



The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 73, March 1999

E-mail: valleyview@altadata.com

President's View

by G. Emslie

Another busy month in the neighborhood. Conversations are ongoing with Metro officials Judy Reilly and Joseph Farjo about the substation and bus shelter. Both Metro officials have been very responsive to community members' concerns and have made changes to designs of both substation and bus shelter so that design and construction materials reflect the Craftsman look. Future meetings are to

be scheduled with Metro officials and community members to gather input for the landscaping design and materials and for the ongoing maintenance of the 34th and Denny site. Both community members and Metro officials are pleased at the results of this collaborative process. As you know, many neighbors are avid park supporters.

Presently, both House and Senate bills are being proposed that could alter how the city charter controls, uses and manages the city's parks (not just the Arb, but all city parks). To gain a more comprehensive understanding of this potential legislative change, call 1-800-562-6000 and ask about the inner workings and implications of House bill 1189 and Senate bill 5268 and/or call you representative in Olympia to register your opinion.

Our next regular scheduled Greater Madison Valley Community Council meeting will be held at the portable on Tuesday, March 16th @ 7:30. Speakers from the Seattle Council on Airport Affairs will present information on airport expansion and the noisy flights

over our valley.

Congratulations are in order for Lisa St. George for the completion of the Martin Luther King playground structure. The bark chips were spread last weekend and the structure awaits the energetic hands and feet of the children. Great job, Lisa.

Don't forget the upcoming Progressive Dinner and Silent Auction on March 28th. Call Jerry Sussman with donations. Proceeds of the dinner benefit the children at the Martin Luther King Elementary school.

The Community Council will be electing a slate of new officers at its May meeting. We are seeking nominations and are especially interested in finding a neighbor who has interests and talents in the world and workings of the community council treasurer's position. Please contact any of the present officers if you can help.

Thinking of sun? Remember the council's July courtyard sale. Donations gladly accepted. We can even arrange pick up of items. Call me at 324-7139 or Jerry Sussman at 325-6308. ▼▼

In This Issue

President's View	1
Neighborhood Portrait	1
Fire Station 34.....	2
Letter from Africa (cont.)	2
Special MLK Insert	3
Notices and Announcements	4
GMVCC Minutes	5
Paid Advertisements.....	8

Neighborhood Portrait: Charles Angell

Charles Angell writes in our series about unusual occupations:

After receiving a master degree in fisheries biology from the University of Washington in 1970, my wife Ini, our son Vincent, and I began our overseas life together on Margarita Island in Venezuela. More by chance than plan, I became involved in aquaculture development. Since that first experience, we have lived for extended periods in Indonesia, India, and Bangladesh. Consulting for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United States Agency for International Development and other

private and public organizations have taken me to 22 countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa. These organizations hoped that aquaculture could be a significant part of rural development, so most of my work has been directly or indirectly with small scale aquaculture in coastal communities.

As I began writing this short article, I soon found it difficult to focus or find an underlying theme. How to condense the experiences of 25 years into a few hundred words? Each country we passed through was unique in language and culture. Poverty seemed to be the only common thread that tied them all



together. The ephemeral nature of friendships made in foreign lands is another. They seem to be very intense when you are in Dhaka or Madras or Ambon, but soon fade away after you move on to the next job. Every now and then we're surprised when a letter or e-mail message appears from an old friend.

Our three years in Bangladesh are still vivid memories, both for the friends made and the experience of being in a land so dominated by nature. Cyclones, floods and over population bring

(Continued on page 7)

Our Local Scene: Fire Station 34

by M. Roskin

Located on 32nd Avenue East, just south of East Madison, you'll find Station 34. Beyond performing a critical public service, the 12 firemen who staff the station are also fine neighbors. Perhaps you remember meeting a few of these most helpful friends at our November spaghetti dinner?

The Building and the Equipment

Station 34 dates back to 1914. It was the first station in Seattle to be built in a valley rather than atop a hill; the thinking was that replacement of horses with motorized vehicles rendered gravity's pull a moot point. Those original architects also took pains to fully integrate the original station house into the neighborhood by designing it to resemble a house (complete with the only bathtub in the Seattle Fire Department) rather than a public building. In the end, the architects may have done their job too well: firemen reporting for work often drove round the block several times before identifying the unassuming house as Station 34.

In 1971 the Seattle Fire Department accommodated larger vehicles and new technologies by razing the old firehouse and an adjoining property and building the current Station 34. The building houses one of the city's 33 active engines and one reserve engine. (An engine, by the way, involves a vehicle with pumps and hoses. The machine many of us call a "hook and ladder" is designated a fire *truck* as opposed to *engine*, and does not provide its own water pumping equipment.) I am sorry to report that the station has no sliding pole — Seattle's older stations still have the poles, but they are never installed in new stations, on account of posing an unnecessary safety risk. As partial compensation, Station 34 has a hose-drying tower, so that wet hoses can air dry in the great chasm that spans from the top of the tower to the depths of the basement.

The Calls and the Men

All told, Station 34 responds to about 1,000 calls per year. Of those, over half are for medical emergencies, with the remaining calls divided between fires, false alarms, and miscellaneous service requests. The station's primary territory ranges approximately from the Montlake Cut at the north to Union Street at the south, and Lake Washington at the east to 24th Avenue at the west. It's not uncommon for Station 34 to cover calls all the way to I-5 and I-90, however, when other units throughout the city seek back-up.

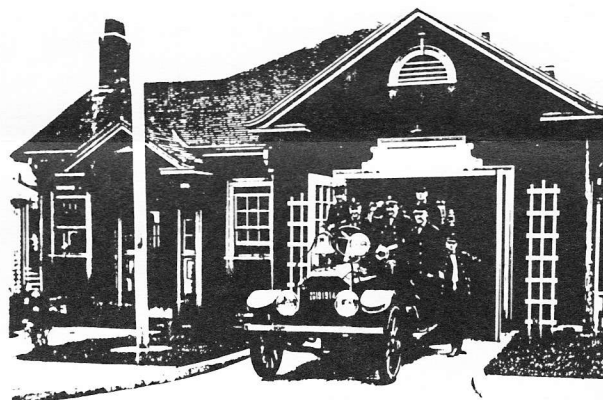
Four platoons of three firemen each staff Station 34. Each group of three performs about eight 24-hour shifts per month, with the shifts running from 7:30 am round the clock to 7:30 the following morning. When not out on calls, the firemen inspect businesses, health care facilities, apartment buildings, and schools; test hydrants; and drill for two hours each day.

Given the standard 24-hour shift, Station 34 acts as a home-away-from-home for all 12 members of the station's four platoons. The station has a bunk room that can sleep up to four firefighters. It also has separate sleeping quarters for the officer on duty (a lieutenant or captain). And a pull-out bed in the radio room ensures that someone is always ready to

receive any emergency calls from the central dispatchers. The station also has a pleasant, roomy kitchen, fully outfitted with a stove and oven, fridge and microwave, sink and dishwasher. Sometimes each member of an on-duty platoon brings in his own fixings for meals. Other times, one member will volunteer to play chef for an evening. Holidays and other special events usually call for a potluck, with each member of the platoon bringing in his own specialty.

The Dogs and the Kids

Lt. Larry Jensen, who graciously agreed to be interviewed for this article, tells me that the Station Dalmatian is but a fantasy nowadays. Long ago, dogs ran ahead of horse-drawn fire carriages to clear traffic, barking all the while. At night, the dogs would guard the horses and the carriages. No such need anymore, and today you cannot find a single pooch in any of Seattle's 33 station houses.... Each platoon is partnered with a local public school (including McGilvra, Martin Luther King, Montlake, and Stevens) to perform presentations and other services as requested. Station 34 also offers tours to groups of preschoolers — call SFD's main number (206/386-1400) to make arrangements. You might even be able to persuade them to let a group of grownups join in! ▼▼



Letter from Africa: An Ongoing Missive

Just got back from a wild day. Eighteen of us piled into the van to go to an Agricultural Research Institute about 15 kms out of Butare for our picnic. Some of us strolled around the pretty grounds and then I played a game of ping pong with Antione, the 60 year old french prof, and he beat me. It didn't rain so we sat on plastic chairs outside on the grass and drank beer and "fanta" (the generic name for coke, sprite, fanta orange and fanta lemon) and chatted.

After a while the next group came (there are so many we had to come in shifts because we only had the one minivan and it was both the English and French department) and finally the food arrived. I was hungry. First we ate roasted peanuts. Then the organizers came around with water and soap and we washed our hands because we were to eat with them. Trays of boiled potatoes and beef stew were put out and we were told to

Neighborhood Portrait

(Continued from page 1)

Bangladesh to our television screens. Yet I marveled at the sheer endurance and tenacity of the Bangladeshis. The soil of the great delta occupying most of the country is enriched by the annual flooding, yielding bountiful harvests of rice, wheat and cabbages to rival the finest from California's central valley. The life of the people of the delta follows the rhythm of the rising and falling waters. Rice is planted along river banks as the water falls. At the height of the rains, the vast flood plains of the Jamuna and Megna rivers become inland seas and farmers become fishers and boat people.

We loved to see the golden fields of mustard and wheat during the dry season and the rich shimmering green of young rice plants in the wet southwest monsoon. The rains bring the silvery hilsa, a fish like our shad, from the Bay of Bengal into the Megna and Jamuna rivers to spawn, like the salmon, but

unlike the icon of our northwest, the hilsa return to their home in the sea.

We witnessed the struggle of the Bangladeshis to establish democracy after years of colonial and military rule. The outcome is still in doubt, but their struggle goes on. The legacy of their independence movement lives on in the leadership of the two women who control the major political parties. The events that surrounded the fall of the military dictator and the obvious longing of the people for representative government made us reflect on how much we take for granted. ▼▼

[Charles and Ini Angell have had their residence on 35th East, near the Harrison Greenbelt, for more than 30 years. Charles grew up in the Madrona district and graduated from the University of Washington. After marrying Ini in Sarawak, Malaysia, Charles has worked as an aquaculture development advisor in Asia, Latin America and Africa.]

Letter from Africa

(Continued from page 2)

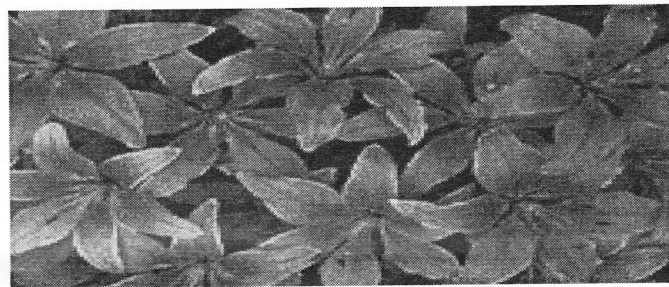
eat four to a tray. The beef was a little tough but tasty. Kaboyi, the Congolese, had the gall to complain about the meat, but he is always complaining.

After eating we danced and it was so much fun. Great dancing music, and everyone just dancing all together, so much freer and more spontaneous than this coupling bit. I got tons of compliments, "How did you learn to dance like an African?" "You dance really well" etc. Very gratifying.

We had a number of spectators, workers and some of the military police that guard the place. (They wear these beautiful scarlet wool berets which complement the green of their uniforms.) One guy showed up in an amazing huge black hat, black ankle boots, and a great swagger. Quite a cowboy.

Well, the party began about 12 noon and we didn't leave until 8 pm after dark. I got really tired from dancing; I'd danced so much. I drank 4 fanta and couldn't stomach a fifth. I even slow danced with a couple of guys! Flirting is an art form and a fun occupation, but not at all pressured or heavy. Just appreciation. I held hands with a lot of people men and women and listened to guys as they got drunk and a bit maudlin, including the director who buttonholed me and gave me a longwinded apology and self-justification and effusive thanks for all the work I am doing. None of it felt oppressive or annoying, just accepting and nice. I really felt part of it all.

Frank took lots of photos with my camera so the day was well documented. Huge amounts of beer were consumed mostly by the guys. We have some serious drinkers in this crowd. The first group left and the bus was forever coming back. When it came back the chauffeur just joined in the party again and I despaired of ever leaving as it got darker and the music continued to blare. Finally we all piled in the van, this time there must have been 25 of us and it was packed to the gills. We had



to wait while Kaboyi got into a fight with the dept head. K. is very volatile and explosive when he drinks. He is a little man, very angular and thin with striking features and a long nose. He is quite attractive except for his vociferous complaining and his belligerence. Very un-Rwandan who are much more into not complaining and getting along.

So the military police broke up the fight and they were bundled into the van and off we roared into the night. I sat in the very back crammed in beside Bernard and a drunk French teacher and his wife wondering to myself if the back was the safest part of the bus to be in in case of a crash which seemed imminent. Joseph the driver drove like a man possessed. Soon people started singing loud raucous songs and it felt like I really was a part of a different culture which seemed at the same time very familiar.

Got back safely from a wild bus ride from Kigali, this time full of university students, some of whom I recognized amid much jollity. It only costs a little more than US\$5 and is a good deal. Did I tell you there are lots of sunflowers on the Kigali-Butare road? They are lovely but many are drooping from lack of water.

When things go well, and I begin to feel more comfortable here — knowing people on the bus, talking to people in the street — and I consider staying on and am almost sad that I'm not...there is so much here that is pretty special in the sense that there is a reinventing of Rwanda as they rebuild, and it is history in the making. ▼▼



Bulldozers and volunteers working on the new playstructure (in the RAIN!)

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Once again, there are many to be thankful for in our endeavor. We would never have been able to pull off this project without the kind help of the many volunteers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank some of these people publicly.

The Bush Middle School came over three times last year to pull weeds. The plants were just over a year old when they came the first time, and we were still trying our best to keep the weeds from choking out the plants that were provided in our first Neighborhoods grant. They were lively groups of students, and they may have learned a little bit about plants while they were digging. We appreciate the Community Service program at the Bush School, and hope that our relationship with these willing weeders continues!

Seattle Works sent us about 100 volunteers for their annual Seattle Works Day '98. We put them to work all over the school -- weeding, painting hopscotch, weeding some more, spreading bark mulch, cleaning, etc. This was an amazing five hours from an amazing organization.

United Way Day of Caring -- AT&T sent approximately 60 volunteers to work on a beautiful late October Friday this year. This was a super effort that definitely made us feel cared for. Volunteers pruned and weeded, mulched and cleared, raked and clipped their way to filling up an entire green waste dumpster. They also moved many, many wheelbarrows full of wood chips and spread them out on the small hill behind the two portables on the King School grounds.

Last, and certainly not least, was the incredible display of dedication by the following individual volunteers who came out on the most awful of rainy and windy days, November 21st and 22nd, and worked many hours to assemble the new play structure:

GENEROUS & TIMELY DONATIONS

We received countless hours of volunteer time, but we received thousands of dollars of monetary donations too. The Greater Madison Valley Community, and families of Martin Luther King School, donated almost \$5000 to the effort to rejuvenate the environment and appearance of our school. While most of this money was required "cash match" for the King County grant, the generosity of the donations has made it possible to pay for unexpected expenses. All of that cash came in very handy, and is greatly appreciated.

Thanks again to the entire community for your support of this ambitious project.

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Mary Clare Stocking | Danielle Carroll | Donovan Bail |
| Melinda Vieira | Bob Leonard | Dominique Cove |
| Phil Branham | Brad Colman | Charles Walsh |
| Charles McDade | Jesse Harris | Celine Grenier |
| Wendy Garcia | Richard Nelson | Jon Fatula |
| Gary Emslie | Robert Jeffrey | Euhania Butler |
| Cedric Ross | Achebe Warren | Lisa St. George |
| Richard McClincy | Ron Santos | Doug McDonnal |

M L K

Rejuvenation Project Newsletter -- February 1999

Martin Luther King Elementary

Notices and Announcements

Airport Noise: Special Presentation at March GMVCC Meeting

The Seattle Council on Airport Affairs (SCAA) will make a presentation at the March GMVCC meeting. The presentation will concern SCAA's work to reduce the impact on Seattle residences of flight operations, whether they be seaplane, SeaTac, Boeing Field, etc. There will be time for questions after the presentation.

If you're unable to attend the meeting but would like more information about SCAA, you can visit their website at www.scn.org/activism/scaa, or you can contact SCAA's president, Mike Rees, at 282-1109 or mgrees@accessone.com.

Madison Street Clean Up

On Saturday, March 20, at 10:00 am, come help out with this annual event.
Meet at Cafe Arosa, 3121 E. Madison

Harrison Ridge Greenbelt Clean-Up

Volunteers wanted to plant some trees and clip blackberries in the Harrison Ridge greenbelt. Put in a few hours and feel good!
Tools and gloves provided, plus hot coffee and cookies.

Meet at Denny Way and 33rd Ave. E. at 10.00 a.m.,
Saturday, March 27.

(The rain will be only a memory by then.)

Support the Valley View Newsletter COUPON FOR DONATIONS

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Donation amount: _____

- I am not receiving Valley View; please add me to the mailing list.
 Please contact me for mailing parties, writing, reporting, artwork, or other. My skills are:

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Madison Valley Media Coverage!

Have you seen the Neighbors section of the P-I for Saturday, February 20th?

P.I. reporter Teresa Talerico with a photographer in tow interviewed folks up and down our streets, at King School, and in shops and restaurants. She read up on our history and did a fine job telling about us to the city.

One quibble: is it really possible that the median house value around here is \$300,00? Extra copies of this paper will be available free at our next council meeting, March 16th. Read it for yourself.

Special Thanks

The Valley View wishes to thank all those neighbors who have made donations to defray the cost of printing and mailing this publication:

Angel Chaffin
The Hebert/Guthries
Simon Martin
Miriam Roskin
Cornelius and Penny Rosse
April Sasaki and Alan Chun
Janet Tufts
Lisa St. George and King Rejuvenation Project

Minutes of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council for January 19, 1999

President Gary Emslie called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM
Those present approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Gary, for David Foecke, reported a treasury balance of \$1,713.74. \$470.00 was spent on the latest newsletter, \$65.00 on the spaghetti dinner. Insurance payments of \$185.00 will no longer be made after the sale of the Council van. Molly and David are working on consolidating older Community Council accounts in view of a new treasurer coming on in May.

Bus Shelter

Gary reported on METRO's excellent response to neighbors' concerns regarding the bus shelter and Metro substation at 34th Ave E and E Denny. METRO will spend a considerable amount of money on the site.

Council Van

Gary reported that the van is now up for sale, with an asking price of \$4,000.00.

Arboretum

Regarding the Arboretum, Jerry Sussmann reported for Nancy Knapp that Donald Harris of the Parks Department said that the scoping process (to produce an Environmental Impact Statement) begins in February, with public meetings to follow all year.

Progressive Dinner and Auction

The Progressive Dinner to benefit MLK School and the Silent Auction to benefit the Community Council are the evening of March 28th. Toni O'Neal (726-6660) is in charge of the dinner and tickets. The Council could use donations for the auction.

Newsletter

Jerry apologized for the newsletter not having come out before the meeting.

Donation coupons and ways of thanking donors were discussed. Jerry agreed that neighboring Community Council Presidents would be sent our newsletter to increase our community connections.

Local History Event

Miriam Roskin said she had been playing phone tag with Paul Dorpat regarding a local history lecture. Bill Hanson, Madrona Community Council President, was interested in "sharing" Dorpat with us.

Airport Noise

Jules Bloomenthal reported on the continuing political struggles over airnoise. He told us of a new group, the Seattle Council on Airport Affairs (SCAA), a group that deals with wide-ranging recreational and transport air noise issues. SCAA seeks individual members as well as community council endorsements, and the group wishes to make a presentation to the GMVCC. Members present were enthusiastic about having a speaker, at least. Jules showed us a fascinating graph of the paths Seatac flights take over Seattle neighborhoods.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

[Minutes prepared by Celine Grenier, Secretary]

Flooding Not Resolved...

The low point in our valley is located in the backyards of people who live between 30th and 31st Avenues East. Go to John Street and look to the north. The pond you see is the remnant of the waterway that once flowed out to the Arboretum and thence to Union Bay, on the west shore of Lake Washington, all before the valley was settled.

If there is a way this water can be diverted, we haven't figured it out yet!

Donations Sought

You've been hearing all about the Greater Madison Valley Community Council's annual silent auction — if not, look right here! →

To make this the best auction ever, the GMVCC requests donations of Precious Stuff for this annual fundraising event.

Please call Peggy or Jerry at 325-6308 ASAP if you want to donate!

7th Annual Progressive Dinner and Silent Auction

The 1999 edition of this Madison Valley tradition is scheduled for Sunday, March 28. This year's participating restaurants include Rover's, Cafe Flora, the newly reopened New York Style Cafe, Fran's Chocolates, and Tony Maroni's Pizza.

For further information and to RSVP contact
Toni O'Neal at Martin Luther King School: 726-6660.

The cost is \$40 apiece/\$75 for two, with proceeds benefiting Martin Luther King School.

Following the progressive dinner, we all join up at the Bailey-Boushay House for coffee, tea, and dessert, and participation in the silent auction.

The auction is to be held at Bailey-Boushay House, with proceeds benefiting the Greater Madison Valley Community Council.

LOOK HOW FAR WE'VE COME!!

We are finishing up the last parts of many very ambitious playground projects, and then this committee is going to take a rest!

Since we last sent our newsletter, many things have happened. First of all, we began our relationship with King County, which had awarded us \$50,000 to improve our sports facilities. All of the provisions paid for by that grant were outdoors, and were sports or games oriented. Secondly, we received a second grant from the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Matching Grant Fund. The grand total of these two new grants was \$104,332, with another approximate \$25,000 in donations of cash and volunteer time. It has been exciting to see the playground take shape, and we are very grateful to the city's Neighborhood Matching Fund and the King County Youth Sports Facilities Grants for making the improvements possible.

Look at what we've added, improved, or replaced:

- resurfaced the asphalt in the covered playcourt to provide a smooth playing area
- replaced all five basketball backboards and hoops
- a hopscotch, basketball keys and a U.S. map were painted on the asphalt
- a 256 square foot chessboard made of pavers was installed, with chess pieces.
- a new play structure, designed specifically for children ages 5 - 12
- a small field of grass will be included in the woodchip area
- a six-foot wide figure-8 path, a wider stage area at one end
- a wood chip that is wheelchair accessible

Many of these things happened so gradually that many of you might not even realize that it has happened. But, believe it or not, just over a year ago in September 1997, none of the above changes had taken place. We have much to be proud of in the improvements made for the children of the school and the neighborhood. Enjoy!



Kids hanging out by the new giant chessboard



THE BERGER
PARTNERSHIP, P.S.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
SITE PLANNING



Jeff Girvin of The Berger Partnership



A volunteer checks the molds for the new curved path

PRO BONO BY NOTED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT FIRM

In order to realize concept sketches for MLK's Playground, proposed by Jill Eulate (you remember Jill!), we needed the help of a licensed landscape architect to create the technical plans required to build. Jeff Girvin of The Berger Partnership stepped up to the plate and generously donated expertise, time and effort to this demanding project. Only with his plans were we able to move forward and enlarge the woodchip area and install the dramatically curved walkways you see today. And kudos to Renae Post who did all the AutoCAD drawings.

The Berger Partnership, located in the Eastlake neighborhood, has a staff of 30 landscape architects, technicians and administrative staff. Project types range from residential garden design to large-scale urban design projects. The firm is recognized throughout the region for their work on such notable projects as the Gates' Residence and the new REI on Yale & Eastlake. To see other volunteer and public projects completed by The Berger Partnership, visit their web site at www.bergerpartnership.com.

We applaud Jeff Girvin, Renae Post and The Berger Partnership for their active participation and their fantastic community spirit.

THE VALLEY VIEW
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 Greater Madison Valley
 Community Council
 Member of the Seattle
 Community Council Federation
Newsletter Staff
 Jerry Sussman
 Celine Grenier
 Eli Stahlhut
 Maggie Seymour
 Miriam Roskin

The Valley View is published 10 times each year.

Deadline: First of each month.
 Your submissions are appreciated!
 Mail to the address above.

1998-1999 Officers

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Vice President - Charles McDade
Secretary - Celine Grenier
Treasurer - David Foecke
Site Council Reps. - Mike Seymour, Maggie Seymour
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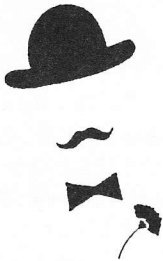
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Next Community Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 16, 1999, 7:30 p.m.

Martin Luther King School Portable Building
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