

■ MOUNTAIN VIEW

City OKs Day Worker Center move

BY DIANA SAMUELS

Daily News Staff Writer

Maria Marroquin stood in the run-down, empty building with its missing windows and peeling paint Tuesday afternoon and envisioned the garden that her center's day workers would plant.

"This will be like a dream come true," said Marroquin, executive director of the Mountain View Day Worker Center.

At a meeting that evening, the Mountain View City Council voted unanimously to allow the center to move into that vacant building at 113 Escuela Ave. despite the objections of neighbors who say it doesn't belong in their residential neighborhood.

Center administrators have been looking for a permanent home for their organization for years, and finally found one in a 3,500-square-foot vacant, former dry cleaning building. The center bought the building for about \$300,000 last year, but their new neighbors have objected.

The center needed a "conditional use permit" to renovate the building and operate in the neighborhood.

Mountain View's zoning administrator gave them that permit in February but several neighbors appealed his decision, saying the center was a commercial busi-

ness that didn't belong in a residential neighborhood. They said it would decrease property values in the neighborhood and increase crime, and gathered signatures from 130 neighbors opposing the center's move.

The final decision was left up to the council at Tuesday's meeting. Council members worried that the Day Worker Center might be more successful in a busier, more commercial area, but ultimately voted to give the permit with a few conditions: Center executives must meet quarterly with neighbors to discuss any problems, and the city will hold a public hearing to review concerns after the center has been open for a year.

More than 20 supporters and opponents of the center spoke at the packed meeting.

Vince Raciti, one of the neighbors who appealed the zoning decision, said the center had "misrepresented themselves." Center executives have portrayed the center as a community center — allowable under zoning regulations for that neighborhood — while it's actually a commercial business.

"This has nothing to do with emotions or feelings or friendships," Raciti said. "It has everything to do with upholding the city code."

Others spoke in support of the center, saying it had been a good neighbor in its past locations at local churches, and that resident's concerns about traffic and crime were unfounded.

"It seems like (neighbors' objections) are more based on fear than reality," said resident Kermit Cuff, who said he lived a few blocks away from the new location. "Honestly you couldn't find a cleaner, safer place in the city than the Day Worker Center."

Council members said they were disappointed that emotions had turned sour with the neighbors. They also said the location and proposed designs for the building weren't ideal, but recognized that the center has economic limitations.

"It's not perfect but we live with imperfection all the time," said Council Member Laura Macias.

The Day Worker Center now has to apply for building permits. Center representatives said they hope to begin construction within a few months.

"Getting them to a new facility on Escuela ... In my heart, I got to say you have to allow people to improve their condition," said Council Member John Inks.

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Pedestrian reports mountain lion near University Ave.

BY JASON GREEN

Daily News Staff Writer

A possible mountain lion was spotted sunning itself Tuesday afternoon on San Francisquito Creek in Palo Alto, according to a police spokesman.

A pedestrian reported seeing the big cat sitting in the creek bed near University Avenue, not far from the East Palo Alto border, at about 1:30 p.m., said Agent Dan Ryan of the Palo Alto Police Department.

"He was down there doing what cats do: sitting in the sun," said Ryan, adding that there was no "human-mountain lion interaction."

Still, police used the city's Community Alert and Notification System to inform residents along the creek and neighborhood associations of the unconfirmed sighting, Ryan said.

"We want people to be a tad bit aware but not push the panic button," he said.

It's not unusual for a mountain lion to be in the area, Ryan said. The big cats

use creek beds as natural pathways, and tracks and other evidence of their presence have been found east of Highway 101.

Police advise residents to keep their pets and pet food containers indoors, and to call 650-329-2413 immediately if they spot a suspected mountain lion.

The California Department of Fish and Game offers a list of safety tips at www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/lion.html.

E-mail Jason Green at jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com.

■ DEATH NOTICES

BEVERLY SUE SORENSEN

1929—2009

Passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her family on May 4, 2009, at the age of 80. Beverly was raised in Corte Madera by her parents, Jessie Susie Vocke and Edward Gustav Vocke.

Beverly developed a passion for dance and was also an active participant in the church choir as an organ player. She earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology at San Jose State and worked as a social worker for San Mateo County. She married her husband, Jack

Sorensen, and enjoyed a marriage of 57 years.

A resident of Menlo Park for over 40 years, Beverly loved the arts, gardening, travel, and her family. Beverly served tirelessly as a self-proclaimed "professional volunteer," who donated time to numerous social organizations. She traveled to many places, including China and Russia. Later in life, teaching became Beverly's true passion. She loved to study and write; she became a professional educator, teaching the principles of the Enneagram Personality Typing System. Spirituality was always an important aspect of Beverly's

life. She was passionate about meditation and curious about reincarnation and the psychic world — with a wonder of what lies beyond this mortal world. Beverly will be missed as a genuine optimist who believed that change could occur with education, understanding and positive action.

Memories of Beverly will live on in her husband, Jack; children, Sue, Nancy, David and John; grandchildren Lindsey, Brad, Jeff, Sara, Julia and Connor; Beverly's sister, Barbara Mahood; brother, Ed Vocke; and countless friends and colleagues.

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