

# The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 99, December 2001/January 2002

E-mail: [gmvcc@hotmail.com](mailto:gmvcc@hotmail.com)

## President's View

by Gary Emslie

The end of the year affords an opportunity to reflect upon the events of the past months and our hopes for the New Year. Last year at this time we were reminded daily of the decline of the stock market (technology stocks most specifically) and all wondered how far they would fall. Well, I'm not sure that we have any more certainty today. The rapid growth of the 1990's has slowed and we hear economic news that points to more of the same. Boeing lost a big plane order and moved its headquarters to Chicago.

The tragedies of 9.11.01 and our country's response brought us into a war unlike any before. Only recently have we begun to hear the personal stories of war. Will it get worse before

it gets better? Pray for and seek understanding and forgiveness even where none seems possible. Locally, our neighborhood council had a productive year: spaghetti dinner; neighbor's appreciation breakfast; patch born and flourishing; traffic circle installed; block parties held; Washington Park Fieldhouse grant approved; and volunteers in our neighborhood schools. Our neighbors worked hard to make their neighborhood a better place. We are fortunate to have such caring people working on our behalf to make our little corner of the city a healthier, happier place.

Come to our next community council meeting January 15th in the portable at Martin Luther King School. Come and thank Cathy Nunneley and her family for supplying the council meetings with delicious homemade baked goods at every meeting.

Mark your calendars: Neighbor Appreciation Day is February 9 and as we have done in the past we will have a free pancake breakfast (8:30-11:00) held in the Bush School Commons. Bring a neighbor to breakfast.

Like to plant? The Council has a significant credit at City People's and the plants are designated for the playground area at M. L. King. Can you help? Call JoAnne McCullum at 252-2900.

New to the neighborhood: let's welcome the new East Precinct police Commander, Mark Evenson. Let him know what you think the neighborhood issues are.

The Community Council looks forward to 2002 with enthusiastic eyes, charitable hearts, and helping hands. Happy New Year to all. ▼▼

## PUBLIC MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council will be serving double-duty as a public meeting on design options for the Washington Park Fieldhouse.

A community-based planning effort is underway to improve the historic brick fieldhouse near the Washington Park soccer field so that it will be suitable for community meetings and other gatherings. Based on the planning effort's findings, the community will seek funding to implement recommended upgrades to the existing building.

Your input is essential to this effort. The architect for the GMVCC Fieldhouse Committee and representatives from the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation will be on hand to provide background information on the current condition of the fieldhouse and options for the future. The bulk of the meeting will be devoted to hearing YOUR THOUGHTS on how the community could use this building as a gathering space, classroom, assembly hall, theatre, and so forth. Your input will directly affect the renovation plans.

**DATE AND TIME:** TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2002, 7:30 PM

**PLACE:** PORTABLES AT MARTIN LUTHER KING SCHOOL, 3201 E. Republican

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** JERRY SUSSMAN, 206/325-6308 OR [GMVCC@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:GMVCC@HOTMAIL.COM)

## Guest Editorial

### Adopt-a-Street (and Get Free Advertising)

Neighbors in Denny Blaine and Madison Park are pleased that the signs recently installed on McGilvra Boulevard announcing its "adoption" by a Madison Park merchant have been removed thanks to the alert and sensitive response of Diana Gale, Director of Seattle Public Utilities through which the Adopt-a-Street Program is conducted. As a sequel the Madison Park Community Council is urging the City to abate two more signs along East Madison between roughly 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and McGilvra where a team of Madison Park professional practitioners still claims adoptive rights.

Our neighborhoods' concerns over the intrusive impacts and, perhaps, even the legality of the Adopt-a-Street Program are the first to be filed anywhere in the City since the Program started in the early 1990s. One can only wonder why they have been so long in coming. The signs along McGilvra Boulevard / East Madison could best be described as free commercial advertisements on public property in public rights-of-way. They are clearly out of place along residential streets, park boulevards, and any place else where neighbors are conscientious about picking up litter.

The program may have merit in general commercial districts and, especially, along freeways, for example. However, the City does not study a neighborhood to see if it has a litter problem before awarding an "Adopt-a-Street" franchise which usually is for two years. If a street has not been "orphaned" to litter-bugs (neither often nor frequently) common sense suggests that it doesn't need to be adopted.

However once the City has found volunteers, for whatever their motivation, to pick up real or imaginary litter along a particular street it then installs, entirely at City expense, the objectionable signs on the streets concerned. The entire cost is paid from our utility fees

This is a lot of *quid* with very little *quo*. "Adopters" commit to police their assigned venues only four times a year which, even so, on McGilvra and East Madison is redundant. Adopters are not responsible for removing things like leaves, fallen branches, snow, ice, or broken glass.

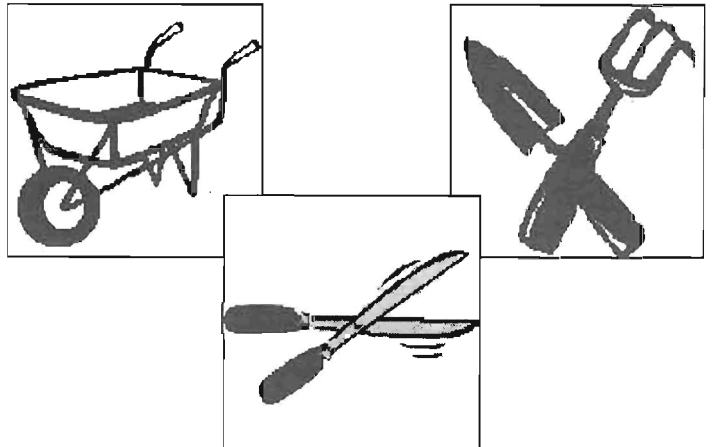
Individuals can "adopt" a street; so can non-profit organizations like scout troops, as well as commercial businesses. There is no public notice calling for comment preceding an award. There is no liaison between the Adopt-a-Street managers and other City departments.

Anyone having a view about the Adopt-a-Street Program should write directly to Director, Solid Waste Management, City of Seattle, Dexter Horton Building, Seattle 98104., and send a copy to the Madison Valley Community Council at 2802 E Madison, Box 184, Seattle 98112. ▼▼

## A Question for Old-Timers

If you are a long-time resident of Madison Valley or anywhere near the Arboretum, we want information from you. The brick fieldhouse at the playfield in Washington Park was used as an activity center for years. The Parks Department provided summer programs in that building during the 1930s until some date after World War II, when the shut it down entirely. There were showers, lockers, and other facilities. Does anyone remember what went on there? Do you have photos, anecdotes to share?

We are hoping to renovate the fieldhouse; knowledge of its history will help us!



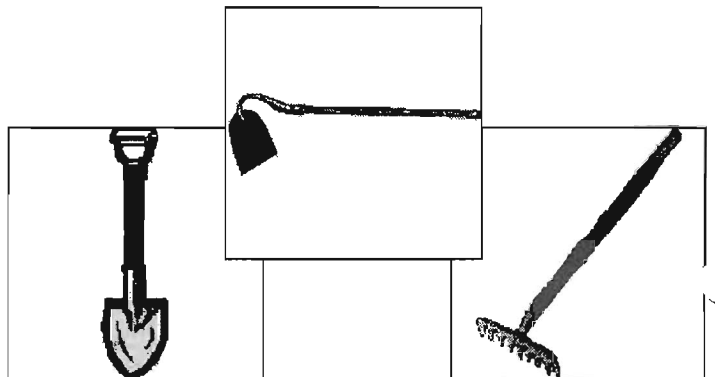
## P-Patch News

### Chip Your Tree for Free!

The City of Seattle will be providing the p-patch and Madison Valley community with a chipper/shredder on **Saturday, January 5**, at 10:30 a.m. The place is on 30th Avenue East, one block north of Republican. This is a perfect opportunity for you to turn your Christmas tree and fallen limbs from your yard into mulch. You can bring a bag to take your chips home or you can donate them to the p-patch. The City asks that you arrive with your branches etc. before 10:30 a.m. Also, the diameters of any trunks or branches should not exceed four inches.

The p-patch is also looking for broken hand tools (rakes, shovels, trowels, etc.) for use in creating garden art.

If you have any questions, please call Larry at 329-1159. ▼▼



## GMVCC Meeting of November 20, 2001

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Emslie. A quorum was not present.

A review of the Spaghetti Dinner was given. The charity box originally to be used for the Red Cross relief fund raised \$250. However, the idea of giving the money to a Northwest charity-which are sorely lacking after New York's disaster-was entertained. A suitable charitable organization to receive the proceeds will be designated at the next meeting at which a quorum is present.

The lack of entertainment at the Dinner was greatly missed this year, and will be paid more attention in the future. Anyone who would like to be involved with next year's entertainment, or any other part of the Dinner, please become involved soon!

The Council has received a \$5,120 grant from the City of Seattle for the renovation of the Washington Park Fieldhouse, which we hope might be used in the future for our meeting house. The fieldhouse is equipped with a fireplace, bathroom, and other convenient facilities, but the building would require substantial remodeling to be suitable for our use and others'. However, should we come up with a good design solution, it would be necessary to raise at least \$100,000 more. There is a possibility of a substantial Starbucks Parks grant, although members didn't know whether the Arboretum is indeed classified as a park. [Editor's note: the soccer field and fieldhouse are not part of the Arboretum property, which is managed by the University of Washington, but instead a designated part of the Seattle parks system]

It has come to the Council's attention that over \$2,000 of grant money is still on account at City People's Nursery, to be used for the Martin Luther King Jr. School beautification. The money was not spent this past July, as was planned. In the future, volunteers must become involved in the purchasing and upkeep of plants for the school, in order for the money to be spent effectively.

By the way, the p-patch is looking delightful even in the winter and is constantly being enlarged.

As in past years, there will be no Council meeting in December; regular meetings will resume on the third Tuesday in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10. ▼▼

*Minutes prepared by Miranda Levy, GMVCC Secretary*



**CAFE FLORA**

2901 EAST MADISON  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
98112  
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(206) 324-9783 (fax)

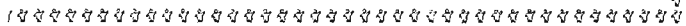
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Madison Valley Neighbors & Supporters  
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SEATTLE, WA 98112-4200

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**Next Community Council Meeting**

Tuesday, January 15, 2002, 7:30 p.m.  
at Martin Luther King Elementary School Portables  
3201 E. Republican Street  
(parking available on playfield)



**Delivery Troubles  
and What We're Doing!**

Problem with our home deliveries. Apparently, the Madison Park Times. To solve this problem with our delivery service, the MP Times would like residents to call our circulation manager, Jim Christenson, at 461-1337, if they should be receiving the paper at their homes but aren't.

Our papers are bulk-dropped at area businesses throughout East-Central Seattle and delivered to all homes in Madison Park and Broadmoor (mailed due to lack of access), the Arboretum (east of Martin Luther King Jr. Way East and around the arboretum), Madison Valley (south to East Denny Way), Madrona (east of Martin Luther King Jr. Way) and Leschi (east of 30th Avenue South and north of Yesler Way).

**NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS**

The Greater Madison Valley Community Council has a NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS. From now on, you can reach us at:

**gmvcc@hotmail.com**

We love to hear from you; please write early and often!

**SUPPORT THE VALLEY VIEW NEWSLETTER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  I don't receive the Valley View; please add me to the mailing list.

Please contact me for mailing parties, writing, reporting, artwork, or other. My interests are:

\_\_\_\_\_

**GMVCC ▼ 2802 E. Madison Street, #184 ▼ Seattle, WA 98112**

