

OMVNA Newsletter

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NEWS



Council to Vote on Prometheus Project March 23

The City Council will meet to discuss and vote on the controversial Prometheus proposal for the Minton's site on Tuesday, March 23. Council will vote on whether to accept the proposed variances on the density (61 units/acre), building heights (4 stories on Evelyn Avenue, and the new public street), setbacks, and entrance and exit requirements.

The meeting will be open for public comment and begins at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers, 500 Castro Street.

General Meeting Monday, April 19, 2010

What do you want Mountain View to look like in 20 years?

A Q2 OMVNA General Meeting will be held at Landels Elementary School, 115 W. Dana Street, on Monday, April 19, beginning at 7 p.m.

The second OMVNA General Meeting of 2010 will feature a presentation by Randy Tsuda, Mountain View Community Development Director. Randy will speak to the community about General Plan 2030, where we are in the process, how the plan is shaping up so far, the timetable for completing the plan, and what opportunities the community has for input. (See page 6 for an opinion piece on this subject.)

After the presentation, bylaws that were proposed and discussed at the last two General Meetings will be voted on. (See page 11 for proposed bylaws.)

EPC Says "No" to Prometheus Project But "Yes" to Higher Density

The Environmental Planning Commission (EPC) met on February 10 for six hours and voted to amend the General Plan to allow a higher density than the current 15-25 units/acre along the Evelyn Corridor, but voted against granting the four specific Precise Plan variances requested by Prometheus Real Estate Group. The vote against the project was 4-1.

Seventy-nine residents attended the meeting, with 85% against the project and 15% in favor.

Prometheus President Jon Moss spoke on behalf of the real estate group and cited the project's greenpoint rating of 110. He also stated that placing the 213-unit apartment complex next to transit and the downtown "would dwarf all of the cumulative effects of what we're doing with the green-point rated program."

Opponents to the project questioned the impact of a reduction in car use. Using the traffic study's 9% reduction in car use due to proximity to transit, resulted in 1289 daily trips from the apartment complex. Opponents felt this would adversely affect the neighborhood.

Opponents also took issue with the study's claim of an actual decrease in traffic after the project was built, which was based on an estimated 1717 daily trips from the Minton's site currently, saying this level of traffic was vastly overstated.

The consultant who conducted the traffic study defended the methodology used, stating that actual traffic counts were too costly to do.

(Continued on page 2)

Monday, March 22 March Mixer at Sakoon

Join your neighbors for the March Mixer at Sakoon, the new restaurant that everyone is talking about. The mixer will take place on Monday, March 22, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 357 Castro. Read Max Hauser's restaurant profile (page 4), enjoy a cocktail from Sakoon's extensive cocktail menu, a glass of wine from their wine list, and mingle with the neighbors. Sakoon is providing residents of Old Mountain View with complimentary hors d'oeuvres for the event.

Get Ready to Dance! April Mixer | Friday, April 9 Alberto's

Learn to salsa with instructor Pantea for just \$5 a night, which includes lessons and dancing! Alberto's is generously offering residents of Old Mountain View 11 nights of salsa



lessons, culminating in a dance party on Friday, April 9, starting with lessons at 8 p.m. Read about one OMV resident's fear of dancing, and for times and more details see page 4.

\$5 Salsa Lessons

Tuesdays: March 16, March 23, March 30 & April 6

Thursdays: March 11, March 18, March 25, April 1 & April 8)

Fridays: March 12 & April 9

Council & EPC Vote on General Plan 2030

City Council and the Environmental Planning Commission (EPC) voted on options for the General Plan 2030 (GP 2030) presented by the Planning Department in joint study sessions on January 26 and February 2.

Out of GP 2030 will roll changes in zoning ordinances for land use and densities.

The process was kicked off in 2008 with two visioning workshops with the community, followed by individual neighborhood sessions in 2009, interspersed with shareholder and all-city meetings. The Planning Department also gathered input from city departments to gauge what services were feasible (police, fire, water, sewage) for specific densities.

Out of these inputs, Options A and B in the joint study sessions to the EPC and Council. Option B was a higher-density option and generally won support. (Option A reflected the majority preferences of community input gathered at the visioning and neighborhood sessions, whereas Option B did not, according to city staff.)

Randy Tsuda, Community Development Director, will give an overview of GP 2030 at the upcoming OMVNA General Meeting on April 19.

More on the impact to the Old Mountain View community in an opinion piece on page 6.

EPC Says "No" to Minton's Project (Continued from front page)

EPC Chairman John McAlister questioned the traffic consultant as to the variance in his numbers, and the consultant replied it could be as high as 20%.

McAlister also asked about studies of traffic after a project was built to gauge the accuracy of original calculations. The consultant responded that the city did not have adequate staff for measuring projects afterwards. McAlister noted that there were a number of recent developments that were experiencing difficulty with traffic and parking.

Resident Tony Morales, who is dependent on public transportation, took issue with the idea that public transportation is a viable alternative. "I have watched public transportation dwindle over the 10 years to the point of embarrassment. You can't take public transportation... VTA buses pretty much shut down, except for the El Camino, at 7 in the evening. Public transportation is not nearly as viable a solution as it once was."

Morales was followed by Robert Swierk, a resident and VTA planner, who spoke on behalf of the VTA. Swierk defended more limited parking, as well as the guidelines used to estimate traffic.

Resident Annette Nielsen found fault with the traffic study's finding of no adverse affect on the neighborhood from an overflow of Caltrain parking. Nielsen took pictures of commuters getting off of the train and picking up their cars, at odds with the findings of the traffic study.

Several supporters of the project also spoke, including a member of the Sierra Club, which has endorsed the project.

Prometheus's Requests for Variances: How the EPC Voted

John McAlister	No
Arnold Soderberg	No
Eric Anderson	Absent
Kathy Trontel	No
Lisa Matichak	No
Rachel Grossman	Recused
Todd Hernandez	Yes

Resident Aaron Grossman noted that the existing and proposed developments on both sides are already below or close to the Precise Plan minimum of 15 units/acre, and that averaging in this project would result in an overall density of 30.5 units/acre, not far above the Precise Plan's original maximum of 25.

Resident Jim Neill took exception with the averaging argument. He gave the example of averaging in parks around Park Place (similar in density to the proposed project), which resulted in a density of 19 units/acre. Resident Bruce Karney spoke of the necessity of providing more housing for Google employees, and the need for this kind of housing for younger professionals.

In the end, McAlister said that the area was surrounded by medium density development and that something in the 36-45 units/acre range would fit in better with the surrounding neighborhood, and asked Prometheus to employ some "creative thinking" to come up with an alternate proposal.

Commissioner Kathy Trontel said that the people in the neighborhood were already dealing with a difficult parking situation, and the EPC should "do no harm" to people in that situation.

Commissioner Lisa Matichak said that during the General Plan update process, she heard loud and clear that residents want to preserve their neighborhoods. She felt that the proposed development was so massive that it would change the character of the existing neighborhood.

The EPC vote is advisory to City Council only, but is an important input for Council's decision.

The decision now moves to Council on Tuesday, March 23.



Earthquake Watch

January 12, Port-au-Prince Haiti, 7.0: 200,000 dead February 27, Central Chile 8.8: 1000 dead 2010? SF Bay Area? are you prepared? OMVNA CERT will not save your bacon...

Letter from the Chair



by Laura Lewis

Those new to the neighborhood probably logged into OMVNAtalk late last month and probably asked themselves if they had moved to the funny farm. "Sandwichgate" hit the group page and took members on a rollercoaster ride that produced interesting debate over the level and type of moderation for the group. And yes I myself deserve blame for my initially defensive response to what was really just a simply a moment of poor judgment by a moderator. Hopefully my subsequent comments made up for that.

The truth is that we are all human and I do believe good at our core. It's easy to forget that when you operate in the

electronic world. The answer I believe is to take the time to get to know those that you are suspicious of—to discover true intentions and not make assumptions about hidden agendas. To that end, I am looking forward to many more mixers, general

meetings, and my first ever "Meet with Laura" on March 25th from 5:30-6:30 at La Boulanger (OMVNAtalk members will appreciate the choice of location). Come get to know me and tell me what's on your mind.

And although OMVNAtalk is an important part of the Association duties we have in fact been working hard on two other issues that will have a profound impact on our neighborhood, The General Plan 2030 update and High Speed Rail. We will be holding General Meetings on each of these topics in the coming months to give you a chance to hear from officials and ask questions on each of these topics. This will also give

us a chance to vote on several important bylaw amendments at the first of these meetings in April. I would encourage you all to review the proposed bylaw amendments contained in this newsletter and come out to vote on them at that Meeting. Changes to bylaws can have lasting effects and as such deserve careful consideration.

And for those of you keeping count, we are having a few more general meetings than the norm due to the many issues facing us this year; but don't worry, we will still have the Ice Cream Social as planned. Deb Keller and her awesome newsletter team have done an incredible job of boosting advertising revenue to support a few extra meetings, so if you happen to be by her house, don't steal her tulips (reference again for the benefit of OMVNAtalk members).

Cheers, Laura





From the greeting at the door through the exceptional food, this family owned and operated restaurant consistently delights the eye and amazes the appetite.

XANH 110 Castro Street 650-964-1888

Lunch Buffet Monday–Friday 11:30–2:00
Dinner (full menu) Monday–Friday 4:30–closing
Sat and Sun 5–closing
Happy Hour Monday–Friday 4:30–6:30

OMVNA

March 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Sakoon

OMVNA mixer at Sakoon

Join us at the OMVNA March Mixer.

March 23, 7:00 p.m. | Council Vote 500 Castro Street

Council vote on Prometheus Project Council Chambers, 500 Castro

April 9, 8 p.m. | Alberto's Dance Party 736 West Dana Street OMVNA April Event.

April 19, 7 p.m | OMVNA General Meeting Landels Elementary, 115 West Dana

Come and hear Randy Tsuda on the General Plan 2030 An opportunity for the community to come and see what's being planned in the new General Plan.

Shall We Dance?

by Carter Coleman

As I stood apprehensively in front of the nondescript storefront that is Alberto's, I wondered: Is it possible for a white man with two left feet to learn salsa? Would a salsa club even let me in? Would my neighbors ridicule me? That's what I wanted to find out.

With trepidation I went through the red velvet curtains into the world of Alberto's at 736 West Dana. The whirlwind that is Pantea, the vivacious Latin dance teacher, was rushing by, and I stopped her. "Pantea! My wife calls me a dancing board! Is it possible that I can learn to dance?"

"Of course!" said Pantea. "Your wife will not believe it."

"But I have no Cuban motion!" I cried. Cuban motion is the subtle hip movements for men, and not so subtle hip movements for women.

Pantea tells me that "students can make an amazing amount of progress in just one month of Salsa lessons. However, to make really good progress, a student must be diligent and attend a couple classes a week for the entire month."

Was Pantea just telling me this to rope in another student? Suspicious, I sought to verify her assertion, and I went to John Inks, Mountain View City Council member and avid social and ballroom dancer.

John advised, "It may take a couple of months to feel comfortable on the dance floor. However, in a month of diligent practice you can have a lot of fun and get an excellent grasp of the basics."

I also consulted Juan Aranada. Juan has been teaching salsa, cha cha and bachata in Mountain View for many

SALSA LESSONS

Tuesdays and Thursdays

7:15 PM Beginner 8:15 PM Intermediate 9:30 Social Dancing

Fridays: 2nd & 4th Fridays every month (additional charge if there's a live band)

8:00 PM Beginners 9:00 PM Intermediate 10:00 PM Social Dancing & Live Band



years. Juan's advice "Why wait? You don't need to be a pro to have fun."

So if you ever wanted to learn salsa, **now's the time**.

Men of Old Mountain View, I throw down the gauntlet.

Come and learn salsa.
Women of Old Mountain View,
you know you want to dance!

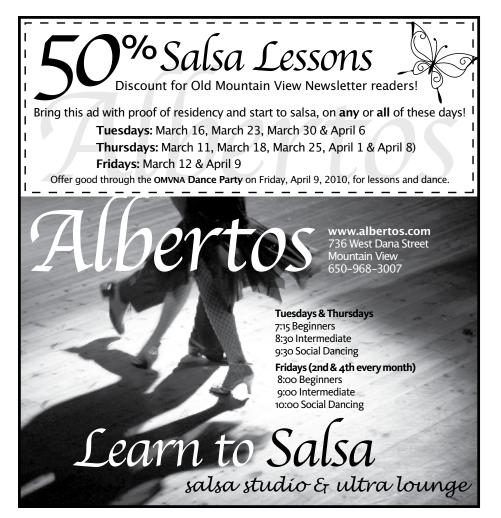
We've made special arrangements with Alberto's to lower the cost of learning salsa for Old Mountain View residents. Starting **today through Friday, April 9**, you can get into Alberto's for **just \$5 for the night**, culminating in a dance party on April 9.

To help all of my neighbors, I've tested the waters, and I can report that it is great fun.

No partner is needed to participate. During the lesson you rotate often so that soon you know everyone in the room.

If you want, you can just go to the beginner lesson, or if you already know how to dance, drop in for the intermediate lesson later.

All ages and degrees of expertise are in a class. There's no need to feel awkward, because everyone is out on the floor trying. No matter how bad you are, I guarantee that someone will be worse.



New Kid on the Block Gets Rave Reviews





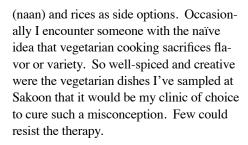
by Max Hauser

Sakoon, one of the newer of downtown Mountain View's 90-plus restaurants, is a true phenomenon. The professional critics' buzz alone would qualify it. Open barely in time for publication deadline, it appeared as a recommendation in the 2010 Michelin Guide for SF Bay Area (released October 2009), possibly a record for swift Michelin recognition. The Michelin recommends only a couple percent of all the region's restaurants. (Downtown Mountain View beat the average with five; the others are Cantankerous Fish, Cascal, Xanh, and Chez TJ, which was singled out for special notice with a star.)

Sakoon is a unique stylish Indian place with a skilled imaginative kitchen. Chef Sachin Chopra, a New Delhi native, graduated from New York's Culinary Institute of

The stylish interior of Sakoon's main dining room with subtle accent lights and sophisticated decor ▶

▼ The colorful and inviting entrance on Castro



Two delightful "appetizer" examples illustrate Sakoon's style. These were substantial enough to appetize 2-3 people or fill one. The nimbu gobhi was spicy roasted cauliflower florets, exquisitely seasoned,



with a sprouted lentil salad—a standout (\$10). The tandoori agaaz, a "mixed grill" of tandoor grilled shrimps, chicken tikka, and lamb chop

(\$12), appeared on a quadrant plate with a salad in the fourth position, the meats accented by rings of tart green mint-herb sauce on the plate, more (and a red tamarind sauce) in little pitchers on the side. Ordered at the bar, these went very well with a draft Sam Adams beer. \$2.99 is the current "happy-hour" beer price, 5-7 p.m. daily.

Chef Chopra, when asked a few months ago, cited some favorites on the menu (seabass tikka, seafood biryani, gush taba, lamb dishes in general including lamb rack, and from the appetizer menu the tuna sambhariya and the tulsi seekh kebab). Of course with periodic changes, Your Menu May Vary.

Lunch service features a large diverse buffet with changing offerings, some familiar in Indian lunch buffets hereabouts, some not. In my experience, one side of the buffet table offered vegetarian and the other non-vegetarian specialties. An ambitious wine program, itself unusual in an Indian restaurant, seeks to pair wines with the wide-ranging dinner cuisine. I've tried a couple of recommendations by the glass, which worked well. One Sakoon manager is a wine enthusiast and knows her stuff; I've seen well-chosen labels in stock.

Visually Sakoon is striking. Entering past a host desk and large curved bar, the

cavernous dining room you see is only about half the restaurant. It's an unusual building, going deep into the block, which some of us remember as Mountain View's former main Post Office, unrecognizably remodeled. Actually there are four dining rooms, counting the upstairs "lounge" over the bar. I didn't realize in the first few visits how far back the restaurant

goes. In the middle depth, the kitchen occupies most of the width, booth seating filling the left-hand remainder (with a marble walkway lighted from below). Farther back are a smaller dining room, a few very modern bathrooms, and stairs to offices.

The only problems seen were one or two trivial service gaffes at lunches in 2009. I gather that some servers work two jobs, making off-hours training difficult — and at any unique restaurant, training is necessary. I've had no complaints in more recent visits.

On New Year's Eve, Sakoon offered a special multiple-course menu at fixed price (the early-bird version that I experienced was \$35 per person). That substantial meal showed a sequence of dishes so well-executed, interesting, and satisfying as to compare with experiences at outstanding high-end restaurants — the kinds of places with not just Michelin recognition, but stars. Don't be surprised if Sakoon joins them.

Sakoon, 357 Castro Street, 650 965 2000, www.sakoonrestaurant.com



America and worked at several respected New York venues before moving to Silicon Valley several years ago. (In an implicit nod to another local place, Chef Chopra enjoys the coffees at Dana Street Roasting Company when not busy in the kitchen.)

I've now experienced some 10 or 12 Sakoon meals in a wide range of circumstances. I and all companions were consistently pleased and surprised by the kitchen's range and originality. Pricing was moderately upscale with individual courses (à la carte but usually substantial and well garnished) typically \$8-\$18.

The menu, changing periodically, offers extensive vegetarian selections as you'd expect, and a variety of roasted breads

OPINION

General Plan 2030 by David Lewis

While the voting for the General Plan (GP 2030) thus far has been generally in favor of even higher density, it should be noted that Mountain View is one of the highest-density cities in the Bay Area today.

The Greenbelt Alliance, which supports higher density and transit-oriented development for Mountain View, notes on their website that "The housing density in Mountain View...is one of the highest in the Bay Area outside San Francisco, and the city is unusual in having far more multifamily units than single family detached homes."

Mountain View also ranks third in population per acre in Santa Clara County, behind Sunnyvale and Campbell, according to the latest U.S. Census data.

Given this reality, one has to ask, what do we want Mountain View to look like in 2030?

To be sure, we all want an environmentally sustainable city. The question is, what tools are at our disposal to make our lifestyles green?

One is transit-oriented development. This presumes by building close to transit we can get Californians out of their cars and onto buses and trains and thus reduce traffic and air pollution. Historically, only about 5% choose mass transit (the national average) and about 85% drive to work, almost all in single occupant vehicle.

My view is that greater use of public transit might be possible if Caltrain and VTA provided both convenient (e.g., buses every 5 to 10 minutes) and affordable (subsidized as much as cars) service.



In studies that have looked at higher rates of transit usage, those areas often had diversity in services within walking distance. It makes intuitive sense that if you can walk to a grocery store, gym, dry cleaners, or deli, this will reduce auto use.

Especially with the train station as a traffic hub, we might consider encourag-

ing a greater diversity of services. Wouldn't commuters coming to Mountain View in the evening stop at a deli or go to a gym before starting home if they were easily accessible from the station? (An added benefit is that these would increase city revenue through sales tax.)

GP 2030 looks at six areas in particular for higher-density development, and there's two that could directly impact Old Mountain View.

The first is the planning for El Camino. Planning for the Grand Boulevard Initiative -

an effort to remake the El Camino Corridor in 19 cities, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties—has already been underway in Mountain View since 2007.

One of the thrusts of this initiative is to make this corridor a site for smart, higher density, transit-oriented development. While this kind of development has been done with some success elsewhere, the possible downside is that the higher density part will happen, but the transit-oriented won't, leading to even more traffic congestion on an already congested El Camino Real. Vice Mayor Jac Siegel and EPC Chairman John McAlister shared these concerns.

On the other hand, El Camino could certainly be improved substantially over its present state. For this area, Option B got the most votes, to allow for building up to 5 stories.

Another area that could have an im-

pact on Old Mountain View is development of North Bayshore around the Googleplex. Some proponents of high-density in Old Mountain View have pointed out the need for housing Google employees. In the visioning sessions, residents community-wide supported high-density, multi-use developments for the North Bayshore. In addition, Google Real Estate Director David Radcliffe, has stated that Google would like to see mixed-use residential and commercial development in this region. In the February 2 session, residential housing was rejected.

"The housing density

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single family detached

homes."

From Greenbelt Alliance website

However, this subject will be revisited in a special Council session.

The new General Plan could have some beneficial effects such as improved pedestrian and bike access, improvements to the ambience of Castro Street and more local shopping venues.

David Lewis is the Community Liaison for OMVNA. The opinions expressed are Mr. Lewis's personal views, and do not reflect the views of OMVNA.

OPINION

Throwing Hot Water on the Prometheus Development

by Eugene Cordero



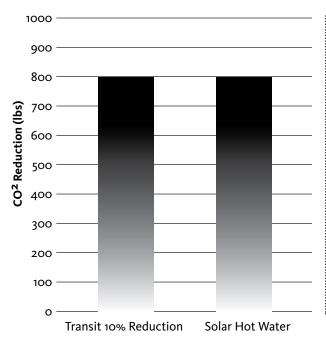
As I watched the Internet recording of the Environmental Planning Commission meeting of Feb 10th, one of the statements Mr. John Moss (of the Prometheus Real Estate Group) made about their 'green practices' made me pause. Mr. Moss stated that the biggest sustainability-related feature associated with the development is the proximity to public transit.

As many of us know, estimating how important proximity to transit (and downtown) is to reducing vehicle miles is challenging. A Mountain View study found 9% trip reduction at a transit-oriented development; some academic work, and advocates of such developments, project greater potential reductions.

The question that came to my mind is: "If Prometheus adopted green initiatives like solar hot water or photovoltaics, how would those carbon savings compare to transit-related reductions?" I decided to compare the adoption of solar hot water to transit reductions using a back of the envelope calculation. I chose solar hot water because these systems are typically simple, have an excellent return on investment, and can reduce emissions of greenhouse gases very effectively.

The results are shown in the following chart where we compare the CO2 reductions associated with a 10% reduction in auto miles with CO2 reductions associated with a solar hot water system.

The calculations show that the reductions of CO2 are similar for a solar hot water system compared to a 10% reduction in driving miles. Although proximity to transit and the services our downtown offers may reduce driving miles even further, it's fair to say that



CO2

 A heavy, colorless, odorless gas, present in the atmosphere or formed by the burning of fuels containing carbon. Carbon dioxide is also exhaled by animals and used by plants in photosynthesis. www.pca.state.mn.us/gloss/glossary.cfm

2. A colorless, odorless gas that naturally exists in the earth's atmosphere. The major source of manmade CO2 emissions is from the combustion of fossil fuels. Carbon dioxide is the primary greenhouse gas and is known to contribute to global warming and climate change.

www.nkba.org/green/glossary.aspx

 One of the major greenhouse gases. Humangenerated carbon dioxide is caused mainly by the burning of fossil fuels.

www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish-climatechange-glossary-3.htm

4. An inorganic gas composed of carbon and oxygen produced during composting. weblife.org/humanure/glossary.html

5. A product of combustion that has become an environmental concern in recent years. CO2 does not directly impair human health but is a "greenhouse gas" that traps the earth's heat and contributes to the potential for global warming. www.ci.austin.tx.us/cleanctites/afterms.htm

additional energy-efficiency measures like solar hot water have a similar potential to reduce emissions as transit-related ones. In fact, if the above calculation was made for a family and not an individual, the reductions may be larger for solar hot water, especially if you have a teenager (or other family member) who regularly takes 20-minute showers!

The main point is that there are various ways to effectively reduce emissions of CO2. While smart growth and access to transit are certainly very important, there are other pieces to our personal carbon footprint including our use of electricity and natural gas. I would encourage the Prometheus staff to give serious consideration to solar hot water for their Minton's proposal and for other developments. With California's new \$350 million rebate program for residential and commercial users, solar hot water is now an even more cost effective way to reduce emissions.

Assumptions made:

The calculations are made for a one-person household that uses 30 gallons of hot water per day. I assume the installation of solar hot water would reduce the use of water heating by electricity or natural gas by 75%, a fair estimate for our sunny climate and with good access to the sun. I also assumed that the development location would reduce auto miles by 10%, that the average resident drives 10,000 miles per year, and that the average car gets 25 miles per gallon. These assumptions are based on averages given in government reports or published studies.

Eugene Cordero is a professor of the Dept of Meterology and Climate Science at San Jose State and co-author of a new cookbook, Cool Cuisine, which explores the multiple connections between the food we eat and global warming.

Doing the Right Thing:

Nick at Dana Street Roasting'

A favorite coffee supplier for Nick Chaput, proprietor of Dana Street Roasting Company, is La Minita, a small grower in Costa Rica. "Coffee beans get touched about 50 times before you get handed the cup, so it's incredibly labor intensive," he says, warming up to the subject.

"This grower not only pays his 80 or so workers an above-average wage and offers housing on the finca, but also provides medical and dental coverage for the workers. And the workers' parents!"

What struck me when I heard Nick

talking about this supplier is that who you do business with does make a difference.

Although Nick doesn't provide housing for his employees, he has their loyalty, no doubt through doing things like sending some of his staff to the finca in Costa Rica to help them appreciate the coffee business.

Nick himself got his start in the coffee biz learning roasting at the Palo Alto Roasting Company. "Roasting is both an art and science," notes Nick. "I was fortunate that I was able to learn from one of the best roasters in the Bay

Area." (Nick has since mentored an employee, Aaron, who is now in charge of roasting.)

In 1997 Nick set out on his own, acquiring Jumping Java. "When I told people I was going to bring a roaster in to change coffee quality, I actually got the question, 'What do you want to roast chickens for?""

Not just good, but great coffee has been Nick's goal at Dana Street. "We do more light roasts here because you can distinguish the flavor of the coffee better. Dark roasts are a way to cover up the flavor of inferior beans."

In a past life Nick worked in film, working up to Assistant Director and Production Manager. I asked Nick what films he worked on. "You don't want to know! Let's just say that a B rating is generous and that "Ghoulies 3" isn't exactly a classic!" Does he miss the glamour of show biz? "This is like theater every day," says Nick. "Sometimes you're in control. Other days you're in the wings watching it unfold."

Nick's love for music (he's a fan of Jazz and Progressive Rock) is also on display, with Dana Street hosting free local live music on Friday and Saturday nights. Dana Street also feature local music students in recital as well as the occasional top-flight show on a payper-view basis.

Nick says he drinks only 1-2 cups a day, and claims he can go days without any coffee. "Although I don't," he added "because I need to be checking the quality of the product." (What a coincidence. That's my excuse too.)

Beyond the coffee, Dana Street Roasting has the neighborhood vibe: Laid back and friendly. Like Nick.



A proposal to re-develop the Minton's Lumber property into 213 pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented, "green" apartments.



www.455WestEvelyn.com



A Guide to City Hall

– by Julie Lovins

A great way to tour City Hall is to visit www.mountainview.gov. But it's very worthwhile to visit City Hall in person. Walk in the main door of the building, near the back of the plaza. Next, look up!

Walk toward the staircase, and continue past it some distance. On the left you'll find the Atrium Conference Room, sometimes used for small public meetings.

The two biggest City departments are located on the first floor to your right. Public Works spans everything having to do with transportation, acquisition and management of City property, solid waste/recycling, environmental sustainability, engineering of our infrastructure. Public Services is the division you're mostly likely to talk to: about water meters, systems and conservation; sew-

ers; landfill; street/sidewalk/streetlight maintenance; and traffic lights.

Leftward, the other big doors lead to the Community Development Department, which comprises both Planning and Building, as well as staff concerned with economic development of the city and with neighborhood preservation. At the counter, staff assists building permits or inspections, zoning, and development. You'll see a lot of blueprints being deployed for discussion. There's a microfiche reader on the left, for looking at records; and a small conference area to the right. You can get brochures on design guidelines, housing and homeowner issues, etc. at the back left.

On the second floor, if you bear left at the top of the curving "front" staircase,



you'll find the Plaza Conference Room. This is used for public meetings that are not large enough to occupy Council Chambers, almost next to it.

Straight from the top of the stairhead toward the back of City Hall, you'll find the Finance and Administrative Services Department on the right. The interaction you're most likely to have with them is paying for something, such as a license, permit, fee, swim pass, or utility bill. Most of these transactions can be handled electronically or by phone. The most useful phone number is probably 903-6317, for example starting/stopping water/sewer or trash collection service.

The third floor has offices for City staff you are somewhat less likely to visit, with the exception of the City Clerk's Office. This office handles public noticing, commission appointment applications, and electoral matters, among others. It also serves as the reception area for the offices of the City Manager and City Attorney. While you're on the third floor, be sure to admire the skylights over the central stairwell, and the equally colorful glass panels along the side aisles.

Other City services that you already know about include the Center for the Performing Arts next to City Hall, the library, and the police and fire station in the northwest corner of the neighborhood, off of Villa. But on North Whisman, the Community Services Department oversees a huge collection of services important to residents, involving recreation (notably Shoreline Park, the golf course, all parks and pools, playing fields, the Senior Center) and our urban forest.

Public Works: 903-6311
Public Services 903-6329
Community Development, Planning 903-6306
Community Development, Building 903-6313
Finance & Administrative Services Department 903-6316
City Clerk's Office 903-6304

LARY EST THOSE WEEDS

—by Paul Staley

Harvest the weeds? Yes indeed, get out there and bring that crop in. Put them in your compost pile and you will reap two benefits at once. You will have them out of your garden, plus you'll be adding a valuable and free source of nitrogen that will give your compost a shot in the arm.

Why throw away, or even worse, poison, what can be easily combined with last falls dead leaves to give you the best soil amendment around. Purposely harvesting the plants that Mother Nature is providing for us is a smart way to reduce material going into our nearly full landfills. You will be keeping them out of the landfill, reusing them in the compost pile and then recycling that black gold back into your own garden. That is a win, win, win situation.

Most of the weed growth now and for the next few months is green and full of moisture. Compost piles need green and brown materials in balance. Around here, it is usually not easy to come up with enough green material for our piles. Using what you would normally trash will save you money and give you green street cred with your neighbors.

A good strategy is to cut the weeds when they are about a foot tall and before they have set seed. If our spring is long and moist, you should be able to harvest them again before it is too hot and dry for them to grow. If you do not have enough in your own yard, ask your neighbors for theirs. They will look at you strangely, but will happily comply.

If you are new to composting, Santa Clara County has simple guidelines for composting here. Once you master the basics, you will find a ton of info available via your favorite search engine.

No matter how you get the info, start composting now. It is soul satisfying and one of the best things you can do to improve your own little corner of the world.

Paul Staley installs composting bins and veggie gardens for homeowners and businesses. Contact him at 650.215.3791 or visit www.growyourownfood.biz.

SANDWICHGATE OMVNAtalk explodes with anger

It all started innocently enough. A post about a sandwich at Le Boulanger. Or so it seemed.

As we later found out, David Lewis, drunk with power in a temporary position of "helper moderator" of OMVNAtalk, deleted a derogatory statement about a sandwich. Innocent you say? I don't think so. The sharp observers on OMVNAtalk exploded in a firestorm.

"Is this Russia?" "Is there no free speech?" "Is the neighborhood under the steel-tipped jackboots of the Steering Committee?" "Is the Steering Committee forcing their sandwich preferences on us?"

Then the coverup. Behind the goodiegoodie façade of Chair Laura Lewis, lay the cold heart of a despot. Bloody Laura attempted to deceive the masses with a blatant coverup when she trotted out a different set of OMVNAtalk guidelines.

But thanks to hawkeyed neighbors who noted subtle differences, Laura was exposed.

Laura then resorted to sickening platitudes to appease the masses. And then, downright grovelling. "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry," she said, but it was too late.

The neighborhood unleashed their fury. "Off with her head!" they cried, calling for Laura's resignation.

Conspiracy theories abounded. Was it just coincidence that a bylaw was mistakenly left out of the last newsletter? Could it be yet another power grab by the Steering Committee? And how did this relate to the OMVNAtalk guidelines? And wasn't that Carter Coleman seen on the grassy knoll?

Laura, bruised and beaten, succumbed to Jack's crafty suggestion that he would do the moderating in a cleverly contrived grab for power.

(What was Laura thinking?)

Under the cloak of invincibility of the moderatorship, Jack unleashed the evil

by Deb Keller, Jack Perkins, Carter Coleman

forces of censorship into Old Mountain View.

He directed his comments at all the disgruntled masses, saying, let them go to unmoderated boards! I will decide to pull the plug when I find the chatter annoying. And let them eat cake! Or sandwiches as the case may be.

Other members of the Steering Committee started growing suspicious of Jack when he started referring to the moderatorship as "my precious."

"Look at what Jack posted!" shouted Deb Keller. "He's out of control!"

"Jack is just a wild and crazy guy," demurred bespectacled Robert Cox, glancing up from his MiRNA spreadsheet.

"Deb is right," chimed in Becky Reyna. "Something has come over Jack. Whose bright idea was to make Jack a moderator any way?"

> Now alarmed, Deb, Becky and Robert formed a fellowship to snatch the moderatorship away from Jack.

But strangely, no one wanted to be moderator! What to do.

So the triumvirate turned back to a nowchastened Laura Lewis. Would Laura consent now to be the moderator?

Happily yes!

(But wait. Weren't we trying to fire Laura just a day ago? No matter.)

Freedom *prevails!* The neighbors will not be muzzled! They will call a sandwich crappy. This is America! Not Stalinist Russia!

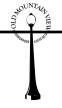
But beware. Jack is still out there. Lurking. As a Sub-moderator (whatever that is).

Unpredictable.

Liable to lash out at any time. Any place.

Please respond to this article on omvna.org. The Steering Committee is bracing themselves.

OMVNA BYLAWS



[Proposed]

— by Laura Lewis

All proposed amendments shown here have been proposed and seconded at a previous General Meeting. Each proposed amendment will be voted on individually and must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at the April 19 General Meeting. A full copy of the bylaws is available at www.OMVNA.org and on the community board at the Library on Franklin Street. You may also receive a copy of the bylaws by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the address to Editor, 471 Loreto Street, Mountain View, CA 94041.

1. Proposed by Ed Swierk

Split Article I Purpose point 3 into two points:

"OMVNA will seek to

- Provide a forum for residents to discuss issues related to the neighborhood and to build consensus where possible.
- Act as a liaison between neighborhood residents and the City of Mountain View or other decision makers, communicating the wishes and grievances of residents while remaining neutral on issues where there is no apparent consensus."

2. Proposed by Ed Swierk

Delete Article IX Meetings point 1 subpoint 1

"The meeting at which the Steering Committee is elected shall be held in September or October."

Add a new point to Article VII:

"Elections in 2009 and prior years that occurred outside the months of September or October are valid if they otherwise complied with the by-laws then in effect."

(Continued on page 11)

3. Proposed by Mike Reiche

Article III Steering Committee Members point 6 subpoint 1 Add a new point

"Any written communications with governments with the intention of expressing the opinion of OMVNA must be distributed to all members in writing not less than seven days and not more than fifty days prior to the date of the General Meeting and must be approved by a majority vote at the General Meeting before being sent."

4. Proposed by Robert Cox

Add additional bullets to Article VI Nominations for Steering Committee Members and Subcommittee Chairs following paragraphs 1-4

"Any person desiring to have his/ her name included on the ballot for any OMVNA Steering Committee position shall submit an application in writing to the Nominating Committee no later than four weeks before the election. The application shall include the person's name and address and the position that he/she is seeking, and will indicate that he/she meets the following criteria. The nominating Committee will certify any person meeting these criteria for inclusion on the ballot for the position that he/she seeks.

- 1. Is a resident of Old Mountain View neighborhood
 - 2. Is 18 years of age of older
- 3. Is eligible to vote in the OMVNA election
- 4. Would not otherwise be disqualified from voting in an election for Mountain View City Council due to a criminal record"

5. Proposed by Robert Cox

Add additional bullets to Article VI Nominations for Steering Committee Members and Subcommittee Chairs following paragraphs 1-4

"No person shall be prohibited from having his name included on the ballot of an OMVNA election based on any other criteria including race, age, gender, country of national origin, religion, sexual preference, office held in this or any other organization, location of residence within the Old Mountain View neighborhood, or whether he/she owns or rents the property where he/she lives."

6. Proposed by Robert Cox

Add additional bullets to Article VI Nominations for Steering Committee Members and Subcommittee Chairs following paragraphs 1-4

"A sample ballot shall be available for review by any qualified voter in both electronic and hard copy formats no later than two weeks before the election."

7. Proposed by Robert Cox

Add additional bullets to Article VI Nominations for Steering Committee Members and Subcommittee Chairs following paragraphs 1-4

"In the event of a contested position a vote counter will be selected by the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Each candidate will have the option to appoint an observer of the vote counting process. Vote counting will proceed by Robert's Rules of Order."

8. Proposed by Carter Coleman

Add additional bullet to Article III Steering Committee Members, following paragraph 10

"Whenever a Steering Committee member has a financial or personal interest regarding purchasing decisions coming before the Committee, the affected person shall a) fully disclose the nature of the interest and b) withdraw from discussion, lobbying and voting on the matter. Any transaction or vote involving a potential conflict of interest shall be approved only when a majority of disinterested officers determine that it is in the best interest of the Neighborhood Association to do so. The minutes of meetings at which such votes are taken shall record such disclosure, abstention and rationale for approving."

9. Proposed by Julie Lovins

Delete the second sentence from Article VII Election of Officers point 2

"Those individuals elected to the Steering Committee in the fall of 2003 shall serve as officers from November 1, 2003, until December 31, 2004."



Classifieds

EXPERT TAX SERVICE

Alfonso Martinez

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email: expert_taxsc@sbcglobal.net

Thanks to Alfonso for donating his services to file OMVNA 2009 taxes.

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The OMVNA Newsletter is distributed by volunteers to 2500 residences and 200 downtown businesses. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the OMVNA Steering Committee.

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