

Mountain View VOICE

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All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, www.MountainViewOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

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EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Save some for the trail

Whether they know it or not, Mountain View residents have a tremendous asset right under their feet — a network of hiking and biking trails that is growing every year, and ultimately will reach all four sides of the community.

As noted in last week's *Voice*, you can walk or ride a bicycle along Stevens Creek Trail from the Shoreline recreation area to El Camino Real, and soon, that obstacle will disappear when a tunnel is completed under the busy highway. The trail ultimately will reach Mountain View High School on the very southern edge of the city, where it easily could be extended into Los Altos.

Although by far the city's most developed trail, doubling as a recreational resource and a commuter route for cyclists, Stevens Creek is by no means the only one. The Permanente Creek Trail provides another north-south right-of-way that has reached Highway 101, and is expected to continue on, past Old Middlefield Way, to the Crittenden/Whisman Sports Center on Middlefield Road. Unfortunately this trail will end there, but it is hoped walkers and cyclists will be able to continue on surface streets until they hit the Hetch Hetchy Trail, the only east-west route in the city.

But there is a hitch in Hetch Hetchy. Although conventional construction is prohibited on the right-of-way to allow for maintenance of the huge underground aqueduct, much of the potential trail area is paved over for parking lots, or is used as open space around residential or commercial property along the route. Council member Ronit Bryant is pessimistic about the city ever being able to develop this cross-town trail.

Nevertheless, the city should not give up hope of finding an east-west route, even if some sections must use surface streets. In fact, the city should make it a priority to extend this trail system in any way it can.

The beauty of the city's trail system is how painlessly it came about. City manager Kevin Duggan recalls that 20 years ago there were virtually no trails in Mountain View, and now there are several miles of trails, with more planned. They add immeasurable quality of life to residents here, opening up walking and biking corridors from most parts of the city to all the recreational options at Shoreline.

As more opportunities arise to upgrade existing trails or develop new ones, the city should not hesitate to keep the ball rolling. Every mile is worth every penny.

LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

DESPERATE AND DINER-LESS

Editor:

This article really touched a nerve!

Downtown Mountain View has all the upscale eateries, but many of us feel that what we need is an old fashioned American diner to round out the experience. Towns all over the U.S. have such places where people meet, have a cup of coffee or can find comfort food, so why not Mountain View?

I hope there is someone out there willing to give this a go. I know that I would be in there, and so would many of my friends.

Margaret Turner
Bonita Avenue

IMMIGRATION DEBATE IRRELEVANT TO LOCAL WORKER CENTERS

Editor:

I'm writing in support of the Mountain View Day Worker Center. Criticism of the center I've read seems to focus on the issue of illegal immigration. Certainly some form of federal immigration policy is needed, but is it reasonable that we attempt to enforce immigration policies by micromanaging day worker centers? Or rather, as I believe, should we allow the development and enforcement of immigration policy to be carried out in its own course?

Putting the immigration issue aside, the Day Worker Center performs a valuable service

both for the community and for the workers, and it does so extremely well in my opinion. It is worth noting that the inherent dignity of workers is clearly honored by center policy and by Maria Marroquin, the facility's director, and her staff in center operations.

In our case, we manage virtually all of our household-related tasks ourselves, but we have jobs and other responsibilities to contend with, so sometimes yard maintenance and improvement needs outstrip our available time and skill base. Accordingly, we are glad that the Day Worker Center exists in Mountain View, and we hope that it remains as a community resource indefinitely. I was also impressed that center staff followed up by calling me to ask if I was satisfied with the services that they provided.

Joyce England
Snow Street

IT IS OUR REPRESENTATIVES' DUTY TO CALL FOR IMPEACHMENT

Editor:

Who is to protect the people from crimes committed by a president? The Constitution places this responsibility on the House of Representatives and gives it the necessary powers of impeachment.

What then has this administration done? Listing only the

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