottage in Santa Clara Valley. That it lasted in the downtown Mountain View neighborhood until 2012 is a miracle unto itself! Its tenants and those of others like it built the infrastructure that made Mountain View what it is today.

Prospective donors are expressing interest in the use of the structure, to be determined during the design of the park. The Friends of Immigrant House hope to exhibit the house as a static display. They have been given a nine month extension to raise \$113,500 for this purpose, with \$55,000 raised so far. Now that a specific design plan is on its way, we can bear in on raising the remaining \$58,500.

Your tax-deductible contribution will ensure that our stories, and those of our ancestors, are told for generations to come. Please donate by going to the Los Altos Community Foundation website, <http://tinyurl.com/k7fdpbb>.



I will hug you and squeeze you, and I will call you my valentine. Big hugs. AS to BB

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Community Forest

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pruning (drooping or dead branches), you may contact the Forestry Division at 650.903.6273 or parks@mountainview.gov or via Ask Mountain View at www.mountainview.gov.

The City does require that we nurture those trees, especially when they are young—during the first one to three years. This means watering your street tree 5 to 10 gallons per week, delivering the water as directly onto the root ball as possible. If you use a hose, 10 gallons is only 1 minute of watering—less than an extremely short shower. The City does NOT want you to fertilize your street tree since very few of us know what fertilizers to apply or how. Good watering is all we need to do.

THE MASTER PLAN

The City of Mountain View has a Master List of trees that are selected for our streets. Each street has a set of recommended Master Street Trees. This list is reviewed and updated every 10 years.

Master Trees are chosen to thrive in our urban/suburban environments, rather than from the list of Native Trees, which often require more space and intensive maintenance.

If your tree needs to be replaced, you may contact the department and discuss which tree species you would like to see in front of your home.

THE DROUGHT

The Parks Division is one of the largest water users of the City and takes conservation very seriously. The team is constantly evaluating how best to address conservation and usage, including the use of recycled water where possible.

Even if you are conserving water, letting your lawn and garden turn brown, remember: Protect Your Street Tree. It belongs not just to you, but to all of us.

The Community Tree Master Plan for the next 15-20 years is under review right now. Find the link on the City web site to download the draft proposal at <http://tinyurl.com/klv33ox>. The Study Group will meet with the City Council on February 24th, with an adoption plan for June.

If you have questions about your street tree, the Master Plan, or any other trees or parks issues, feel free to contact the department at parks@mountainview.gov or Parks and Open Space Manager, Bruce Hurlburt at bruce.hurlburt@mountainview.gov.



Good Neighbors in Old Mountain View

View, Los Altos and Sunnyvale, and they are part of the Old Mountain View neighborhood. They can use our financial support, and occasionally some help with their fundraising events.

The Day Worker Center of Mountain View, used to be housed in our neighborhood, continues with its wonderful work from their own building at 113 Escuela Avenue. They always need people to teach English and other subjects.

Down the street on Stierlin Road, the Community Services Agency of Mountain View, Los Altos, and Los Altos Hills, our community's original safety net organization, has many volunteer opportunities, starting with helping out in their Food and Nutrition Center. One of our neighbors helps every week with getting them donations of unsold produce at the end of each Farmers' Market.

There are also many in our community who need assistance. Let's continue looking out for each other, and here in this wealthy valley, let us remain aware of so many who are in need and who live nearby.

Here are some additional suggestions from your neighbors—just a drop in the bucket. If you have favorites, send them to us (editorOMVNA@yahoo.com) for inclusion in upcoming issues of the OMVNA Newsletter.

Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts has over 300 volunteers who usher, act as lobby hosts and more. Everyone is friendly and you'll meet a lot of people and see a lot of varied entertainment. For information, contact Audience Services Manager Liz Nelson at liz@mvcpa.com or call 650-903-6568.

Hope's Corner serves a free breakfast and sack lunch to hungry people every Saturday at Trinity United Methodist Church, at the corner of Hope and Mercy Streets. People served include both those who are homeless as well as those who have housing but struggle to make ends meet. There is no age minimum for volunteers, so this is a "family friendly" volunteer experience. http://hopes-corner.force.com/GW_Volunteers__JobCalendar

Silicon Valley Bicycle Exchange (SVBX), right here in Mountain View, tunes up and fixes donated bicycles. They work closely with several charities on the Peninsula and donate the bicycles to people in need. No experience needed, just a willingness to help: <http://bikex.org/>

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Mountain View Educational Foundation (www.mvef.org) consists of volunteers working to enhance the educational offerings in all nine K-8 public schools in Mountain View. This is where a lot of the funding for art, music, after-school sports, and other much-loved programs comes from. Find your niche here!

At the Mountain View Public Library, many volunteers help keep the library running smoothly by assisting with shelving, children's programs, or ESL, for example. The non-profit Friends of the Library organization mans the Lobby Shop, runs quarterly book sales, and sells donated books online, with all proceeds going to the library.

Most of the local hospitals have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities, either directly or through community organizations.

Science is Elementary (SiE) brings volunteer scientists and engineers into elementary school classrooms to lead small groups of children in hands-on experiments, improving their education in ways that otherwise might not happen. The time commitment is just two hours a month during the school year. Volunteers can start anytime during the year. <http://elementaryschoolscience.org/>

Don't forget the OMVNA Newsletter. We are always looking for articles and also for people to help distribute the newsletter to the neighborhood.



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• You will get back an automated message from yahoogroups
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For more information about the OMVNAtalk list, please see <http://www.omvna.org/omvnataalk.html>

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