

# CUESTA CONNECTIONS

The Cuesta Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter | Spring 2021

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## LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS

# Cuesta Park Annex

By Paul Hammer, Nilda Ave.

Have you ever noticed how the sidewalk on Cuesta Dr. in front of the Cuesta Park Annex has corner curbs for a street that doesn't exist and six driveway cutouts without driveways? These sidewalk features are artifacts from one of the many past development plans for the annex. For decades, the area has been discussed, argued over and planned for without any development actually occurring!

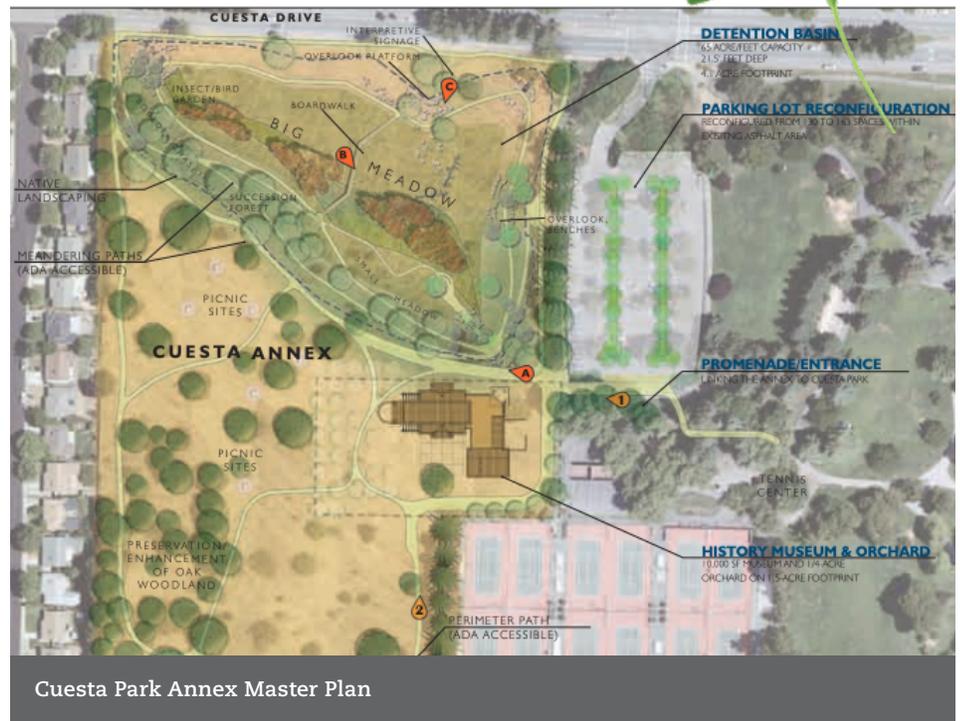
The annex is 12 acres of flat prime farmland. Between 1898 and 1915, it was planted as a prune orchard by William H. Bubb. In 1968, when neighborhood residents Donna & Bill Lowes moved into their home across the street, prunes were still being picked. Over the years, the couple watched a variety of activities in and around the annex. They fondly

recall the two blue herons that lived in the area and ate gophers, students walking through on their way to St. Francis and kids making dirt mounds to do jumps on their BMX bikes. Homeless people slept in the annex, so the city trimmed the trees to make them easier to see. Sometimes at night, the police would use their search lights to see into the annex and light up the inside of Bill and Donna's house.

By 1970, the construction of Cuesta Park, Mountain View's second community park, had begun. The new park had 18 acres of apricots to the south (where the YMCA and hospital parking is now), and 12 acres of prunes to the west (in the annex). Some people at the time thought the prune orchard was part of the park. However,

the area was actually two separate pieces of privately owned land. The front three acres of land along Cuesta Dr. were owned by Ira Higgins, and the back nine acres were owned by the Mountain View Elementary School district.

In 1973, the city completed the purchase of Higgins' front three acres. Their purpose was to resell the land to housing developer Jules Duc Construction, and force the School District to sell their landlocked nine acres to the city for more housing. By 1974, Jules Duc Construction had bought the three acres, bulldozed the front prune trees and poured the concrete for house foundations and the sidewalk. Residents woke up to what was happening and demanded that construction stop, and the city relented. A



Cuesta Park Annex Master Plan

deal was made, and the city bought back the three acres from Jules Duc Construction at four times the selling price (the city paid \$243,072). The foundations were then pulled out, but the sidewalk was left in place.

In 1979, the City Council approved the purchase of the school district's nine acres. The deal was reached after the district had resisted offers for nine years, finally selling for \$5 million.

Between 1990 and 1998, multiple proposals were made for the annex land including: reservoir, private farm, golf driving range, access road to El Camino Hospital and a skateboard park. The farm idea was realized as Deer Hollow Farm, the skateboard park was instead built at Rengstorff Park and the golf driving range was located next to Shoreline Park. With so many proposals, Bill Lowes pushed the city for a master plan. During this time, resident Tom Schoderbeck and artist Robert Schick requested that the City Park & Rec. Dept. water the neglected prune trees or let residents water the trees. The city responded saying, 'no development or

other uses for the Cuesta Park Annex will be considered by the City until after the completion of a master planning process for the site.' Residents were only allowed to pull weeds or pick up trash, as putting in an irrigation system would imply the city had a policy to develop the site as an orchard. By 2011, 90 of the trees had fallen down.

In November 2000, county voters approved the tax for the Water District's Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Plan. The plan included flood basins at Rancho San Antonio, Blach Middle School, the Cuesta Park Annex and McKelvey Park. The plan would reduce flooding and remove the flood insurance requirement for thousands of properties in our area.

In 2001, the city council directed the Planning Commission to look into using three acres of the annex for police and firefighter housing. In 2002, the Cuesta Park Annex Neighborhood Association (our CPNA) was formed to fight against annex development. In 2005, the Cuesta Park Master Plan process began. Mayor Joe Kleitman told Bill Lowes, "You got your silver bullet."

By 2006, residents, along with the Valley Water District input, created 11 proposals with drawings for annex development. Ideas ranged from educational (both community and kids) to a focus on heritage to an agricultural

emphasis. These ideas were then condensed into four annex designs by consulting firm Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey.

In 2008, after much discussion, planning, public input and many meetings, the Cuesta Park Master Plan was approved with two major features being a flood basin / meadow, and a 10,000 sq. ft. history museum. However, problems persisted. Area residents objected to the "barn" look and size of the museum, the Mountain View Historical Society wasn't able to raise the needed funds for construction, and sometime later, the Water District figured out that the Blach Middle School and Cuesta Park Annex flood basins weren't needed. In the end, the Cuesta Park Annex Master Plan went nowhere.

In 2011, there was a proposal to move the historic Pearson House (built around 1885 by a Swedish immigrant named Charles Pearson) to the Cuesta Park Annex. This was instead put at Sierra Vista Park, Mountain View's newest park.

Mountain View is growing and changing faster than it has in the past. Maybe now, it is even more important to preserve the annex as open space - or does more affordable housing take precedence? What do you think? 🌿

Many thanks to Bill and Donna Lowes for their time and input for this article.

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**Local History Matters** is a recurring column exploring the history of our neighborhood and prominent figures and places that have helped to shape it.



Cuesta Park Annex Prune Trees, 1959

# Around the Neighborhood

It's been busy in the Cuesta Park Neighborhood! Here are a few snapshots of some of the neighborhood events since our last newsletter.

## Cuesta Park Neighborhood CSA Food Drives

With tremendous neighborhood support, we have donated over 13,500 pounds of food to the Community Services Agency since April of 2020. Many neighbors have donated their time to put out signs, collect, sort and deliver the donated

food. The CSA calls us “rock stars,” for our dedication to supporting all members of our community who are in need. Special thanks to the kids who have given their allowance and gift money to the effort.



## Cuesta Cookies & Cuesta Valentines

The neighborhood launched two initiatives to reach out within and outside the neighborhood to share our appreciation.

At the holidays, neighbors nominated neighbors they were thankful for to receive a delivery of home-baked cookies - and a team of dedicated bakers went to work.

For Valentine's Day, we decided to show our gratitude to those organizations and businesses who have tirelessly served us throughout the pandemic. Small businesses received a small card and a bag of candy, while large businesses received a large homemade card.

Thanks to all the neighbors who pitched in for this effort. Cuesta Cares!



A Valentine bag



Helen Richardson receives Valentines for Mentor-Tutor Connection



Happy Valentine's Day, Pet Express!



Fariba Samandani of Maxi's After-School Care Program and her Valentine!

## Halloween Hounds

The day before Halloween, some of our furry friends gathered at Bubb Park. Recognize any of them?



# Eating with the Seasons

By Marla Mulkey, Bonita Ave.

From the editor: Marla is an Integrative Nutrition Health Coach. She can be reached at [marlamulkey.com](http://marlamulkey.com)

With year-round availability of nearly any food imaginable, eating seasonally has become a thing of the past. This increased convenience of one-stop shopping has removed us from the way we are designed to eat. Instead of picking fruit off a tree, or a vegetable from a vine, we are buying waxy produce from a pile of identical fruits and vegetables in the refrigerated section. This type of eating, while highly convenient, confuses our bodies, wallets and the environment. So, what exactly are the benefits of shifting toward more seasonal eating?

## It tastes better:

Aside from long-distance transportation, out-of-season crops are harvested early, refrigerated, artificially ripened, and left in bins at the grocery store for days, sometimes weeks. All of these factors, especially the cooling and heating, change the flavor and nutrient content of the produce. It's not just the experience that makes a trip to the farmer's market or your

personal garden taste better, the freshness and handling actually affect how it tastes. If it tastes better, we are likely to eat more of it. Exactly what we want!

## It saves you money:

Peak season produce is cheaper for the farmer to grow, store, and distribute, and this leads to lower costs being passed down to the consumer.

## It supports your body's seasonal needs:

Peak produce is closely aligned with our bodies' nutritional needs. In the heat of summer, we are most in need of hydration and cooler foods, such as berries and cucumbers. Conversely, winter offers citrus fruits packed with Vitamin C to boost immune function and equip us against getting sick. During the Spring, leafy greens are abundant to aid in detoxification from the bulk season of heavier foods. Our bodies are aware of their needs, but it is our responsibility to answer to those needs. Eating seasonally does just that!

Depending on your geographic location, different fruits and vegetables are available to you throughout the year, and deciphering between in-season produce and those that have traveled from thousands of miles away is

easier than you may think.

Try some of these tips to figure out what's in season in your area:

- Watch for produce sales
- Shop farmer's markets
- Speak to local farmers
- Join a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture)
- Visit restaurants that serve seasonal foods
- Check to see if produce price tags or stickers indicate the region

Lastly, here are some great resources:

See what is in season near you: [seasonalfoodguide.org](http://seasonalfoodguide.org)

Search local farms and restaurants that subscribe to seasonal produce: [localharvest.org](http://localharvest.org)

Watch the movies Kiss the Ground and The Need to Grow to know your part in both saving the earth and enjoying seasonal whole foods. 🌿

Sources:

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CUESTA COOKS

# Pandemic Preparations

Did you know about our neighborhood Foodies group? We are a group of neighbors that share recipes, tips and moral support with each other — you can join by subscribing to the CPNA Foodie Group here: [foodies+subscribe@cpna.groups.io](mailto:foodies+subscribe@cpna.groups.io)

Much of our time this past year has been spent in the kitchen, cooking away our worries, uncertainties and frustrations. In the process, we have discovered new recipes, revisited treasured ones and even invented new dishes with whatever we found in our pantries.

For this issue, Cuesta Foodies are sharing our favorite pandemic preparations and a little bit about why we keep coming back to these tried and true recipes.

Keep up with events and activities in the neighborhood in between newsletter issues!

Join the CPNATalk email list by sending an email to [talk+subscribe@cpna.groups.io](mailto:talk+subscribe@cpna.groups.io)

You can subscribe to daily or weekly posts.

CUESTA COOKS

# Roasted Chicken

By Merry Yen, Nilda Ave.

The quintessential pandemic comfort food for us is a whole roasted chicken. During the initial Shelter-in-Place, instead of going to the grocery store, I started sourcing groceries from local farms and delivery services. I bought chicken directly from Ray of Sunshine Farm in San Jose, as well as Butcher Box, and both offer a whole chicken option.

I don't follow a strict recipe but here's the general process. You can modify seasoning or ingredients to what you have on hand.

## Ingredients:

- A whole chicken, thawed (not frozen)
- Salt and pepper
- Sprigs of rosemary (or whatever herbs you have available, thyme is good too)
- Half a lemon (or lime, or orange)

## Prep:

Remove chicken from packaging. Remove anything from the cavity

Rub salt & pepper all over the chicken, including inside the chicken. Use A LOT of salt and pepper - more than you think is necessary

You can prep the chicken up to 2 days before cooking. I usually rub the chicken the night before, wrap it in plastic

wrap and leave it in the fridge overnight, then cook it the next day.

## Directions:

Turn the oven to 350 degrees (or 375, if your oven is older like mine)

Place sprigs of rosemary + half a lemon inside the chicken

Place chicken on roasting pan to roast, cover for the first 25-30 minutes, then remove cover and rotate the chicken

For the last 15-20 minutes of roasting, crank up the heat to 425/450 to crisp the chicken skin.

It can take between 60-100 minutes to roast a whole chicken. Keep checking after 50 minutes, I usually poke it with a chopstick — if the juices run clear, it's good to go!

Rest for 10 minutes then serve! The bones can be used to make chicken soup and the leftover meat can be turned into quesadillas.

Happy roasting!



CUESTA COOKS

# Dutch Baby Pancake

By Anita Nichols, Begon Ave

We used to go to the Original Pancake House in Los Altos, but you can't get a Dutch Baby on take out. I was missing eating it and I found this recipe. It's really easy to make and yummy!

## Ingredients (3 servings):

- 4 tbsp butter
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1/2 cup milk
- pinch of nutmeg
- 3 eggs beaten
- 1/2 cup flour

## Directions:

Preheat oven to 425F.

Mix sugar, milk, eggs, flour, nutmeg until smooth. Melt butter in the oven in the skillet (9 inch on this one). Pour the batter in and shut the door. Cook for 20 minutes; reduce heat to 300; cook 5 more minutes. Serve with powdered sugar and lemon wedges or whatever jams, jellies you like.

Recipe modified from Sunset Favorites, Volume I



CUESTA COOKS

# Five Bean Soup

By Rick Van Mell, Begon Ave.

I make a simple Five Bean Soup that I've used over the years when offshore on sailing trips for a crew of five men who seem to enjoy it. It also works well on dry land and provides comfort during pandemics. It's fast and easy to make, and I bet kids would love it!

## Ingredients:

- 1 Can Kidney Beans
- 1 Can Dark Kidney Beans
- 1 Can Black Beans
- 1 Can Pinto Beans
- 1 Can Garbanzo Beans
- (Or any 5 cans of your choice)
- 1/2 Kielbasa Sausage (Or Kirkland Meatballs can be an option)
- Oyster Crackers – optional
- Shredded Cheddar Cheese - optional
- Tabasco Sauce - optional

## Directions:

Slice the 1/2 Kielbasa into thin slices – you'll get well over 20!

Heat in bottom of a large sauce pan on medium high until some of the fat starts to melt and the sausage begins to brown - 5 minutes +/- stirring once or twice

Add the 5 cans of Beans to the pot, (do NOT drain or rinse!) mix well and reduce the heat to medium until piping hot

Ladle into serving bowls with crackers, cheese and Tabasco to taste.

Great tasting, hearty, one bowl lunch! If it's a smaller crowd just choose 2 – 3 cans and less sausage.



# A Puppy-Purpose-Driven Life

By Marla Mulkey, Bonita Ave.

In our neighborhood resides a determined young woman who shows an enormous amount of maturity for the age of 14, training animals for service for Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB).<sup>\*</sup> Her name is Katie Hunt, and she does this while studying in her freshman year at Mountain View High School. Katie trains puppies from eight to twelve weeks of age to approximately a year and a half, before turning each dog back over to professional trainers at GDB. There they receive formal, more extensive training and are matched with a recipient.

To date, Katie has individually trained three dogs (Labrador Retrievers). Two of Katie's dogs have already graduated from GDB and moved on to work with an individual and assist them in broadening and opening up their world in untold ways. This is no easy feat as anyone who has seen the movie, "The Pick of the Litter" knows; less than 50% of dogs actually go on to be assigned to a blind or visually impaired individual. Katie's third puppy, Keegan, a smart yellow lab, was just returned in early January and has begun

his formal training at GDB.

Katie's job as a volunteer puppy raiser means she teaches her pups good manners and provides them with many socialization experiences. She takes the dog everywhere she goes, including hiking, restaurants, movie theaters (pre-COVID), and camping in Tahoe. Did I mention she even took a puppy to see the musical play, Hamilton?!

Returning the puppies she trains is bittersweet. She will miss them, but Katie knows they are ready to work. It is also profoundly rewarding for her to see them guiding their life partners. Katie and her mom

recently went down to Orange County with Keegan to see Rosebud (her first puppy) and owner. They got to exchange stories and see the culmination of Katie's time and energy spent with Rosebud, as well as to give Keegan the experience of airports, flying and travel overall. Katie's second puppy, Nouveau, was with her until 17 months old, and went on to work to assist a person in Vancouver, Canada.

Katie "co-raises" with another family who share the responsibility of training so the puppy can have diverse experiences in different homes, neighborhoods, along with the correlating sensory



Katie carrying 8 week old Henley as they look at each other

experiences. She raises the pups with GDB's Palo Alto Puppy Raisers Club for weekly sessions, now online, until the pup reaches five months and then biweekly after. This gives the puppy raisers a chance to share ideas and stories, along with a trained leader for additional guidance as needed.

If there is any doubt about how committed Katie is, at the age of eight she was required to read a puppy raising manual and fulfill other requirements, not to mention a side contract with her mom, to make sure she was serious about her

desire to train service dogs. After chatting with both of them, I got choked up realizing the impact Katie was making on others' lives while also following in the most wonderful way, her personal love of, and passion for, training animals for service.

In the meantime, since Keegan went back to GDB, Katie has been walking and training six neighborhood dogs. This provides a nice transition for her to employ skills she's developed before the arrival of her next pup. No less than three neighbors recommended her for

this article, and I know she is appreciated tremendously for her work ethic, character, and compassion for their pets.

On February 20, Katie picked up her fourth puppy, Henley, a male yellow lab, to train for service. Neighbors will see Henley wearing a green vest indicating he is a Guide Dog Puppy in training. I can't wait to hear about her new friend... lucky pup!

Keep changing lives, Katie! 

\* From the GDB Website: Since 1942, Guide Dogs for the

Blind (GDB) has been creating partnerships between people, dogs, and communities. With exceptional client services and a robust network of instructors, puppy raisers, donors, and volunteers, GDB prepares highly qualified guide dogs to serve and empower individuals who are blind or visually impaired from throughout the United States and Canada. Their work is made possible by the generous support of donors and volunteers; they receive no government funding.

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**Pets of Cuesta** features a focus on our furry & fuzzy friends from around the neighborhood.

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## Kids of Cuesta

We asked kids in our neighborhood, "What was something good that happened because you had to stay at home for most of last year?"

I did lots of virtual activities, like ballet, piano and Japanese school.

— MIA, AGE 12

We climb trees and learned to ride bikes.

— SARA AND ELISE, AGE 4

I liked it because it's more playing at home. I also liked that we started going hiking every Sunday and I got to be in a learning pod with my friend.

— LEO, AGE 8

I learned skateboarding, because I watched more TV.

— LUCA, AGE 10

My dad takes me and my brother to the park every day at lunch-time.

— EVELYN, AGE 5

One thing is that you don't have to bike to school. It only takes you a minute to logon in the morning. I feel more safe and more relaxed.

— HENRY, AGE 11

I discovered new games to play with my friends.

— NAVEEN, AGE 13

I got to know myself better and what I really need out of my day-to-day life, as well as getting to cook more and keep myself occupied.

— CAMRYN, AGE 16

I get to sleep in more since I can just hop out of bed, turn on the computer and be in school.

— LUKE, AGE 11

I like to play tennis, basketball and football in our cul-de-sac.

— JOEY, AGE 7

I learned not to take time with my friends for granted.

— BROOKE, AGE 14

Nothing was good about that.

— LORENZO, AGE 6

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**Kids of Cuesta** is a regular newsletter item bringing a little bit of humor to your day.

# Milestones



## Happy 18th Birthday, Bagels and Babies!

The Bagels and Babies parent group was started in January, 2003 by Debbie Kundrat when her daughter was 3 months old. She started the group because she wanted to connect with other moms in the neighborhood, and the fact that five babies were born within six months on her block was an additional impetus. The name was borrowed from a friend in Colorado. A flyer was distributed around the neighborhood and the first meeting was at Debbie's house for bagels and coffee, and to show off the babies. There were 10 moms in attendance and the group has grown to over 500 members today. The founding babies graduate from high school in 2020 and 2021!



## Happy Anniversary to the Keefers!

Dave and Karen Keefer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September. They were planning a family reunion when the pandemic hit, so they got together on Zoom instead, which actually turned out to be quite a nice little party. They don't have any photos from the online occasion, but here is a fairly recent picture from a little over a year ago when they visited their son in New York City.



## Happy Birthday, Kim and Brent!

A couple of milestone birthdays happened for a couple on Begen Avenue recently.

Kim Merry enjoyed a surprise birthday Zoom call with about 40 friends and family online, while husband Brent Heslop (aka Mr. Merry) celebrated his day with fresh dungeness crab from Half Moon Bay.



## Leo Lindahl on Nilda Avenue Turned 8!

The Lindahls became CPNA residents just before he was born - we moved in October, he was born in December. Our house on Nilda is the only house he's ever known. It is filled with wonderful and loving memories from the day we took him home from the hospital to today.

Here are two pictures of Leo - one current (from December) and one from when he was a baby.



## Welcome to the Littlest Leblond!

Camille and Paul Leblond on Barbara Avenue welcomed baby Basil Charles born on Jan. 11, 2021. He is loved and well-cared for by his four siblings. Congratulations Leblonds!



## We Miss You, Sashin Family!

Although Daphne Sashin and family lived in the Cuesta Park neighborhood for a short time, they made a big impact. At the beginning of the Covid lockdown, Daphne initiated the chalk art sidewalk “gallery” and then sponsored a chalk art contest in June. Daphne and her new CPNA friends had been brainstorming some other ideas when her family decided to move to the Philadelphia area to be closer to family on the East Coast. They are currently living in Wynnewood, PA. Daphne still participates in the CPNA Foodies group, and misses her walks and bike rides with friends at Bubb and Cuesta Park. Her daughter sleeps in a bed that was built and donated by a generous couple in Cuesta Park. Daphne says, “Our experience in Cuesta Park made me realize what a blessing it is to have lived in such a connected, involved neighborhood.”



## SUSTAINABILITY CORNER

# Welcome!

Welcome to the Sustainability Corner where we share neighborhood and city news about efforts to tread a little more lightly on the planet. Cuesta Park is home to environmental professionals, kids learning about nature, passionate gardeners, avid recyclers and more. This corner will share tips, stories and neighbor-to-neighbor wisdom as we work together for a better environment.

We launch this first article by presenting a resource guide\* compiled by a group of Cuesta neighbors who get together to talk about making a difference locally. The guide lists local resources and green consumer choices here in Mountain View. The research is compiled from local environmental non-profits, the City and research by your

neighbors.

Take a look at the many tips inside, from home building contractors to diapers. The more of us there are adopting new and better options when we do make purchases, the faster companies will see tipping points that change the way they do business!

Also included are an article on electric heating and a timely reminder about how to work with the City to increase our tree canopy.

Are you involved in something you would like to share? Email Allison Davis and Mary Dateo at [GreenMtView@gmail.com](mailto:GreenMtView@gmail.com).

\* You can find this guide at: [drive.google.com/file/d/1nQbF2uQl6sM8rOKsXjOtPmwHyJAiyCN2/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nQbF2uQl6sM8rOKsXjOtPmwHyJAiyCN2/view)

## SUSTAINABILITY CORNER

# Switching to All Electric Heating

By Donna Davies, Alison Ave.

A couple of years ago, a Cuesta Park neighbor, Hala Alshahwany, showed me her home remodel which included a brand new outdoor electric heat pump. I was impressed by the clean design and her reassurance that it was very quiet. A heat pump also cools a home and we didn't have any air conditioning. Although our gas furnace was still in working condition, it sounded like a 737 on takeoff in a storm. My husband and I had solar panels installed many years ago and had our attic vacuumed, sealed and covered with thick insulation so we were interested in making other carbon free conversions.

We invited HVAC contractors to estimate the work for our small house to use either a central air-handling system or one based on mini-split units in the various rooms.

The estimates for both types were about \$20K. We decided to have an outdoor heat pump/condenser with several ductless mini-split units inside, mounted high on the walls. As it was off-season, we were given a significant discount and they completed the work in five days.

It really is very quiet and efficient and I appreciate not having to use natural gas any longer. We even had our gas range switched out for an all-electric one! 🌿

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**Sustainability Corner** provides you timely news, information and tips on how to live a more earth-friendly life.



Indoor mini split unit



Outdoor Heat Pump

## SUSTAINABILITY CORNER

# Add a Beautiful Tree to Your Front Yard – Free!

Mountain View has an outstanding program which offers free street trees to homeowners who are missing one or have room for extra ones. You can select the kind of tree you want for your yard, too. There are 50 trees from which you may choose.\* The City hopes to increase our tree canopy by five percent, boosting the overall cover to 23 percent. City staff can help you select the tree that's appropriate for your yard. Planting a tree during cooler temps with the hope of rain in the winter

months, helps get greenery off to a good start.

The City will provide and plant a 15 gallon tree and add it to their inventory for future cyclical pruning. You are responsible for watering it. Property owners can actually have multiple street trees if there is space for them. City staff will meet with you to discuss the location to make sure you are satisfied and that the tree has plenty of space to grow.

Street trees provide much

needed shade to your yard, sidewalk and street, thus reducing the need for air conditioning. They reduce the temperature around them, improve air quality, reduce noise, help manage stormwater and provide habitat for wildlife. Call today to request a tree at 650-906-6273.

\* The descriptions and photos of the trees can be found at the bottom of the webpage: [mountainview.gov/depts/cs/parks/trees/trees/default.asp](https://mountainview.gov/depts/cs/parks/trees/trees/default.asp)

# Inside CPNA

By Rick Van Mell, Begen Ave.

You are one of the lucky ones who lives in the friendly and active Cuesta Park neighborhood of Mountain View. You may have a pretty good idea of our boundaries, but do you know how big we are, how we fit into the City of Mountain View, or how the neighborhood association is organized, what makes up the Steering Committee or when we have elections?

For starters, here's a general description of Cuesta Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA), that was formed in 2002 to promote a sense of community pride in our neighborhood, to increase emergency preparedness, to sponsor social activities for residents and to act as a common voice to express our neighbors' wishes and grievances to the City of Mountain View.

Our neighborhood boundaries are Miramonte Avenue, El Camino Real, Grant Road and the back side of Cuesta Park/Villa Siena Senior Living Community. We've got about 1854 living units within our border.

Anyone who lives within these boundaries is automatically a CPNA member. That includes both homeowners and renters, many of whom have lived here for decades. CPNA is not a "Homeowners Association" and does not have rules or restrictions on homeowners or renters. (Individual condos or complexes may however, have their own rules.)

CPNA is one of 18 active neighborhoods under the

Check out a map of Cuesta Park and all the active neighborhoods at [rvm1.org/bpmds/MTV%20Neighborhood%20Associations%202-9-21.pdf](http://rvm1.org/bpmds/MTV%20Neighborhood%20Associations%202-9-21.pdf)

City's [Neighborhood Programs](#) administered by the [Council Neighborhoods Committee](#). The current committee consists of Councilmember Pat Showalter (Chair), Councilmember Sally Lieber and Councilmember Lucas Ramirez.

The City has a Neighborhood Grant Program that helps maintain and improve neighborhoods by supporting activities that bring neighbors together and encourage participation. Associations may apply for grants of up to \$2,000 to support things like block parties/picnics (think of our September Cuesta Park Picnics), ice cream socials, little free libraries, leadership training youth events, association web pages and newsletters and even neighborhood garage sales. Applications are usually due in March and are awarded in June. The request must identify a Project Team of at least 4 members and specific projects, dates or time frames and cost. Funds are provided as reimbursement for approved expenses through a reimbursement application and original receipts.

So, how, you might ask, is all this done? Our [CPNA Bylaws](#) establish a 5 person Steering Committee made up of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and one Member-at-Large. They are elected at the annual meeting – in March or April - for one year terms that run from May 1st through April 30th.

Next year's elections will be

coming up soon, so if you enjoyed and participated in the fun pandemic-version of the Halloween or Holiday activities we had, consider sharing your skills, talents and enthusiasm with the neighborhood and let yourself be nominated for the Steering Committee. Remember we need at least 15 members to constitute a quorum at a members meeting, so when you see the announcement of the Annual Meeting, mark your calendars and show up virtually with a smile on your face!

We are all used to our group email, but have you visited our CPNA Home Page at [cpna.groups.io/g/talk](http://cpna.groups.io/g/talk)? There you can follow links to photos, files and over 25,200 emails going all the way back to 2003! You have to be a member and log in to get to the goodies, but if you are reading this, you are likely one of the 776 members who have already signed up.

Since this is the first of the electronic Cuesta Connection Newsletters there are more than 1,000 of your neighbor families that are not getting this. (That's 1854 living units minus the 776 on [talk@cpna.groups.io](mailto:talk@cpna.groups.io).) You can print out this article and share it with any neighbor who isn't signed up yet. They can join easily by going to [cpna.groups.io/g/talk](http://cpna.groups.io/g/talk) and click the Join button.

As we see new COVID-19 daily cases coming down and vaccinations going up, let's all look forward to the day in the relatively near future when we can have smiles and hugs, and potlucks in person! 🌿

# New Neighbors



## Welcome Tracy Vanoncini and Family!

Tracy Vanoncini and sons recently moved to Bonita Avenue. Son Justin is a junior at MVHS and Jason, a recent MVHS graduate, is now a freshman at University of Oregon. Tracy, a real estate agent, is an avid volunteer in the schools and community and is currently on the MVHS sports booster board. You may see her walking to Bubb Park with her dog Levi, a 1-year old German shepherd/Siberian Husky with lots of energy. Levi likes to meet up with his doggie friends almost every morning and evening. When asked what she likes about Cuesta Park Neighborhood, she says "Everything. Wow, it truly is a gem. Neighbors are so friendly and helpful. The streets are so enjoyable to walk and be outdoors. The parks are amazing. I have been very happy moving here and look forward to being part of the community."

## A Move Within Cuesta Park!

New Neighbors may often be old neighbors who love this neighborhood too much to truly move away, which makes all of us who love having them as neighbors very happy indeed. Marge Bosmans (who grew up on Katie Court), her mother Mary Rickards and the infamously sweet golden retriever, Cruiser, have left Begen Avenue for their new home on Lola Lane, where they will be soaking up the good vibes left behind when the Galli family moved. Although those on Begen are pretty sad, luckily the Jacobsen, Gosalvez, Rhoads and other families on Lola will be all the richer. And Cruiser's many fans are happy that he and his people will still be in walking distance.



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## Want to contribute to the next issue of the newsletter?

Send your ideas to [CPNAnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:CPNAnewsletter@gmail.com)



## Welcome to the Avery Family!

Aloma and her 16 year old son, Clarke just moved to the area and love it. They moved from Los Altos and now live on Begen Ave, along with a dog Lucy and a cat Sansa. She also has 22 year old boys who are finishing their last year in college.

## Welcome Andrea Fang!

Andrea is a Stanford doctor who just moved from Stanford to her new house on Bonita Ave. She is interested in biking, hiking, learning to cook and garden during the pandemic. Andrea is "grateful to be part of such a kind and generous community."

## Printed Copies:

If you prefer to receive a printed copy of this newsletter in the future, please send an email with your name/address to [CPNAnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:CPNAnewsletter@gmail.com) (or ask someone to do it on your behalf!)

