

# The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 76, June/July 1999

E-mail: valleyview@altadata.com

## President's View

by G. Emslie

Have you noticed the big earth digging and moving equipment? The city is busy with its patchwork repairs of "T" junctions in the sewer lines. As you might guess, these are very old sewer lines and the soil compaction techniques used in those days just didn't last. The sewer lines sag at the joints as the soil beneath them washes away.

This is just a piecemeal fix as the city hasn't allocated funds to repair the sewers fully. All this digging and the flooding and erosion along the greenbelt on 32nd is still unresolved. We're hopeful that Don Harris and Richard Hennings will correct the problems before the next rainy season. This could be any day now, given this Spring's weather.

Mark your calendars: June 12th, meet

with Larry Gaffin and other neighbors at Arosa Espresso (3121 East Madison) for the next Madison Street Clean-Up. The group will meet at 10:00 a.m.

Mark your calendars: July 17th is the Community Council's annual courtyard sale at 36th and Harrison, in the Bush School courtyard.

Congratulations and thank yous are in order. Many thanks to the exiting Community Council Treasurer, David Foecke. David has given generously of his time and wisdom to our Council's efforts. Thank you, David, and we hope to see you maintain strong ties to the neighborhood. And congratulations to our newly elected Treasurer, Angel Chaffin. We all look forward to many great adventures together.

On a very sad note, one of our neighbors, Terrell Hatfield, was killed this month. Terrell was just 21 years old. Police are maintaining an ongoing investigation and anyone with information can contact the

East Precinct's homicide unit.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Terrell and all his family members. What can we do to keep our neighborhood free from such tragic and senseless violence? ▼▼

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## Tree Planting Success



by Suzanne Wilson

Have you seen them — those 12 new trees on East Republican Street?

Three Little Gem Magnolias, seven Japanese Stewartiae, and two Autumn-Glo Ginkgos were planted by neighbors between 29th and 30th Avenues East. Participants were delighted by the quality and large size of the trees, provided by the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

The City delivered the trees on April 23 and all were in the ground by April 24. Most plantings were simple, consistent with recommendations given at an April 3 instructional meeting, but two are

surrounded by bricks and scattered annuals — quite attractive. The couple who laid the brick borders came up from Portland, where they recently moved. They came up just to plant the trees.

Two neighbors are already interested in participating in next year's program. Ten neighbors participated in this year's program, with an approximate time expenditure of 29 hours.

Handouts provided by the Department of Neighborhoods have been placed in the Greater Madison Valley Community Council's library.

Many thanks to the City arborists and Department of Neighborhoods! ▼▼

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

This issue of the Valley View covers the months of both June and July. This gives your hard-working staff a little summer break. We'll see you at the end of the summer!

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Readers of the Valley View may be interested in picking up a copy of the June, 1999, issue of the Madison Park Times. Therein you'll find a profile of our own Madison Valley neighborhood.

## Bush School Project Underway by Jerry Sussman

The Bush School broke ground in May for a new \$5.5 million dollar Science and Technology Center. The structure will add classrooms and laboratories for the high school and will open in the 1999-2000 school year. Bush is a co-ed private day school for 525 students that will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Martin Luther King School, a public elementary with about 275 students, shares the same property to the west of Bush along Republican and Harrison Streets. King School is in its 86<sup>th</sup> year. The two schools so different in character have collaborated recently in several activities.

Construction begins June 14 on the site across the boulevard from the main campus, adjacent to Gracemont, the 1910 mansion where most Bush classes for grades 9-12 meet. Some students will be housed in portables during construction. For more information about the project call Carole Wilbeck at 326-7775. ▼▼



## Book Review: Horace Cayton's *Long Old Road* Reviewed by Jack Irwin

Horace Cayton, born in Seattle in 1903, had a life of wandering and fighting the racial divide in America. This autobiography is a beautifully written odyssey of a man searching the world for dignity and love. Descended from Hiram Revels, the first black man ever elected to the U.S. Senate, Cayton himself endured punishment and pain for his struggle to live as a free man.

The story ranges from Alaska to Yakima, from Tuskegee, Alabama, to Chicago, Illinois, and on to the United Nations in New York. After many encounters with the hard reality of racial prejudice and loves that did not endure, Cayton does not lose hope in America. Few books illustrate as well William Du Bois's prophecy in 1900: "The problem of the twentieth century in America will be the color bar." ▼▼

*Long Old Road Home* is published by University of Washington Press.



## Annual Elections of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

### Results

Elections for officers of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council were held on May 18, 1999. Here are the results.

**President Gary Emslie**

**Vice President Charles McDade**

**Secretary Celine Grenier**

**Treasurer Angel Chaffin**

These officers' terms run from June, 1999 through May, 2000.

## Support the Valley View Newsletter

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

## Proposal for an Arts and Creative Works Fair by Peggy Sussman

To round out our calendar of yearly events and gatherings, members of our council are planning an arts fair and sale. The variety of craft work, painting, jewelry making and music that is done in this community is impressive. As a way of recognizing and promoting these activities the Community Council is proposing to Principal Euhania Butler of King School that we present a display and sale of the work of local artists, amateur and professional, at an appropriate time in spring or fall. The show might run several evenings and a Saturday. It could serve as a valuable new community focus and could bring some income for M. L. King's art and music program.

If you would like to help organize or participate in this venture, call one of these numbers: Eli at 322-7196, or Peggy at 325-6308. ▼▼

## Letter from Africa

A lack of trust, a legacy of the war and genocide, is pervasive in the society here. It affects the language classroom, in that activities that ask students to share information about themselves just aren't an option. Talking about where you are from, or where you were and what you were doing during the war and genocide isn't safe in groups.

Not all the people who killed are in prison. The Interhamwe (the organization of killers who, along with the army of the former government, led the genocide) still exists. The university has an armed guard for this reason and all government appointed positions like ministers and the head of the university (the Rector) have soldiers as bodyguards.

Hearing about the NATO airstrikes has been difficult for me as I cannot help thinking, where were you when the genocide was going on here? I hope the rest of the world is becoming more informed about the reality of what happened in this country. I find it particularly offensive that the notion of a genocide was discounted by the French because they could not imagine that an African country would be sophisticated and organized enough to plan one. It is also shocking and embarrassing to me that when the US was notified about the impending genocide, the ridiculous response was to tell the informer to take this information to the Rwandan authorities who were responsible for organizing it.

The current government is doing a terrific job of working towards the task of rebuilding and reuniting the country. The population is as dense now as it was before the war and genocide, due to the number of returning exiles. There is a general consensus that an improvement in the country's economy is crucial to recovery. The majority of people live in great poverty, subsisting off whatever they can coax from the land. Every inch of the land is over-cultivated and because Rwanda is a country of hills, the rains wash much of the nutrients down from the fields into the valleys. Agricultural programs are in progress that are reclaiming some of these valley swamps and using them for cultivation. Rwandan "paysans" work very hard with little reward. You see men carrying things on their heads as well as women, which was not something I'd seen before in developing countries.

Life is hard too for the so-called "intellectuals". Most of the university students share their beds with another student as there isn't adequate housing. Some sleep on the floor in other people's dormitories. Students here mostly survive on the charity of others. At the moment, they get a monthly allowance, called a scholarship, from the government, but this is only about \$15 and half goes on the meals provided by the university, and there is talk that it will be discontinued in the future. Meals are held in shifts because the restaurant isn't big enough to accommodate the number of students. There aren't enough classrooms either, and they don't always have enough chairs. At EPLM we had enough textbooks, unlike the primary and secondary schools or the rest of the university. There the students write down everything the teachers say verbatim creating their own textbooks.

## Minutes of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council Meeting for May 18, 1999

President Emslie called us to order at 7:30 p.m. A quorum present. Tracey Davis, representative of Central Area Development Association (CADA), outlined their building projects. CADA has obtained wide support for a 57-unit building at 23<sup>rd</sup> and S. Main Street; they are acquiring the Harvey Apartments at 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and Cherry Street. They plan a complete renovation there and will reserve 14 units for lower income residents. CADA also took over the property of Welch Hardware at 23<sup>rd</sup> and Jackson. They plan to build a complex of three buildings with retail, offices, and almost 100 units of living quarters. Appreciation all around for CADA's enterprise.

Adrienne Bailey, new president of Central Neighborhood District Council, gave us Leschi's proposals for changing airline routes and told of series of dinners to discuss the racial and economic situation in Central district.

We held annual election of officers. All present voted on a full slate of candidates, and there were no additional nominations from the floor. The election results appear in the article on page 2 of this month's Valley View.

We discussed continuing the bookkeeping arrangement with Melinda McCollister. It was agreed that David Foecke and the new Treasurer, Angel Chaffin, will discuss transferring duties.

Gary read Stan Hiserman's letter of resignation from the Village Schools Project. We will meet with him to settle affairs.

The Courtyard Sale date is set: July 17. The Bush School will provide covered storage from June 17.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15. ▼▼

*Minutes prepared by Angel Chaffin, Treasurer, Greater Madison Valley Community Council.*

On a cheerier note, today I passed a group of boys playing football. As I was smiling at them, I met a woman holding the hand of a little boy and a man doing the same with a little girl. The little girl stared at me with such delight and fascination that I had to get down and greet her. She put out her left hand for me to clasp as I spoke to her. Her very young father told me that she was four years old. He spoke in French and asked me what I was doing. It seemed the most natural thing in the world to stand there talking to this absolute stranger. The young man gave me his whole attention, and I experienced yet again this ability people have here to distill a moment for all it is worth. In a swahili phrasebook I found two or three proverbs that people are always quoting here: "Haraka haraka haina baraka": (in) hurry hurry there is no blessing. And: "Pole pole ndiyo mwenda": slowly slowly is indeed the (proper) path. ▼▼

*Our friend Sara the English teacher in Rwanda prepared these notes. —Ed.*

**THE VALLEY VIEW**

2802 East Madison St., Box 184  
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Member of the Seattle  
Community Council Federation

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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**

**President** - Gary Emslie  
**Vice President** - Charles McDade  
**Secretary** - Celine Grenier  
**Treasurer** - Angel Chaffin  
**Site Council Reps.** - Volunteers Needed  
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**Next Community Council Meeting**

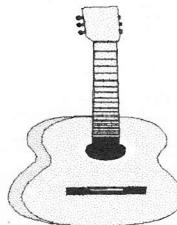
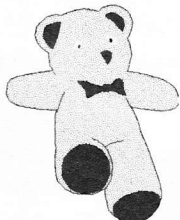
Tuesday, June 15, 1999, 7:30 p.m.  
Martin Luther King School  
in the portables  
3201 East Republican St. (parking available on playfield)

# COURTYARD SALE

Bush School Courtyard  
36th Ave East & East Harrison St

Saturday July 17, 10am - 3pm

good quality clothing, jewelry housewares, sports equipment, toys, etc.



Items to donate? Call to arrange drop off:  
Eli 322-7196, Peggy 325-6308 or Maggie 860-9115  
Proceeds benefit the Greater Madison Valley Community Council.