

OMVNA Newsletter

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Full Recycle: Food Scraps Pilot in Old Mountain View

by Lori Topley

A new food scraps collection pilot began July 16 for residents living in 980 homes in Old Mountain View within the boundaries shown on the map. The pilot is only for homes that have curbside trash cart service. Residents with bin service are not included.

With the recent focus on climate change and global warming, the need to keep food out of land-

fills is well established.

When organic materials decompose in a landfill, they produce methane, a greenhouse gas 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Just as important is preventing the waste of a valuable resource.

Throwing away food is no different from throwing away aluminum cans. When food scraps and food-soiled paper are composted, the compost can be used by land-scaping and agriculture operations, reducing fertilizer and water use and benefiting the soil.

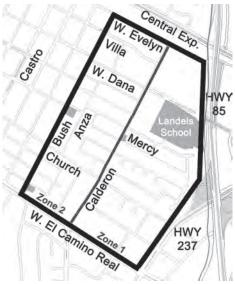
A simple approach to a food

scraps program is to have residents put food scraps in with their yard trimmings. However, cities with this type of program are reporting low participation rates, resulting in an expensive program with low land-fill diversion since it is substantially more expensive to compost a food/yard trimming mix than yard trimmings alone.

To increase diversion and keep costs down, city staff, along with SMaRT Station partner cities Palo Alto and Sunnyvale, searched for different program ideas. All three cities are testing different programs (Palo Alto has completed this phase). Results from all three pilots will be evaluated before any final options are presented to the City Council in early 2016.

The food scraps and yard trimmings mix collected from the pilot will be composted, but separately from the rest of the yard trimmings collected in Mountain View.

In Mountain View, the pilot area has been split into 2 zones.



In Zone 1, the control area, residents may place their food scraps and food-soiled paper in their yard trimmings cart and these carts will be collected weekly. In Zone 2, residents do the same, however, col-

continued on page 7

Join Us for Ice Cream Social in the Park on August 16

by Robert Cox

Join us Sunday, August 16 from 1-3 p.m. at Mercy Bush Park for our annual Old Mountain View Neighborhood Ice Cream Social. Once again, we will be featuring an Immigrant House theme as our city takes its final steps in providing a permanent home and central location for our 1880's Bryant Street landmark at the new park being developed at 771 North Rengstorff Ave.

Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of art projects with an Immigrant House theme, children's games and prizes, raffles, balloon twisting, live entertainment, and a visit from the Mountain View Fire Department!

What would our Ice Cream Social be without a live appearance from Mountain View Mayor John McAlister and his crew from Baskins Robbins? They will be there with a delicious assortment of ice cream flavors and the ever-popular Sprinkles Bar.

As in previous years, we are asking for a donation of \$2.50 per individual (per ice cream cone) or



five dollars per family to help offset the cost of the event. Any money raised beyond the cost of the event will go to support our neighborhood newsletter, website, community events, and provide radios and other equipment for our earthquake Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Bring the whole family to celebrate and enjoy the last days

of summer with your neighbors, friends, and their children!

We offer a special thanks to the Kiwanis Club and their young Key Club volunteers, who will be helping with the children's events, to our performers, and to our local businesses who are providing the raffle prizes. But above all, we need you and your family there to make it a complete OMVNA event.

Radio Check

OMVNA CERT invites everyone, whether a CERT member or not, to bring their FRS or GMRS 2-way radio(s) to the Ice Cream Social 1 to 3 p.m. at Mercy-Bush Park on Sunday August 16.

Our volunteers will offer advice and assistance in radio operation, plus basic instructions on how to use these radios to help out during an earthquake or other major emergency.

Community Service Profile: 40 Years of Mountain View Mediation

For 40 years, Mountain View has been very fortunate to have a Mediation Program dedicated to helping our residents resolve disputes that arise in our neighborhoods, improving the quality of life in Mountain View.

Each year, the Mountain View Mediation Program responds to over 450 initial requests for help, and opens approximately 225 cases for dispute resolution. The MVMP also provides facilitation services for the city's civility round table, other city initiated community meetings, and meetings between or within organizations.

I met with Catherine Brooker, case manager of the Mountain View Mediation Program (MVMP), to find out more about the history of the program, the services it provides, and plans for the future.

Susan: Tell us about the history of the MVMP. How did this program get started?

Catherine: On September 30, 1975, the City's first group of volunteer mediators started handling mediation cases to address rental issues. In the late 1980's, the City instituted a Neighborhood Preservation Program in an effort

to preserve the City's aging neighborhoods. As part of this effort, in 1988 the City Council expanded the City's Mediation Program to handle neighborhood disputes.

Susan: Could you tell me about the types of problems you have helped solve?

Catherine: Many requests concern landlord/tenant issues, such as termination notices, security deposit disputes, rent increases, and maintenance/repair issues. Neighbor to neighbor disputes, including shared fences, barking dogs, and concerns regarding quiet enjoyment are also common. We also facilitate workplace concerns, as well as person to person disputes, but these are far fewer. We don't handle private concerns that involve litigation such as divorces or child custody.

Susan: How would we open a discussion with your group?

Catherine: Any Mountain View resident is welcome to call 650 960-0495, Monday through Friday, normal business hours.

When a call comes in, we like to know a little bit about what's going on. All information that callers provide is confidential. We do not share any information with other agencies or

by Susan Bickford and Catherine Brooker ing with other people. That being said, ort, we are sometimes able to resolve a dispute by phone, so in that instance we will share information with the other party if given permission by the requesting person.

We are not attorneys and don't offer legal advice, but we do talk about options and help people think through alternatives. Sometimes that involves helping clients write a formal letter and/ or mediation. While we do not write a letter on someone's behalf, we can review a draft and offer comments. We stay neutral with regard to both parties, as a means to help everyone involved come to agreement. We provide alternate community resources if necessary and also refer someone to legal services, if appropriate.

Susan: How does the mediation process work?

Catherine: After a caller indicates he/she would like to proceed with mediation, we send a letter inviting the other party. The letter goes out with an accompanying brochure and a letter from the Mayor of the City of Mountain View, encouraging participation in mediation. Then,

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

by Jaime Garrett



Pancake Breakfast

Mountain View Firefighters 11th Annual Pancake Breakfast Saturday, October 3, 2015 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Fire Station 4 229 N. Whisman Rd Mountain View, CA 94041

Adults- \$7.00 Children 12 and under - \$5.00

The Mountain View Firefighters host a Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction every year as a kick off to Fire Prevention month. This year's breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 3, at Mountain View Fire Station 4, located at 229 N. Whisman Rd. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice and coffee, all of which were donated by local businesses and organizations. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation.

Traffic Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility

The safety of all pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers on our roads is of utmost importance to the Mountain View Police Department and believe it or not, it's almost back to school time. This is a great time to take a few minutes to remind ourselves and our youth about traffic safety.

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. Walking

Everyone is responsible for traffic safety—even pedestrians and there's a lot that a pedestrian can do to decrease their chances of being involved in a traffic collision.

Vision and Attention: Look around and be aware. As a pedestrian it is important to try to see where the driver is looking-they might not even know you're there. While it is the driver's responsibility to make sure it's safe to go, it is also the pedestrian's responsibility to enter the crosswalk safely.

 Pedestrian rules: It's important to follow the signs and signals as posted (and per the law). If the red hand is flashing you may not start across an intersection. Cross at roadway corners and preferably in crosswalks. Don't dart across a roadway.

 Distractions: As nice as it is to listen to music and/or text with friends while walking, this is a huge distraction. No one wants to be the star of the next online video walking into a pole.

Bikina

Many of our youth will be biking to school this year and there are some very simple things you can remind them of (and do yourself) to ensure that everyone makes it to their destination safely.

• **Helmet**: Yep, it's that simple—but there's more. You have to actually wear it! Wearing a helmet reduces the chances of serious injury in an accident but will do nothing to protect you if it's on your handlebars or attached to your backpack.

 Rules of the road: Roadway rules are there for your protection and help ensure the safe flow of traffic. Bicyclists are governed by the California Vehicle Code: ride with the flow of traffic, on the cor-rect side of the street, don't ride in crosswalks (walk the bike), make safe turning movements, and don't

by Sgt. Saul Jaeger NOUNT DEPAR

dart across traffic.

• Trends: We have seen an increase in the popularity of "fixie bikes" or bikes without a freewheel. These bikes are great for velodrome racing but not for the street. Many come without brakes, which is actually illegal. Take a look at your child's bike and see if it's this type you might be surprised.

Driving

For those of us with children who are driving, there are some simple habits we can teach them to help them be safe.

• Texting and driving and talking on the cell phone: This is still a very common violation and still a common cause of collisions. Have your child put his/her phone somewhere they won't be tempted to check it (or hear it) while they're driving. Children will mimic behavior so seeing you texting and driving sends the wrong message.

• **Defensive driving:** Reiterate the importance of scanning and anticipating the actions of EVERYONE on the roadway: other vehicles, bi-

cyclists, pedestrians, etc.

• Life style changes: Teach your children to plan for having enough time to get to their destinations safely without feeling like they have to rush - easier said than done.

Susie Mader

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It's Not Just Books: The Mountain View Public Library

by Julie Loviñ

Are you looking for information? Leisure time reading? How-to classes? Help with your Hindi accent? Use of a sewing machine or a bike-repair station? Engaging and educational activities for kids? Ridiculously inexpensive pre-loved books? Unusual small gifts? Just plain Internet access? Maybe you need a private meeting room?

In the heart of Old Mountain View, the City of Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin Street, offers all of these, 6-1/2 days a week. The books, periodicals, and digital media you want are there, plus downloadable e-books (plus you can get books from other California libraries through the Link+consortium), but this is a community resource center in a very broad sense.

Emily Weak, one of five creative Adult Services librarians, describes the mix of activities she oversees: development of practical skills such as gardening, making useful things by hand (knitting, sewing, and special projects), and food-related activities (talks on cheese and yogurt, for instance).

There are also educational opportunities that improve and bring together our community: setting up a graywater supply, financial skills, homeless outreach sessions led by a Community Services Agency staff member, an ESL Conversation Club, a Language Swap time, and classes leading to citizenship. Throw in lots

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of fun: music-making in every form (did you enjoy the ukulele group at Thursday Night Live?), dance (belly dancing on August 10!), and exercise.

On the second floor there is always a huge crossword puzzle for anyone passing by to work on. August 20 is Lego Day for adults. In addition, residents can reserve small meeting rooms at the Reference Desk.

This library is also very much for children and their parents: special reading groups for different levels (starting with children who can barely walk), a summer reading program, special musical performances geared to kids, and story-telling. A recent event in Pioneer Park attracted over 600 people!

Go to library.mountainview. gov and look at the monthly event calendars for the full story. That's also where to find an online library catalog.

With programs like this, in addition to its role as a knowledge repository, the library is very wellused. Rosanne Macek, our Library Services Director, says that in an average week, 13,000 people walk through the doors. That's over 1/6 the population of Mountain View.

You might wonder who pays for all these services. The City funds staff salaries and the book (etc.) collections.

Friends of the Library contributes a notable amount of money raised through its volunteer work in the Lobby Shop (think books, extraordinary puppets, gadgets, toys, bookbags...) and in connection with online bookselling and the quarterly on-site booksales.

Donating the books you no longer want—there's a slot off the driveway on Mercy Street—is a big help: the Friends turn them into funding for most of the special programs.

Another Friends gift I've found particularly useful is the rack of bus schedules, near the "honor checkout" shelves. The bike repair station is grant-funded (including a free Saturday bike clinic with a mechanic). There are many ways to make these things happen.

Besides used books and DVDs, the library is also looking for jigsaw puzzles, board games, Legos, and seeds. The reference desk upstairs is the best place to take these.



Leadership Mountain View Registration Extended

by Kim Copher

The Leadership Mountain View program for 2016 has extended its registration period from July 30 to August 30.

Leadership Mountain View enters its 27th year and this is going to be one of its best, according to new Program Director Paul Saiedi. The class of 2016 will include powerful speakers and influencers from Mountain View's civic, business, and community life, as well as community members who went to become more engaged in the life of their city.

LMV offers participants the opportunity to connect and network with innovative and diverse fellow class members from within Mountain View. You are invited to come be a part of the class and the legacy of leaders LMV has helped to develop. The program runs from September through May and meets once a month on a Friday. Become a more powerful leader in your local community and take the first step by filling out an application.

For more information about the upcoming program visit http://www.chambermv.org/leadership/or contact Paul directly at paul@chambermv.org.



Call for Ice Cream Social Volunteers

We need volunteers for the Ice Cream Social. Contact Marina Marinovich, mkm@bi0s.com, or Robert Cox, robert.cox@intel.com, if you are able to help.

- · Table volunteers
- Canopies or tents to borrow
- Put up signs
- Pick up supllies at the CERT trailer
- More lawn chairs

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 November issue are due by October 13, 2015.

Calderon Farmhouse **Restoration Underway**

by Katherine Forrest

The small farmhouse on Calderon that was built by Charles Abbott in 1885, now the second oldest building in Mountain View, is well on its way to being restored and becoming a very visible part of

the neighborhood.

The house was built at a pivotal time in this region's history, when local agriculture was shifting from wheat production to growing fruit and nuts. Most of us remember it not all that long ago as a white and blue house set way back on its lot across Calderon from the east end of Velarde, surrounded by retired walnut trees, a large redwood tree, and the remains of a garden. Its recent move to the front of the property is its second move. The added-on back rooms and ramp have been removed to bring the house back to close to its original modest dimensions.

The original 12-acre Abbott property had been reduced to 1.1 acres when the Mountain View Community Cohousing (MVCC) bought it in 2009 from the family of the late Anne Bakotich, whose family had owned and lived on the property since 1926, gradually selling off most of the acreage.

MVCC worked closely with Mountain View city officials to find a way to preserve the farmhouse while still being able to build their now-completed 19-unit condominium complex. This included moving the house nearer to the street and rotating it. The termite-infested ornate porch had to be removed and rebuilt. A great deal of work has been required to bring the structure up to code, while preserving its external appearance. It should be finished by this fall.

A nice additional touch will be added this winter when MVCC will plant its own fruit trees, creating a small orchard reminiscent of the farmhouse's surroundings when it

was first built.



Abbott / Bakotich Farmhouse 2013

A View from the Chair: Ground Floor Retail

As the City Council deals with development proposals for downtown, I would like to share my thoughts.

 Office space is far more profitable than retail space: 3 or 4 times as profitable for the developer.

 Profit-oriented developers often prefer to make their buildings 100% office space with no retail or residential spaces.

If Castro Street and its surroundings turn into a mass of large office buildings, what will down-town become? The major current issue is with the Downtown Precise Plan requirements for the east-side stretch of Castro between El Camino Real and Mercy Street, where developers are not required to include ground floor retail.

Fixing this will take action by the Council this fall to amend the Precise Plan for this area. Otherwise, we could have a row of 55' tall office buildings, in the stretch where the St. Joseph's parking lot, Morocco's and the Cognition Cyclery stand now, with no ground floor retail at all.

There is a real issue here. The City tries to get developers to provide ground floor retail, but it can be a struggle, as we have seen with

the 900 Villa office project next to Chez TJ, where the historic Pearson house once stood. Here the developer, in exchange for some changes to zoning rules by the City, was supposed to include ground floor retail (possibly a coffee shop) and an electronic sign along Bryant Street with historical information about Mountain View.

by David Lewis

If you go by this location, you will see neither. The developer and the current tenants are not living up to the agreement with the City. The developer seems not to have tried very hard to get a ground floor retail tenant, and the current tenants attempted to convert the vacant ground floor space at the corner of Villa and Bryant into a break room, until the City squelched that idea. The space is still standing vacant.

There seems to be little hope that anything will happen here as the City has no effective way of enforcing the original agreement with

the developer.

OMVNA residents should keep on top of this to ensure the Council does the right thing in the fall to preserve the character of downtown Mountain View as a lively venue for residents, visitors and local workers, not a barren canyon of high rise office buildings.

OMVNA 2016 Steering Committee Elections

Interested in serving Old Mountain View on the OMVNA Steering Committee? 2016 elections will be in December, 2015.

If you are interested in running or want to know more about roles and responsibilities of Steering Committee positions, contact Robert Cox, robert.cox@intel.com.



Abbott / Bakotich Farmhouse 2015

OMVNA Steering Committee

Chair: David Lewis Robert Cox Vice-Chair: Treasurer: Larry Rush Shannon Madison Secretary: At-Large: Paul Blumenstein At-Large: **Andrew Heaton Newsletter:** Susan Bickford Community

Liaison: Jamil Shaikh

Subcommittee Chairs

CERT: Aaron Grossman

Historical

Preservation: Marina Marinovich Residential Parking: Robert Cox, Julie Lovins

Advertising: Kristin Bailev

Next Meeting: October 19, 2015

Parking Pilot Update by Tiffany Chew

The Levi's Stadium Parking Pilot Program will continue into early 2016 with modifications, the City Council decided on April 21. This decision was based on paid parking demand and parking citations.

 Modified Residential Parking Permit Boundary: Households in a portion of the Old Mountain View neighborhood and part of the neighborhood north of the Transit Center (including a portion of the Willowgate and Moffett/Stierlin neighborhoods) will each be mailed two parking permits at the beginning of August. The Old Mountain View portion for west-of-Castro is bounded by Evelyn, Castro, California, and Franklin. East of Castro the boundaries are Evelyn, Calderon, Mercy, and Castro. (Please see map.)

 Time Restrictions: Within these boundaries there will be a three-hour parking timed restriction for all on-street and off-street public parking. Restrictions will be in effect on weekday event days from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and on weekend event days from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Parking signs will be updated and/or removed this summer. The Police Department will continue to enforce parking on these days.

 Modified Paid Parking Program: The number of paid parking locations will be reduced from four locations to one—Parking Lot 9 between Hope and View Streets, north of Dana Street.

The program will be in effect on 49er home game days only, beginning with the Sunday, August 23, 2015, 49ers vs. Cowboys NFL Football Game and ending on January 3. The Superbowl, February 7, will call for a special plan yet to be announced. For more information about the program including a full list of program event days, visit http://goo.gl/YzEHfQ.

To sign up for neighborhood alerts by OMVNAtalk email:

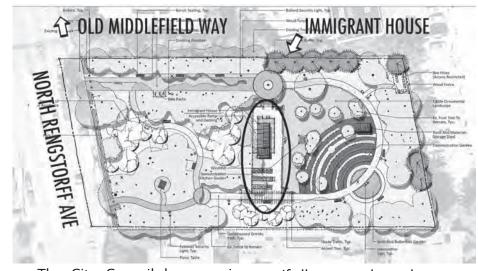
- Send a blank message (no subject or content needed) from your preferred email address to omvnatalksubscribe@yahoogroups.com
- You will get back an automated message from yahoogroups

Select option 2 ("Reply, Send") to confirm your request.

more information about the OMVNAtalk list, please see http://www.omvna.org/omvnatalk.html

Immigrant House Will Move to New Park

by Marina Marinovich



The City Council has unanimously approved the new park design for 771 North Rengstorff Avenue, with Immigrant House in the center of the 1.2 acre lot (see park design drawing). Restored with historical accuracy to show the living quarters for laborers and migrant workers more than a century ago, this educational display will commemorate the valley's agrarian roots.

The park will be a sanctuary that also celebrates our wildlife and native plants. It will include a demonstration garden and bee-hives, while preserving a large heritage tree canopy.

If all goes as planned, construction on the new park will begin next spring with a completion goal of the end of 2016. Meanwhile, we are still short \$17,000 of the \$90,000 (half the projected cost of the Immigrant House restoration) that the City has asked us to cover.

If you would like to contribute and receive a tax deduction from our 501(c)(3) sponsoring organization, please phone the Los Altos Community Foundation, Mountain View Immigrant House Fund, at 650-949-5908. We are grateful to all those who have contributed or will.



Mediation

continued from page 2 the case is assigned to one of our mediators from the mediator panel. Mountain View has a significant interest in building mediation skills within the community and the city has invested years of funding to this program for that purpose. Every year community members are invited to apply to become a mediator and as a result the city of Mountain View has quite a few mediators among its residents. I believe that MVMP is unique in this regard.

Susan: If someone is interested in joining the program, do they need special skills?

Catherine: While program administration is funded by the City of Mountain View, the mediators are all volunteers from Mountain View neighborhoods. The funding pays for the training, administration, and monthly meetings to increase skills and knowledge. You do not have to have a background in mediation, facilitation, or similar experience. Each year, starting in February, applicants go through an interview process and, if accepted, will take a 40-hour training.

Susan: What do you see as MVMP's challenges and plans for

the future?

Catherine: Reaching the population that needs us the most has our ongoing attention. Mountain View citizens most often helped by the program are the most vulnerable members of the community, often without access to any other help with their problems. Last fiscal year, about 75% of the parties opening cases were in the low or very low income ranges. Of this group, approximately 30% were members of racial minorities. We do have a Spanish-speaking case manager who is available for all Spanish-speaking Mountain View residents.

Susan: Your 40th anniversary is coming up in October. How do you plan to celebrate?

Catherine: John Greanias, co-chair of MVMP for the 2015-2016 program year, along with the 40th year celebration planning committee, will be hosting a celebration event on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at the Mountain View City Hall. This intentionally coincides with the American Bar Association National Mediation Week in October 11-17, 2015. Please be on the lookout for more information, coming soon!

Contact us at mediate4mv@ housing.org, 650 960-0495, or visit http://www.mountainview.gov/depts/comdev/preservation/mediation.asp

Support the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail Walk, Run, or Volunteer on Sunday Sept 27 Trailblazer 2015



10K & 5K Racers, Trail Walkers, & Volunteers get race T-shirt. Free Kids races, games, face painting!

Online Reg & Mail-in forms at www.stevenscreektrail.org

RACE-DAY Reg 7:30AM, Starts 8:30AM 1065 La Avenida, MV Microsoft Campus. Free bicycle parking corral.

Mountain View Public Safety Foundation Initiative

by Kim Copher

Headline: "Suspect flees onto school property! Suspicious person reported on school campus!"

In order to secure the safety of our students while our fire and law enforcement personnel resolve a dangerous situation, a scenario like this can result in a school being put on "lock down".

Given the wide array of possible scenarios, a "lock down" can last anywhere from a few minutes to many hours. What do teachers do as students become thirsty or hungry, need to use bathroom facilities, or require first aid? There is no trip allowed to the nurse, restroom or cafeteria. For their safety, students and staff must shelter in place regardless of circumstance. With hundreds of individual classrooms, Mountain View's public and private schools serve thousands of students who could be at risk.

The Mountain View Public Safety Foundation (MVPSF) aims to address this situation by providing a "lock down kit" to each and every classroom in Mountain View. Each kit would contain invaluable support such as food, water, and emergency bathroom facilities in the event of a prolonged emergency. We would like to invite you to help us achieve this key goal by donating to this effort.

The Mountain View Public Safety Foundation (MVPSF) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation formed by local business leaders and community members to support the Mountain View Police and Fire Departments, as well as the Mountain View Police Activities League (MVPAL - http://mvpal.org/) with the ultimate goal of making the City of Mountain View a better and safer

place in which to live and work.

You can direct your donation to fund a broad range of public safety programs including police and fire officer safety, training, equipment, and new technology. In addition, donations to MVPSF support the large variety of recreational and leadership development activities provided by MVPAL to youth between the ages of five and eighteen. These programs are designed to foster mutual understanding between youth and police officers through a non-confrontational setting and to divert youth away from gangs and criminal activity.

Find out more about MVPSF at http://mvpsf.org. To donate, click the "donate" tab or go to http://mvpsf.org/donate.php.







Food Scraps Pilot

continued from page 1 lection of the garbage / trash cart shifts to every other week, along with the familiar paper and containers recyclables. This tests for the ability to keep costs flat by swapping the collection frequency of yard trimmings and garbage and increase participation and diversion. Cities in the northwest that have adopted this schedule have seen significant increases in participation as residents are more motivated to put their wet waste in the cart that gets collected weekly.

More information about the pilot can be found at www. mountainview.gov/foodscraps, but remember, only pilot participants should follow the instructions on what to do with food scraps.

