



# Downtown Digest

## Downtown Safety Initiatives

Safety in Downtown Mountain View remains a top priority, with residents and businesses emphasizing the importance of a strong police presence to address key issues like property crime, challenges related to unhoused individuals, and alcohol-related incidents. The Mountain View Police Department has implemented several focused initiatives to enhance visibility and support in the area. From dedicated downtown patrol shifts to community outreach programs, these efforts reflect a comprehensive approach to maintaining a safe, welcoming environment for all who live, work and visit Downtown.



### Enhanced Downtown Patrols

MVPD has dedicated overtime patrol shifts specifically to the downtown area, focusing on high-traffic locations and historically higher call areas. These shifts include foot patrols, proactive checks and prompt responses to service calls, all aiming to improve safety, reduce crime and conduct outreach with businesses. Community members are encouraged to engage with officers to ask questions and voice any concerns they may have.

### Downtown Ambassador Program

The Downtown Ambassador program, staffed primarily by Police Assistants and Community Service Officers, serves as a visible safety presence. Ambassadors provide visitors with crime prevention tips, including reminders not to leave valuables in cars, while acting as a deterrent to potential crime in the area.

### Parking Enforcement Assistance

Daily parking patrols by Police Assistants help maintain a steady flow of visitors in the downtown area by enforcing parking limits. Parking enforcement supports the positive objective of ensuring parking options for all Downtown visitors.

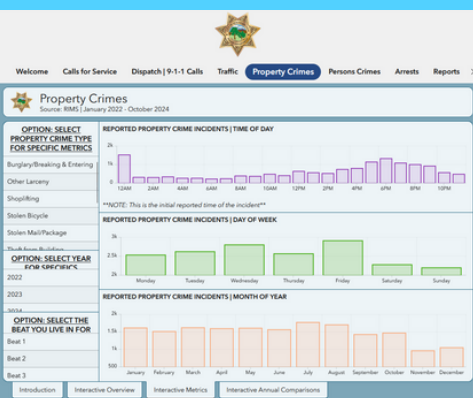
These efforts collectively aim to protect property, promote safety, and enhance the experience for residents and visitors alike in Downtown Mountain View. The community is encouraged to dial 9-1-1 in emergencies or 650-903-6344 for non-emergency issues.

## MVPD Transparency Dashboard

The Mountain View Police Department recently debuted a [Transparency Dashboard](#) that makes it easier for the public to access frequently requested information.

The dashboard features a wide range of data including traffic collisions, property crime, crime and arrest statistics, internal investigations, Racial and Identity Profiling Act data, hate crimes, elder crimes, and more. There is also an interactive map for MVPD's calls for service, which can be broken down by date and time period.

The information displayed on the dashboard will continue to evolve based on the availability of data and types of information requested by the community.



## Downtown Business Retail Theft Discussion

In response to concerns and questions from the business community about retail theft in the Downtown, Economic Development and Police Department staff hosted a meeting with Downtown Businesses.

Downtown business owners and staff were able to share their experience and concerns, ask questions, discuss challenges, and learn more about the ongoing efforts of the Mountain View Police Department to enhance safety Downtown.

Police Chief Michael Canfield, Lieutenant Evan Crowl and the Economic Development team were all present to address questions and provide insights.



## Decorative Street Treatment



The City is working to create a more welcoming and active Downtown with the incorporation of a decorative street treatment in the central walkway of the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of Castro Street. The “Ribbons” design was selected earlier this year, and the City hired a contractor in September.

Installation will take place in mid-April to May 2025 when weather conditions are optimal. This project requires consistently warmer weather to ensure the paint properly adheres to the street. Higher temperatures will also make for a quicker installation time, ensuring less impacts to Downtown businesses and visitors.

## Busking in the Downtown

The City sometimes hears concerns about street performances, also known as busking, in the Downtown. Street performance involves playing music in public spaces, often for donations. In Mountain View, performances are only permitted in the public right-of-way (streets or sidewalks) with a [Special Event Permit](#)\* or as part of a City program. The City’s Music on Castro program, for example, brought bands to the 200 block of Castro every Wednesday afternoon. This program is currently on hiatus for the winter months but will be back in spring 2025. Unpermitted street performances are handled on a complaint basis, and concerns can be reported to the non-emergency police line at 650-903-6344.

\*[Section 3.17](#) of the Mountain View City Code prohibits amplified music or sound projecting onto public streets without a permit.

## Cold Weather Shelter Reopening

Since 2017, Los Altos United Methodist Church, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara and HomeFirst Services, has hosted a Cold Weather Shelter at Trinity United Methodist Church in Downtown Mountain View. Administered by the County and operated by HomeFirst, the shelter serves vulnerable populations—specifically single women and families. This year, the program opened on Nov. 1 and will extend through April. Participants receive overnight shelter, case management, meals, and access to restrooms and showers. The shelter can accommodate up to 10 households per night, with a maximum of 50 people allowed. For more information, view the County’s [Cold Weather Shelter FAQ](#) webpage.

## Community Tree Lighting Celebration

On Monday, Dec. 9, from 5:30 - 8 p.m., the City will celebrate the winter season with the Community Tree Lighting Celebration in Downtown Mountain View.

The celebration will feature local performances, tributes to multicultural and diverse traditions, free refreshments, a train ride, games, crafts, the lighting of the community tree, and an appearance from Santa. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit [MountainView.gov/TreeLighting](http://MountainView.gov/TreeLighting) contact the Recreation Division at 650-903-6331 or [recreation@mountainview.gov](mailto:recreation@mountainview.gov).



## German Holiday Market



German International School of Silicon Valley is proud to present the 11th Annual German Holiday Market, which will return to City Hall Plaza on Saturday, Dec. 14, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

The German Holiday Market recreates the jovial atmosphere of a traditional open-air, European winter market. Shop for unique, handcrafted gifts from Germany and local artisans: Wood ornaments and nutcrackers, Lebkuchen (gingerbread), Stollen, chocolate, toys, ceramics, and knitwear. Taste traditional German sausages and pretzels and warm up with a mug of Glühwein (warm mulled wine).

The German Holiday Market offers plenty of activities for the entire family, including live performances and arts and crafts.

## Great Elf Hunt

Join us for the Great Elf Hunt in Downtown Mountain View from Dec. 21 - 29!

Get into the holiday spirit as you search for hidden elves throughout participating downtown businesses and enter for a chance to win fantastic local prizes. Don't miss the festive kickoff on Saturday, Dec. 21—come dressed in your best holiday attire (Santas, reindeers and elf costumes are highly encouraged!).

This event is proudly organized by the Downtown Business Association.



## Center for Performing Arts Exhibits and Upcoming Call for Artists



On a rotating basis, works of local artists are exhibited in the lobby of the [Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts](#) at 500 Castro St. The art exhibits change every six to eight weeks, ensuring there is always something new to see by talented local artists.

### Current Exhibit and Hours

Currently on display at the MVCPA is [Nina K Ekman](#)'s fiber art exhibit, "The Ecosystems are Disintegrating from the Palms of Our Hands," available for viewing through Nov. 18. The MVCPA lobby is open to the public from noon - 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and one hour prior to every public performance (see the [schedule here](#)).

### Upcoming Call for Artists

The City of Mountain View's Visual Arts Committee is inviting artists and artist teams working in a variety of media to apply to exhibit their work in the MVCPA lobby for the 2025-26 season. Applications open Nov. 4 and will be accepted through Jan. 12, 2025. Applications must be submitted via CaFÉ at [CallForEntry.org](#), an online application system for calls for entry; there is no charge for artists to apply or use CaFÉ.

For more details on the Call for Artists and how to apply, visit the City's [Public Art website](#).

## Removal of Bus Shelter

With the closing of Castro Street to vehicle traffic, the bus shelters on the 100, 200 and 300 blocks are no longer needed for their intended use. In addition, some businesses have requested removal to improve visibility for storefront signage and entrances.

The City has identified two of the bus shelter locations (on the 100 and 300 blocks) for the installation of new pedestrian-level wayfinding and directional signage. Removal of these shelters and installation of new signage will take place in early 2025.

The bus shelter on the 200 block (in front of Alexander's Patisserie) was recently removed and replaced with City bike racks.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

*The bus shelter in front of Alexander's Patisserie was recently removed and replaced with City bike racks. Some businesses have requested removal to improve visibility for storefront signage and entrances.*

This will be the last issue of 2024. Keep an eye out in January 2025 for the next issue of the Downtown Digest.