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LAMPPOST

www.omvna.org

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Restaurant Scene

by Max Hauser, restaurants@omvna.org

Dual new restaurants **Kitty Noodle House** and **Midnight Kitchen / Shinya Shokudo** (174-176 Castro), described here in May, suffered fire damage in August, a city notice says; temporarily closed at this writing.

Le Boulanger's venerable 650 Castro location closed August 21. Downtown Los Altos has the nearest site of this small bakery-café group.

Vaso Azzurro will move sometime this Fall after 27 years at 108 Castro, new site unresolved at press time. Planned new tenant there: **Cafe Ikebana**, named for the Japanese flower art, to offer Japanese drinks (including Matcha) and snacks daytimes, and a relaxed lounge format in evenings.

Ry's Poke Shack replaced Poké

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OMVNA Neighborhood Annual Meeting

Join us for our annual meeting and election of the
OMVNA Leadership Team

Monday, December 14, 2026, 7:00 PM

Location: Landels Elementary School

Check for more details: omvna.org

OMVNA Governance

Proposed 2027 OMVNA Leadership Team

The following slate will be proposed for voting at our annual meeting, Dec. 14, 2026. Note that additional nominations may also be added before or during the meeting.

Chair:

Robert Cox

Vice Chair:

David Lewis

Secretary:

Maureen Blando

Treasurer:

Carola Thompson

At Large:

Sam Ali, Bill Mark, Shivika Nayyar

Newsletter Editor:

Susan Bickford

Community Liaison:

Jamil Sheik

Subcommittee chairs:

CERT: Jim Whitfield, Jeff Dunn

Historical Preservation: Jerry Steach

Residential Parking: Jamil Shaikh

Newsletter Delivery: Lorraine Wormald

Eventors: Kristin Bailey

Technology: Jim Whitfield

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Dave Keefe - Broker & CEO
DRE 01352506 | DRE 01877646

Downtown Scene

Summer Soccer

by Tina Hodac

The Summer of Soccer event downtown was a tremendous success and wonderful example of how community events can bring people together. Throughout the World Cup, our downtown became a lively gathering place for family, friends and neighbors alike.

The large outdoor screen was the centerpiece of the Finals weekend; Our beautiful downtown was packed. Every time there was a big play on the screen, the whole crowd reacted and it was audible from down the street. The energy was contagious. In addition, there were soccer themed activities for children, giving families another excuse to come out.

Events like this prove to us the important role public gathering spaces play in building strong communities. They create opportunities for connecting while supporting our favorite local businesses. The success of this event proves that there is strong interest in more events of this kind.

"Build it and they will come." This summer showed us that when our city invests in engaging events, people respond enthusiastically. Let's hope city leaders to continue to support programs that bring residents together and create a vibrant downtown experience. I hope to see more events that make our city a lively, welcoming place for all. •



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Tori Ann Atwell
Your neighborhood
Notary Public
&
Certified
Signing Agent

(650) 996-0123

Safety Tips

Halloween Safety Tips

by Robert Maitland (MVPD) and Monica Leon (MVPD)



Halloween is a time for fun and spooky celebrations and activities, but it can also be a time for some truly scary safety hazards. As the holiday nears, take simple precautions that can help ensure the holiday remains fun and safe.

Safety Tips:

- Use glow sticks or battery-operated candles for jack-o'-lanterns and other Halloween decorations.
- When choosing costumes, stay away from long trailing fabric.
- Teach children to stay away from open flames, including jack-o'-lanterns with candles in them.
- Keep Halloween decorations away from open flames and other heat sources, such as light bulbs and heaters.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks escape routes.
- Make sure all smoke alarms are working.

On Halloween:

- Remember to always use crosswalks and traffic signals when crossing the street. Stay alert and look both ways before stepping into the road.
- Drivers, please be extra cautious and drive slowly through residential areas. Keep an eye out for children who might be running from house to house
- Make sure to carry a flashlight, glow stick, or wear reflective clothing to stay visible in the dark. This will help drivers spot you from a distance.
- Stick to well-lit areas and only visit houses with their porch lights on.
- Trick-or-treat in groups, safety is always better in numbers.

Source: National Fire Protection Association. Find the entire article at <https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/home-fire-safety/halloween> •

School News

Graham Earns National Excellence Recognition

by Cherylle Goebel and Peggy Prendergast

A strong school community depends not only on what happens in the classroom, but also on whether families feel informed, welcomed, and connected. That principle guided Isaac Newton Graham Middle School's participation in the National PTA School of Excellence program. This year, Graham was named a National PTA School of Excellence, recognizing the school community's commitment to strengthening partnerships among families, the PTA, teachers, staff, and school leadership.

The program is a year-long process in which schools and PTAs gather family feedback, identify priorities, develop an action plan, and measure progress. Schools that successfully complete the process can earn a prestigious two-year national designation.

At Graham, parent volunteers Peggy Prendergast, Kerry Klein, and Cherylle Goebel led the effort, focusing on National PTAs "Welcome All Families" standard.

The team began by surveying Graham families to identify strengths, areas needing additional support, and a baseline for measuring progress. The initial survey showed strong communication, broad access to information in families' preferred languages, and a generally welcoming school environment. It also revealed opportunities to better support families who were new to Graham or less familiar with its resources. In response, the volunteers developed an action plan focused on communication, accessibility, and family connections. Their work included examining how families received information, identifying ways to strengthen family participation and connection, and creating practical resources to help families navigate the school community. This included a one-page family

Continued on page 11

What's Up

Update on New Development in Old MV

by Robert Cox

As I have gone door to door campaigning, I have noticed that there is a lot of confusion around the topic of affordable housing. I'd like to address two of questions I have received in this column.

What does it mean for housing to be affordable, anyway?

In public policy, housing is considered to be affordable if a household need not spend more than 30% of its income on housing. The median annual household income in Mountain View is about \$190,000. This median income household could afford to spend \$4,750/month on housing. The median rent for market-rate apartments in Mountain View less than 10 years old is \$4,500/month. The median rent for an older rent-controlled apartments in Mountain View is \$2800/month. Both kinds of apartments are affordable to those with the median household income or higher. The main challenge is they can be unaffordable for low-income and very low-income people in Mountain View.

New affordable housing is primarily funded when seed money from the city is combined with external federal, state, or county funds. Beyond this, Mountain View requires new developments to include 15% affordable housing. When a developer uses the state density bonus, they may provide as much as 20% affordable housing in a project.

If the city eliminates zoning, won't developers rush to build more housing, yielding lower rents?

In short, no. Any developer must be able to cover the costs of construction and a desired profit margin, or they will not start construction. Since I left the city's Planning Commission in 2020, the city council has approved 28 new housing projects, totaling over 5,100 units. But only four projects have started construction! Two are affordable housing projects: Corso, the project on downtown parking lot #12 near the library, and Montecito Multifamily project at the corner of Shoreline and Montecito. These two projects account for 205 units. The other two projects that have started construction are single family home projects on Cuesta Drive and Sylvan Avenue, which add up to 26 units. So, units whose construction has started are only 4.5% of the total units approved.

Furthermore, vacancies of newly constructed apartments remain at 70% above normal. There is little incentive for developers to build more with so

Continued on page 11

Home

Remodeling? Do You Need a Permit?

by Keith Rodgers

When I was presented with a \$526 bill for city approval to build a 7' high fence several years ago, I asked myself the obvious question—is there any point getting a permit?

It's an issue that raises homeowners' blood pressure. People are wary about red tape. Some view permitting costs as another form of tax, or see it ideologically—it's my property, why should the government tell me what I can do with it? Some worry that a small permitted update in one part of a home may trigger expensive demands to bring other areas up to code.

In my line of work, I have no choice. I build houses in Mountain View, and as a "Construction Doula™", I help homeowners through the design and construction process for major remodels, ADUs and new builds. I've spent many years dealing with the good folks at City Hall, and while I've had occasional frustrations with them (and doubtless vice versa), I've seen a lot of value in the permitting process.

Most importantly, much city code is designed to protect us. Fire safety concerns, for example, cover anything from a small electrical wiring job to ensuring your bed

Continued on page 11



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DRE 01877646

Events Corner

We Love Rocky Road

by Joan Thunderbuilt

What is an ideal ice cream social?

I would say... not too hot, not too cold. Never run out of ice cream and toppings for miles!

Absolutely delightful music and firemen too.

The Old MV ice cream social always has a little something extra. We had lawn games, creativity areas, loads of interesting exhibitors, (see omvna.org for a list), Baskin Robbins ice cream, toppings courtesy of Landels PTA and music by a neighborhood band: The Splitz.

Thank you volunteers and neighbors for showing up. It all added up to hoards of neighbors with ice cream dripping down their smiling faces.

If you would like to help design, implement or volunteer at future events, please [contact social@omvna.org](mailto:contact.social@omvna.org). Events happen because at least 1 person has a passion to make it so!

Building community engagement, one event at a time. •



Groups forming.

Find your people.

Details on
OMVNA.ORG •

Neighborhood News Sources

- Join the neighborhood email list: OMVNAtalk2@groups.io send email to: omvnatalk2+owner@groups.io
- Online www.omvna.org
- Facebook www.fb.com/omvna
- BlueSky @oldmv.bsky.social

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

Submissions for our February 2027 issue are due by January 20, 2027.

Public Library

What's New at Mountain View Public Library

by Katie Hom, library.mountainview.gov

County Parks Passes

Visit a Santa Clara County Park for free by borrowing a vehicle hangtag from the Library! Passes can be picked up at the Customer Service desk in the lobby or placed on hold through the catalog. Each pass can be borrowed for three weeks.

Crafting with Creativebug

Did you know your library card is the ultimate crafting pass? We are thrilled to offer all residents free, unlimited access to Creativebug, the premier online destination for arts and crafts education.

Whether you are looking to brush up on a favorite hobby or learn a brand new skill, Creativebug connects you with thousands of award-winning, high-quality video classes taught by leading design experts and artists. Get started with Creativebug today by visiting MountainView.gov/SkillBuilding.

Support for Students

The Library offers many free resources to support children and teens in their studies throughout the school year.

- **Learning resources:** Online resources covering a wide range of subjects, including primary sources and interactive materials, are available with a library card.
- **Online tutoring:** 24/7 tutoring for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade with HomeworkCA, covering 250+ subjects and test prep materials from The Princeton Review.
- **Reading recommendations:** Librarian-curated lists for children through eighth grade, plus personalized recommendations by genre, theme, mood, style, and more through NoveList Plus and NoveList Plus K-8 in the Digital Library.
- **Class visits:** Youth librarian-led storytimes, library tours, and instruction tailored to class needs from elementary through high school.
- **Student Connect Cards:** High school students at participating schools receive free access to the Library's digital resources, including research databases, eBooks, eAudiobooks, and streaming services.
- **Bookmobile service:** Visits all public elementary and middle schools in Mountain View on a rotating schedule.

Learn more about these resources by visiting MountainView.gov/YouthLearning. Need more in-depth help? Students are welcome to visit the Library and receive support from our experienced staff. •



mountain view's
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craveyoga-mv.com | see what's within

crave yoga

Election Date

November 3, 2026 — 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Completed Ballots, Including Vote-by-Mail Ballots Personally delivered ballots:

Must be delivered by close of polls on November 3, 2026; Mailed ballots: Must be postmarked on or before November 3, 2026, and received by your county elections office no later than November 10, 2026.

We asked each candidate to tell us in 150 words or less:**“What would you like to tell residents of Old Mountain View about why you are running for office?”***Not all candidates provided a free statement.***Mountain View City Council:**
Eight candidates are vying for three seats that are up for election in November.**City Council
Samuel Ali**

I'm Sam Ali, a lifelong Mountain View resident, born at El Camino Hospital and raised in the community I am proud to call home. Growing up in a single parent household, my family relied on Section 8 housing and local food banks. Those experiences shaped my values and taught me the importance of opportunity, compassion, and community.

I'm running for Mountain View City Council because I want to give back to the city that gave so much to me. My priorities include affordable housing for low income and working families, supporting local businesses, safe neighborhoods, improved transportation, and making sure residents have a voice at City Hall.

I'm new to politics, but I'm not new to Mountain View. I want Mountain View to remain a place where people from all backgrounds and income levels can build a life and call home.

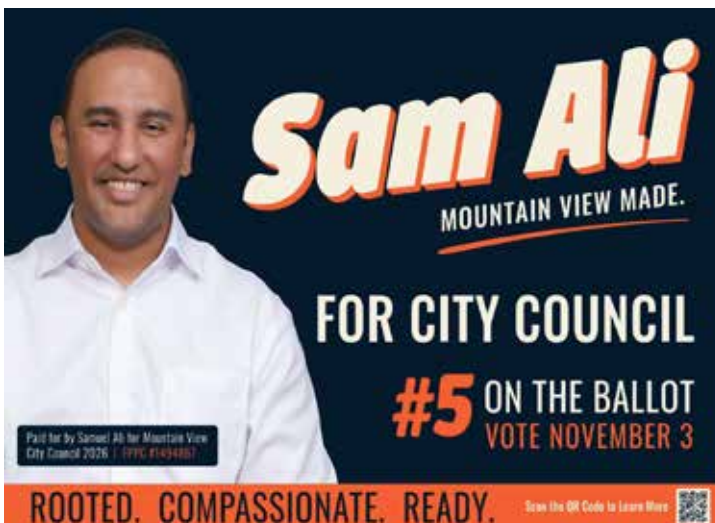
Campaign website:
samformountainview.com

**City Council
Alexander Amoroso**

Living and working in Mountain View is a true privilege. It is one of the most innovative cities in the world, which is why I want to apply my trained skills and knowledge of leadership, given my family history and love for the community and country, to keep Mountain View innovative and open to everyone.

My priorities are clear: expand workforce and affordable housing through practical public-private partnerships; support local jobs, apprenticeships, and career pathways; protect our parks and our environment; improve public transportation options and neighborhood safety and ensure City Hall continues to serve its residents above all else.

My background includes service as an Adjutant Officer in the US Army, an educator in both curriculum and policy management, a local community leader and service organizer, and a public administrator with policy creation experience at all levels of government. I will serve this community with the same dedication I have served the nation.



**YOUR OLD MOUNTAIN VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR SINCE 2011**

ENDORSED BY 9 FORMER MAYORS AND



Registration deadlines

Online : October 19, 2026

By mail (postmarked by) :
October 19, 2026



City Council
Robert
Cox

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association Secretary, Vice Chair, and now Chair, for the last 17 years. During that time, I hosted over 30 meetings, introducing new developments and discussing other issues facing our neighborhood. I have served on the city's Environmental Planning Commission and Rental Housing Committee. I am also Vice President of the Mountain View Historical Association and our local Kiwanis Chapter, and a leader in our local Sierra Club Chapter, which has endorsed me.

I have fought, and will continue to fight for well-planned growth, more parks and open space, a thriving downtown, affordable housing, and our environment. I worked to save Gateway Park, the Rose Market and other local businesses. I am a thoughtful leader, but also a man of action.

I respectfully request your vote.

You can read more about my campaign at:

<https://robertcoxforcouncil.com>.



City Council
Paul
Donahue

Mountain View has been my home for 32 years, both as a renter and homeowner. I've served on the city's Parks and Recreation Commission, Downtown Committee, Library Board, Environmental Planning Commission, and a regional land use commission. My experience is broad and deep.

An engineer by training, I dive into analysis and listen to all voices to make thoughtful decisions. I'll bring this work ethic to the City Council.

I'm proud of our city and I believe we can make it even better by building housing at all income levels, expanding parks and tree canopy, protecting our small businesses and the downtown we cherish, and confronting climate change, all while maintaining a balanced budget.

I'm endorsed by Senator Josh Becker, Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga, and eleven former mayors who know that I can give Mountain View the thoughtful, experienced leadership it deserves. I respectfully ask for your vote.

www.electpauldonahue.com



City Council
James
Kuszmaul

I was fortunate enough to grow up in Mountain View, and enjoy giving back to my community by spending thousands of hours mentoring high school robotics teams and advocating for safer streets, more homes, and civil liberties.

I've spent the past six years advocating for more housing in Mountain View so that people stop getting priced out of their homes, and so that we can continue welcoming new immigrants into our neighborhoods.

I walked and biked to school growing up, and want to build streets where parents can comfortably let their kids walk and bike to school. I'm on the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee and will use that experience to deliver safer streets.

I've worked to organize No Kings events, and believe that Mountain View must fight to protect all of its residents, regardless of immigration status.

Together, we can build a better Mountain View for all.

<https://james4mv.com/>



JAMES KUSZMAUL

FOR MOUNTAIN VIEW CITY COUNCIL

A BETTER MOUNTAIN VIEW FOR ALL

SAFE STREETS ABUNDANT HOUSING NO KINGS



JAMES4MV.COM

Paid for by James Kuszmaul for Mountain View City Council 2026, FPPC ID #1491997



November 3
VOTE
SILJA
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Safer Streets
A Greener Future
Stronger Community



SiljaPaymer.com

Paid for by Silja Paymer for MV City Council 2026, FPPC ID1488605



Voting deadlines

Personally delivered ballots: Must be delivered by close of polls on November 3, 2026

Mailed ballots: Must be postmarked on or before November 3, 2026, and received by your county elections office no later than November 10, 2026.



City Council
Silja
Paymer

As a 20-year resident, local physics teacher, mechanical engineer, and mom, Old Mountain View holds a special place in my heart. It is where I bike my kids to the train station and music lessons, surrounded by a vibrant community where neighbors connect and local businesses thrive.

My fundamental goal is making Mountain View the absolute best place in the world for kids to grow up. I want to extend that Old Mountain View feel across our city—advocating for green complete streets so everyone from children to seniors can move safely without relying on a car. I will fight to protect our native urban canopy, maintain our neighborhood's unique character in new builds through the creation of objective design standards, and champion local small businesses to keep Old Mountain View safe, sustainable, and deeply welcoming. Please reach out if you would like to share your story with me or have any questions.

Campaign website:
www.siljapaymer.com



City Council
Erik
Poicon

I'm Erik Poicon, and I'm running for Mountain View City Council because I believe people should be able to build a life, raise a family, and grow old here.

That belief is personal. I've experienced homelessness, relied on rental and food assistance, and today work as a community outreach specialist helping residents find housing, food, health care, and support.

Those decisions shaped my priorities. I want to make Mountain View more affordable, build more housing while protecting renters, support small businesses and workers, make transportation safer and more reliable, and make sure neighborhoods have the infrastructure and services they need. I also believe residents deserve a voice before decisions are made, not after. That means earlier outreach, clearer communication, and language access.

Mountain View will continue to grow and change. I want to make sure people who call this city home can afford to stay and help shape the future.



City Council
IdaRose
Sylvester

I've spent years serving Mountain View, and I'm running for City Council to put that experience to work shaping our city's future. For me, Old Mountain View embodies much of what makes Mountain View special: its history, inclusive community, local businesses, and engaged neighborhoods.

My community engagement includes the Parks and Recreation Commission, Human Relations Commission, Environmental Sustainability Task Force, and work as a volunteer City mediator. I also serve on the boards of the Mountain View Historical Association, Community Services Agency, and other local organizations, and founded Appetite for Good during the pandemic to support businesses and families.

Through these experiences, I've learned how policy, neighborhoods, businesses, and the community intersect. I know how to listen, bring people together, build coalitions, and turn good ideas into results. I bring those skills and that experience to work for you on City Council.

www.idarosesylvester.com

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Paid for by IdaRose Sylvester for Council 2026, FPPC # 1491705

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Bringing people together

Turning ideas into results

IDAROSE SYLVESTER

for Mountain View City Council

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Josh Becker, CA State Senator

Mountain View Deserves Experienced Leadership



Paul DONAHUE

CITY COUNCIL

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MVWSD

Four candidates, including two incumbents, are running for a pair of seats on the Mountain View Whisman school board.

MVWSD

Devon Conley

Incumbent

Bill Lambert

Incumbent

Quintin Riis

District Parent

Sundar Subbarayan

District Alumni Parent

*Not all candidates
provided a free statement.*

MVLA HS

Mountain View Los Altos High School District - Area 3, which includes an eastern portion of Mountain View south of Central Expressway, covering the Cuesta Park, Old Mountain View and Shoreline West neighborhoods.

Three candidates in Area 3 are vying for one seat that is up for election in November.

MVLA HS Area 3

Thida Cornes

Incumbent

Sanjay Dave

*Not all candidates
provided a free statement.*



MVLA HS Area 3

Catherine Vonnegut

I'm asking for your vote to re-elect me to the MVLA Board of Trustees, representing new Area 3.

I have spent over 40 years devoted to public education in Mountain View as a volunteer, PTA leader, and now trustee. Elected in 2018 and re-elected in 2022, I am the longest-serving current board member, having served as clerk, vice president, and president.

During my tenure, MVLA has weathered COVID-19, substantially completed the \$290 million Measure E bond, established wellness centers at all high schools, and expanded CTE pathways and alternative learning programs, while strengthening our MTSS system and developing a Graduate Profile. My priorities remain excellent academics, fiscal responsibility, safe campuses, and student wellness — the foundation of MVLA's curriculum, competition, and community.

I am a retired, award-winning software engineer with an MS from Purdue, and I bring steady, collaborative leadership to MVLA. Committed, collaborative, consistent.

www.vonne.org



Neighborhood Buzz

Bee Swarms Are Back

by Mateo Kaiser, beeswarmed.org

Bee swarm season around here usually peaks in spring, but right now we're seeing a late-season bump, and I've been seeing quite a few swarms in Mountain View over the last few weeks. A late swarm is a gamble for the bees, since the new colony has limited time to build comb and store honey before winter, which makes it all the more worth getting them to a beekeeper quickly.

So if you step outside to find a few thousand bees hanging from a branch, the best thing to know is that they're about as uninterested in you as bees ever get. With nothing to defend and bellies full of honey for the move, they usually wait quietly for a day or two while scouts go house hunting, and most hang low enough to reach from a ladder. Keep your distance, leave the hose in the garage, and report it at beeswarmed.org, where nearby beekeepers get an alert and one usually claims it within minutes. That beekeeper is often a neighbor, one of the two dozen or so beekeepers (myself included) here in Mountain View.

Swarmed started right here in Mountain View, and it has since helped protect more than 250 million bees across the US, Europe and Australia.

Mateo Kaiser is a Master Beekeeper, an Old Mountain View neighbor, and the founder of Swarmed. •

Neighborhood Real Estate

Selling a Condominium in Old Mountain View

by Alireza Jonaidi

Selling a condominium in Old Mountain View can require more preparation than simply getting the unit ready for showings. Understanding the condition and documentation of the condominium community can help reduce surprises during the transaction.

When a buyer is obtaining a mortgage, the lender may review not only the borrower and individual unit, but also the condominium project. Depending on the loan program and project, this review may involve HOA finances, reserve funding, insurance, physical condition, special assessments, repairs, and other project information.

For sellers, having HOA documents organized can be important. Buyers and lenders may request the HOA budget, reserve information, insurance documents, recent meeting minutes, information about special assessments, major repairs, pending projects, and, when applicable, litigation.

Balconies, decks, and other exterior elevated elements are another consideration. California's SB 326 established inspection requirements for certain qualifying exterior elevated elements in condominium communities, with the requirements now contained in California Civil Code §5551. For qualifying elements subject to the statute, the association is required to have them inspected at least once every nine years. The inspection requirement does not automatically determine who pays for repairs. Maintenance, repair, and replacement responsibilities can depend on the governing documents and the specific component involved.

Sellers should also identify known or pending special assessments and major repair projects. These matters may be relevant to the buyer and, in some financed transactions, the lender.

Preparation may include gathering HOA documents, identifying assessments and major projects, understanding applicable inspection information, and clarifying maintenance responsibilities.

A well-prepared condominium sale can make the process more transparent and help reduce avoidable surprises for both the seller and buyer. •

CERT Event

Shake Out Review

by Ray Osborne, www.omvna.org/cert

Our Shake Out Fair ran on Saturday, September 26, at Fairmont Park, corner of Fairmont Avenue and Bush Street, 10 to noon. If you missed it, you can still begin preparing on your own following these steps:

1. Pick one meeting place for your household. After a hard shake, people in your household may not be in the same room or at home. Phones fail when you need them. Pick a good spot: front porch, a specific tree, the school gate. Say it out loud.

2. Two piles

- A "Go Bag" is what you grab if you have to leave: papers, meds, a light, rain covering, shoes you can walk in.

- A "Stay Box" is what you need if you shelter-in-place: water (1 gallon per person per day) and food already stored for several days, a backup plan if the toilet stops.

- The fair raffled a portable toilet.

That problem is common and easy to fix Kit list: <https://www.ready.gov/kit>

3. One minute. If you feel shaking, or get an alert: drop to your hands and knees. Cover your head and neck. If a sturdy table is close, get under it and hold on. No table? Stay low by an interior wall. Do not run outside while the ground is moving. A doorway is old advice. It gets you hurt.

This was the neighborhood fair. The statewide *Great California Shakeout 2026* minute is October 15, 2026, at 10:15 a.m. Same action:

<https://www.shakeout.org/dropcoverholdon>

Remember: A place to meet. Two piles. One practiced minute. •



Sherril Brennan, Sam Ali and Ray Osborne at the CERT Shake Out. Sam won the raffle prize.

Events Corner

Upcoming Events

by Joan Thunderbuilt

Mark your calendars for some of your Neighborhood Favorites:

Hot Chalk-a-lot

A festive fall chalk party complete with chalk, hot chocolate and marshmallows.

Mercy-Bush Park
Sunday Nov 15th

Caroling Crawl

Calling all carolers and cookie eaters:

Start at Mercy-Bush Park
Coming Sunday, December 6th
Email social@omvna.org with questions or check the website.

Building community engagement, one event at a time.

Follow us: omvna.org | fb.com/omvna | [@oldmv.bsky.social](https://oldmv.bsky.social)

The Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association •

Meet Your Neighbors

by Ashvee Kanwar, kitchennextdoor.com

On any given day in Mountain View, someone is posting home-made pesto, backyard eggs, rajma chawal, zucchini soup, fresh garden tomatoes, a batch of cookies, or a pot of dal on **Kitchen Next Door**—and a neighbor nearby is picking it up within minutes.

Kitchen Next Door is a hyperlocal community initiative where neighbors share home-cooked food, homegrown produce, and garden extras with each other. No delivery, no fees, no middlemen. Just real food, shared between people who happen to live nearby.

Continued on page 11

OMVNA Eco Opinions

Is Balcony Solar Right for You?

by Bruce Karney

A bill to legalize the sale and use of “balcony solar” systems (SB 868) is on the Governor’s desk. Balcony solar systems are small portable photovoltaic systems that plug into a 120 volt outlet. They can produce up to 1200 AC watts, which is about as much power as a vacuum cleaner uses. If signed, the law will take effect January 1, 2027 and last for 3 years, after which such systems can no longer be sold.

A 1200 watt system costs \$800 to \$2,000 and can produce up to 1200 kWh per year if it has excellent sun exposure. It could reduce your summer PG&E bills by \$45-55 per month and your winter bills by \$10-30. It only provides power when the sun is shining, but can be coupled with batteries purchased separately to power nighttime usage. Sounds good, right? But there are some things you should know.

#1) Because the position of the sun varies based on the hour of day and time of the year, you may find that even your best location for solar panels only gets good sun for a few hours a day or a few months of the year. Finding the location that maximizes your system’s energy harvest may be a challenge.

#2) The law’s anti-backfeed provision requires that your system not feed any power to the grid or to your home during a blackout. This is a safety issue for power line workers.

#3) Theft prevention deserves attention. These kits cost as much as a nice bicycle and presumably should be protected with similar anti-theft measures.

#4) It is recommended that balcony solar be plugged into a GFCI-protected circuit with an “in-use weather cover.” Most outdoor circuits should already have GFCI protection. An in-use weather cover costs \$15 and is easy to install. •

Holiday Fun

Escape from Church Street

by Kristin Bailey, PipandPollyLollycakes@gmail.com



Last fall, a pop-up mini escape room appeared in a driveway on Church St. What neighbors & friends discovered inside was a joyful diversion from reality.

In the two weeks before Halloween, those who dared immersed themselves in the world of Pip & Polly Lollycakes—two playful pixies who pulled a wicked prank on the witchy Hecate in her very own Witches Hollow. She returned the favor, entrapping them so they would miss their favorite day: Halloween! Clever do-gooders risked the wrath of Hecate to rescue Pip & Polly. And rescue them they did, as the pair were later spotted rollicking at Filoli over the holidays.

Fast-forward to the present. Pip & Polly have found themselves in another sticky situation this fall, inside the Curious Candy Shoppe.

You have the opportunity to be part of this limited, free engagement, scheduled to run Oct 15–Nov. Reservations are required for this private exhibit, with

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Next Meeting:	January 25, 2027	Advertising: advertising@omvna.org

What's Up

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many vacancies. Owners of these new apartments are choosing to leave the apartments vacant rather than lower the rents. The narrative "approve more, developers will build more, leading to lower rents" is just a myth. •

Permits

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room windows are big enough to let you out and a firefighter in. Planning rules are designed to limit the impact of your neighbors' actions—I was only allowed to build that 7' fence because my neighbors wrote letters agreeing to it.

That protection extends to monitoring your contractors. People sometimes justify doing unpermitted work on the basis that their contractor knows what they're doing. I work with lots of great contractors—and trust me—they sometimes make mistakes. For me, having an experienced city inspector review their work is a bonus.

And that's not all. If you do unpermitted work on your home and later need a permit for a different project, you may end up having to redo some of that work. Unpermitted work may have insurance implications. And if you eventually sell your home, many potential buyers will want reassurance that everything's been done by the book. •

Restaurant News

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Bar inside Ava's Market (340 Castro). First Nor-Cal location of Hawaii's "top-rated poké bar," Ry's boasts a Hawaiian style in contrast to Poké Bar's California-style product.

Outside but very near Old MV, **Império Gaúcho Brazilian Steakhouse** prepares to open at this writing: 89 W El Camino (at Hotel Strata). Description in the Google Maps business entry.

"Coming Soon" to 236 Castro (lately a plywood-enclosed construction site) is **Maruwu Seicha Japanese Matcha House**, says signage. Locations in Campbell and Culver City offer "ceremonial-grade" Japanese refreshments and snacks.

TleafGreen Burmese Kitchen appears to be the pending tenant for 790 Castro, longtime Amici's Pizza site, currently remodeling. TleafGreen has a San José location, more information at tleafgreen.com

Got a restaurant-news tip? Email restaurants@omvna.org. •

Pip and Polly

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up to four people at a time. Allow 15–45 minutes, depending on skill level. Rescuers under 12 years old require an adult. Fun and puzzling for all ages! PipandPollyLollycakes@gmail.com

Meet Your Neighbors

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You don't have to cook to be part of it. Plenty of people join simply because they love a good home-cooked meal, or because they're curious about what their neighbors are making. A community initiative like this works best when lots of people are on it - so the more neighbors who join, the better it gets for everyone.

Even if you're just curious, come take a look. kitchennextdoor.com - available in Mountain View ZIP codes 94040, 94041 and 94043. •

Graham

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resource guide and identified parent volunteers who could assist newcomers in Spanish, German, Hindi, Mandarin, and Russian.

A follow-up survey showed meaningful progress: 93% of families said they felt welcome in the PTA and parent community, up from 83%, and 99% said school information was available in their preferred language, up from 90%.

The Graham team hopes the experience will encourage other schools throughout the Mountain View Whisman School District to consider participating and continue strengthening family-school partnerships across the district. •



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