

# **THE MIRAMONTE/SPRINGER ROAD NEIGHBORHOOD AREA MEETING REPORT**

Responses to Comments at the September 14, 2011  
Council Neighborhood Committee Meeting

Presented below are the City's responses to various issues and concerns raised at the September 14, 2011 Council Neighborhood Committee meeting with the Miramonte/Springer Road Neighborhood Area. If you have further questions about any of the following responses, please contact the responsible Department at the phone numbers noted below. General questions can be directed to Linda Lauzze, the City's Administrative and Neighborhood Services Manager, at (650) 903-6379.

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE – (650) 903-6303**

1. *Why is the future development of Cuesta Annex not being presented to the voters to decide? Specifically, residents should be allowed to vote on the Water District's flood basin and the history museum/Pearson house.*

The process undertaken for studying and planning the future of Cuesta Annex has been a lengthy and transparent process with significant public input at more than 20 public meetings dating back to October 2005. City Council and appropriate advisory body (such as the Parks and Recreation Commission) meetings, with significant opportunity for public input, comprise the normal process for land use and policy decisions within the normal purview of elected officials. This process resulted in the Cuesta Annex master plan, which includes space for a history museum as well as flood detention.

The Water District's Permanente Creek Flood Protection Project was pursuant to a voter approved flood control measure and also underwent a public review and comment process. This project continues to undergo public review. In coming months, the District plans to present new alternatives to the City Council, at which time interested members of the public can also provide comments.

With respect to the Pearson House, the Mountain View City Council did not provide any direction to staff to proceed with the relocation of the Pearson House at the Cuesta Annex. Accordingly, Pearson House will not be relocated to the Cuesta Annex.

2. *Vector Control was no help with a skunk problem we had all last winter. We suspect the skunk family was hiding under our neighbor's raised shed.*

There are several other options that may help with the skunk problem. There are private businesses that specialize in the removal of wild animals from people's homes and yards. You could also try chemicals that deter skunks from entering your yard, which can be purchased at your local hardware stores.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT – (650) 903-6306**

1. Pearson House at Cuesta Park Annex

- *The original plan for a history museum was not anything like the present proposed museum building. The proposed building is way too grandiose for the Annex and will overwhelm that corner of the Annex. If you add the Pearson house, that will occupy too big a footprint in the annex.*
- *I think the Pearson House should not be moved to the Cuesta Annex. If the historical society wants to keep it, move it out by the Rengstorff House.*
- *I love Mountain View history, but I do not support development of the Cuesta Park Annex. What would the Pearson House museum provide that the Rengstorff House does not or could not provide? What would happen to the History Room at the Library? The History Room at the Mountain View Library is rarely open. Would this be true for Pearson House museum too? If the historic Mountain View train station is not going to be used as a transit center, could it be the site of another history museum?*

The Pearson House will not be moved to the Cuesta Annex site because the City Council did not direct City staff to negotiate the move of the house with the Historic Association. As a result, the Historic Association has withdrawn their request to move the Pearson House.

2. *Do you have any update on proposals put forth at the 30 planning meetings regarding development at Blossom Valley Center? What about San Antonio Center? El Camino Corridor?*

The General Plan 2030 Public Draft is now available for review and comment. It proposes higher development intensities in key Change Areas, such as the San Antonio Shopping Center and El Camino Real. Development proposals on several opportunity sites at the new intensities have already been submitted, subject to approval of the draft plan.

The Draft GP also proposes a Village Center strategy – neighborhood shopping centers with mixed uses and improved access to daily goods and services. Some neighborhood shopping centers, such as Blossom Valley Shopping Center, would be allowed up to 3 stories and would be allowed some medium density housing. There is no proposed redevelopment project proposed for this site at this time.

3. *Does the General Plan update envision any revision to the Blossom Plaza Shopping Center?*

Yes. The General Plan Update proposes that the Blossom Valley Shopping Center be allowed up to 3 stories with some medium density housing in order to support more daily goods and services, attractive gathering space, and improved access from the surrounding neighborhood.

4. *What about the potentially negative health effects of EMFs (electro-magnetic field radiation)? How sad might it be if Google's free wi-fi gave Mountain View residents cancer. Is this being looked into?*

All telecommunication facilities in the City, including Google Wi-Fi, must comply with a federally set standard for electro-magnetic (EMF) and radio frequency (RF) emissions established in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Each site located in the city has demonstrated that they meet this federal emissions standard via EMF or RF reports. When the City entered into an agreement with Google for the Wifi project, the agreement included a condition requiring Google to ensure that all equipment complies with the permissible exposure levels for radio frequency as set forth by the Federal Communication Standards (FCC).

5. *Google Wi-Fi is now failing near my home. I suspect the nodes atop the light pole at the corner of Leona Lane and Drucilla Drive is going bad. How do we get Google to fix it?*

Google investigated the problem and found that the WiFi node at 581 Leona Lane (corner of Leona Lane and Drucilla Drive) was operational. They found it has been up 48 days since the last code upgrade and currently has one user on GoogleWiFiSecure. Google noted that this particular node's path back to the internet goes through another node, therefore its performance is subject to whatever is going on for both nodes (as well as the gateway node). They suggested that the most important thing the user can do is make sure their local signal strength is good. They said this can be checked by going to <http://192.168.168.168/client.pl> and looking at the uplink SNR which should be 17 or better.

If it continues to be a problem, please contact Ellis M. Berns, Assistant Community Development Director/Economic Development Manager, at [ellis.berns@mountainview.gov](mailto:ellis.berns@mountainview.gov). or 650-903-6549.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT – (650) 903-6331**

1. *I am interested in a jogging track extension at Cuesta Park – in the non-developed zone. Also, what is the policy on unleashed dogs in Cuesta Park?*

The City Council approved a master plan for the undeveloped Cuesta Annex in 2008. The plan includes a pathway around the perimeter. Currently the project is not funded and a timeline for the project has not been developed. Regarding dogs, there is an area just east of the tennis courts in Cuesta Park where off leash training is available for dog owners with a permit. Permits may be obtained through the Mountain View Recreation Division at (650) 903-6331. Otherwise all leash laws apply when walking a dog in Cuesta Park.

2. *In Bubb Park, the two playground areas have been nicely upgraded. What is the plan and timing for upgrading the old tables and benches (and shuffleboard court and chess board) in the southeast corner?*

Staff is developing a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for submittal in the 2012-13 fiscal year that will address the southeast corner of the park. The CIP is scheduled for public input and review by Council later this fiscal year. For information regarding the specific timing of this review, please contact the Mountain View Public Works Department at (650) 903-6311

3. *On Montalto Avenue, some of the street lights are obstructed by trees. Is there a program to clear around the lights?*

Staff will evaluate the street trees on Montalto Avenue and prune them as needed to clear street lights. Please call the Forestry Division (650) 903-6273 or by email, [parks@mountainview.gov](mailto:parks@mountainview.gov) for all street tree concerns.

4. *We have a tree that hangs over the street, who do we contact and how long will it take to get the tree trimmed?*

The Forestry Division maintains all street trees. Street trees are planted in the parking strip and also within the five foot easement behind the back of the sidewalk. You may call the Forestry Division at (650) 903-6273 or by email, [parks@mountainview.gov](mailto:parks@mountainview.gov). Staff will evaluate the tree for service. Routine work orders are normally completed within 90 to 120 days.

5. *Whose responsibility is it to trim the redwood trees over my home?*

The Forestry Division maintains all street trees in Mountain View. Street trees are planted in the parking strip and in the five foot easement behind the back of the sidewalk. All other trees are the property owner's responsibility to maintain. Further questions should be directed to the Forestry Division at (650) 903-6273 or by email, [parks@mountainview.gov](mailto:parks@mountainview.gov).

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT – (650) 903-6365**

1. *The Fire Department does not fight many fires but responds to paramedic calls. Has the City considered outsourcing paramedic calls to save lots of money?*

Due to improved building codes, sprinklers, public education on fire preventions and other improvements you are correct that there are fewer fires than in years past. The Fire Department does, however, respond to medical calls every day.

Under the current system, each of Mountain View's five Fire Engines is staffed with at least one Paramedic on every shift. All Firefighters are qualified as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and provide basic life support. Paramedics receive more training and can perform Advanced Life Support functions such as inserting breathing tubes and administering drugs.

When a medical call is received Firefighters respond and assess the situation. If the patient needs to be transported for further medical care an ambulance is called to provide that service.

It is important to keep in mind that each of our engines is a rolling toolbox with all the tools and equipment needed to perform any or all of a wide range of functions, such as emergency medical services, rescue, hazardous materials or firefighting.

An ambulance is only able to transport patients, while Firefighters provide a multi discipline resource on scene with the ability to handle a wide range of issues. Medical calls resulting from accidents on the freeway are a good example. Firefighters are able to extricate victims and extinguish any fires that result as well as providing medical aid.

Under the current system, Rural Metro is the ambulance services provider for Santa Clara County. If Firefighters did not respond to medical calls, then many more ambulances and Paramedics would be required which would in turn require greater expenditures.

With five fire stations strategically located around Mountain View, the infrastructure is already in place to allow the Fire Department to respond quickly and efficiently to the medical needs of our citizens. We constantly review and evaluate how we provide services to the community and the current system works well.

- 2. Does the City have an emergency plan in place specifically for helping the disabled or seniors? If not, do you have any suggestions as to how neighborhoods can make sure seniors are protected in the event of an emergency?*

The City does have an emergency plan and one of the Emergency Functions it addresses is Human Services, including implementation of programs and delivery of services to assist individuals, households and families impacted by an emergency incident. This service delivery includes: economic assistance and other related human services, with an emphasis on mass care, housing and human services.

The emergency plan is an overall planning document and does not specify the location of each disabled person or senior who may need assistance. There are, however, some steps that the disabled and seniors can take to help protect themselves.

First, anyone with a disability or special needs can contact the Emergency Communications Center (911) by calling 650-903-6395 and requesting that a notation be added to their address. If a person is on oxygen, for example, and has requested this notation then when they call 911 the dispatcher will see that there are special needs and can dispatch the appropriate level of response.

Another program that can assist with special needs is the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, which helps citizens and neighborhoods become more resilient and able to help themselves when normal City services are not available after a large scale emergency or disaster. There are several organized CERT neighborhoods, including Old Mountain View, Cuesta Park, Monta Loma and others.

CERT provides a way for neighbors to look out for and help each other by teaching residents the basics of emergency preparedness, fire prevention and suppression, emergency medical services, search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology and response to terrorism. The training is free to anyone who lives or works in Mountain View and you can learn more about the program, check for established CERT neighborhoods and register for classes on the City website at [www.mountainview.gov](http://www.mountainview.gov) or by calling the Office of Emergency Services at 650-90-36825.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT – (650) 903-6350**

1. *Why do the Police not enforce the red light rules at El Camino Real and Miramonte Avenue and El Camino and Cuesta Drive? It seems as many people make left turns on red lights as on green lights. (Note: El Camino and Cuesta Drive is what is written on the comment card, but Cuesta does not intersect El Camino. Maybe the person is referring to El Camino and Grant Road, which is another really busy intersection, where a lot of people make illegal left turns during the rush hour.)*

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. Although you note you have not seen a police presence, motorcycle officers have conducted recent enforcement at both intersections of West El Camino Real and Miramonte Avenue and Grant Road and El Camino Real, where some drivers make left turns on red lights. These intersections have long been challenges for ensuring safe roadways in our community, and although we cannot always be there, it is important people tell us what intersections cause problems.

As the result of your input, I have directed our Traffic Unit supervisor to notify his staff about your complaint and to inform all of our Police Officers in patrol to see if they can supplement planned enforcement. Please keep in mind that you can always report traffic complaints to the Police Department by calling the Traffic Hotline at 903-6146, which is answered by the Traffic Unit.

### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – (650) 903-6311**

1. *Will Peartree, Cherrytree and Plumtree Lanes be resurfaced soon?*

Peartree, Cherrytree and Plumtree should be slurry sealed in the next 2-3 years. The last slurry seal was in 1997.

2. *We need a mitigation plan for city tree roots invading our sewer lines. This is an annual expense of \$300+ for me alone to have Roto Rooter clean our lines even after having replaced our main outbound sewer line. (This is common in Cuesta Park).*

Please call the Forestry Division (650) 903-6273 or send an email, [parks@mountainview.gov](mailto:parks@mountainview.gov), to talk with a staff member regarding your issue. Staff is happy to meet with you to discuss potential solutions.

3. *Why is the new sewer pipe for Tulane Court only eight inches in diameter when Los Altos is installing pipes about two feet in diameter? Residents continue to have backup problems and installing a new small pipe is an opportunity lost.*

The City recently replaced the original 6” sanitary sewer in Tulane Court with a new 8” sewer main. The City also replaced the individual 4” sewer lateral pipes from the 8” main toward each residence to a new sewer cleanout, the small round concrete box beside the sidewalk. An 8” sewer main is more than sufficient to handle sanitary sewer flows for a local street such as Tulane Court. If some residents are still experiencing sewer backup problems since the new sewer pipe installation, it is likely that the problem exists between the sewer cleanout and the house.

4. *Thank goodness the San Jose Water Works decided to not dig a hole in the Annex. An independent report using the Water Works own figures, showed that they did not need to store water in our Annex. The trouble with restricted waterways is from El Camino Real north to the bay.*

In January 2012, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) will present a project update to the City Council and seek direction on a preferred alternative for the Permanente Creek Flood Protection project and potential impact to Cuesta Annex. The successful construction completion of the preferred alternative will largely provide Mountain View residents and businesses with 100-year flood protection from the southern city limit to the Bay.

If you have any additional questions about the SCVWD flood protection project, please contact the Public Works Department at (650) 903-6311 or the Santa Clara Valley Water District at (408) 265-2600.

5. *Our neighborhood (Varsity Park) has oriental cockroaches proliferating in the sidewalks and possibly the sewer. It is imperative that the City of Mountain View take responsibility to eradicate the oriental cockroaches before they infest the area. What will the City do?*

City staff checked sewer lines on Tulane and surrounding streets. Although no cockroaches were located, crews performed preventive spraying to discourage any increases in the cockroach population. All spraying was in the sewer manholes; no above ground spraying was conducted. Public Works staff will continue to monitor the sewer system for signs of cockroaches.

The City also maintains a repair program to mitigate unsafe sidewalk conditions. The City does not consider cockroaches a sidewalk hazard, but we will periodically inspect the sidewalks in the neighborhood, and will eliminate any large cracks where it appears cockroaches may live.

The City contacted Santa Clara County Vector Control District regarding cockroaches. Although the District can provide information regarding cockroach control,

they do not provide eradication services. If you see significant numbers of cockroaches, it will be necessary to work with a pest control company for eradication services.

6. *We live in Varsity Park near Springer Road and Sladky Avenue. The ATT cellular phone signal is very weak. Should we just contact ATT directly or does the City have contacts with ATT? Thanks.*

AT&T cellular phone customers experiencing weak signals should contact AT&T directly.

7. *Any plans to move utilities (electric, phone, cable TV) underground in the Lola Lane area?*

There are no plans to place any of the overhead utility lines underground on Lola Lane or any residential street. Although the City has an active utility undergrounding program in conjunction with a PG&E financed program, commonly referred as Rule 20A, the program funding is limited at this time to the undergrounding of overhead electrical and communication lines along major arterial streets.

On residential neighborhoods like Lola Lane, the undergrounding of overhead lines and transformers is the responsibility of individual property owners. One of the financial options for a neighborhood to undertake and accomplish the undergrounding of utility lines is through the formation of an assessment district. With an assessment district, the total cost of placing the lines underground are divided among the participating property owners and the repayment cost is typically spread over a 15 to 20 year period.

8. *There is no street sign with the street name at Barbara Avenue and Nilda Avenue. What can the City do about this?*

Traffic staff will check the location (Barbara at Nilda) and if needed the City crew will install (missing) street name signs.

9. *Speed bumps were installed on Barbara Avenue now cars drive down Brookdale Avenue to avoid the speed bumps. How can speed bumps be installed on Brookdale Avenue?*

The City has a Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) that provides a process for evaluating neighborhood streets to determine if traffic calming measures (such as speed humps) are appropriate based on existing speeds and if it meets the program thresholds, what measures if any, are desired by the affected residents. A handout describing the program is on the City's website,

<http://www.mountainview.gov/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=2936> If you have additional questions about this program, please call Public Works and ask to speak with one of the engineers in the Traffic Section.

10. *The posted speed limit should be 15 mph not 25 mph on Miramonte through the Eichler tract. There are too many turns and children and cars whip around the corners. How is the mph level determined?*



The minimum speed limit is set by State and is currently 25 mph for residential neighborhood streets. Speed limits on other streets (such as Miramonte Avenue) are determined by an engineering speed survey, which follows procedures outlined by the State in order for the Police Department to enforce the posted speeds. Please note that the City has a Traffic Hotline (650) 903-6146 where you can leave a message regarding speeding or other concerns. It is helpful if you leave a specific location and if you can provide information about the time of day that the issues are happening. The Police Department uses this information when planning their enforcement efforts.

11. *The traffic on Hans Avenue has gotten out of control. Meeting School Nights is real bad. Why is it not possible for some of these cars to park on Barbara Avenue, directly behind Bubb School? There is a lot of parking on Barbara Avenue, why not use it? Thank you.*

We will forward your comment to the school district.

12. *The dentist and medical offices around Sladky Avenue and Miramonte Avenue have overflow parking all day and block access from my home. How can we get this resolved? Also, additional street lighting is needed near Sladky Avenue and Miramonte Avenue.*

If vehicles are blocking your driveway, you should contact the Police Department at the non-emergency number 650-903-6395 and they will respond as appropriate.

13. *We have asked two years ago to have some cars to park on Barbara Avenue behind Bubb Elementary School. Can Bubb Elementary School let people know there is vacant space on Barbara Avenue?*

We will discuss with the school district and ask that they work with the parents on your request.

14. *Can we get a bike path on Castro Street so Mountain View can be more bicycle friendly?*

Castro Street was removed as a bicycle route in 2010 as recommended by the Traffic Engineer and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee. There is not sufficient room on Castro Street for a bike lane, and the angled parking on some blocks can be problematic for bicycles.

#### 15 CUESTA PARK ANNEX

- *Why is it not possible for Cuesta Annex to remain as an open space?*

In October 2005, the Council initiated discussion on a master planning process for the Cuesta Annex site. Over the next three years from 2005 to 2008, the Cuesta Annex Master Plan concept was methodically developed through an extensive series of community workshops,

Parks & Recreation Commission, and Council Study Session meetings. In December 2008, the Council ultimately approved the final Cuesta Annex Master Plan.

The final master plan conceptually includes an area for flood detention, history museum, orchard, preservation of the oak woodland, meandering paths, picnic sites, native plants, and linkage between the Cuesta Park and the Annex. The December 2008 Council report and master plan is available online at the City's website.

- *I am here to plead that we do not develop, disturb or encroach on the Cuesta Park annex. I walk this open space everyday and feed off its natural, untouched beauty as I pray. Adding a museum, a flood ditch, would ruin the open views. Can we preserve this last holdout of natural beauty? Thank You.*

See above response.

- *Cuesta Park Annex is a rare piece of natural beauty. Please do not destroy any part of it by putting buildings, flood basins, or anything else on it.*

See above response.

- *We worked so many hours on the annex area – walking to take signatures and speaking at meetings. Our City Council has ignored us and do what they want. They should listen to the taxpayers. We need no museum or old house rotted out or flood control. Leave things as they are. Thank you.*

See above response.

- *Please tell me about the Financial Landmarks that have to be met before history house complex construction can begin.*

In September 2009, the Council authorized the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mountain View Historical Association. The MOU provides for an eight (8) year time frame for the Historical Association to raise the necessary funds to construct a museum. The detail fund-raising timelines are identified in the September 22, 2009 Council report and is available online. The first financial target deadline will occur in April 2012.

- *What is your best prediction for when construction will begin on the Cuesta Park Annex per the plan approved by the Council in 2008?*

The major improvements in the Council adopted 2008 Cuesta Annex Master Plan are the museum and the flood detention basin. The museum would be constructed by the Mountain View Historical Association, which is currently fundraising for the project. Construction would only occur if the Historical Association is able to raise sufficient funds. The flood

detention basin would be constructed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and construction is scheduled for late 2012 or, more likely, 2013.

**GENERAL COMMENTS:**

1. *Thank you – all of Mountain View for the great work you do for us. Mountain View is a wonderful place to live.*
2. *Thank you so much for holding this neighborhood meeting. It was very informative, excellent format. Please continue to hold these meetings every two years.*
3. *Thank you for the City Guide.*