



The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 78, October 1999

E-mail: valleyview@altadata.com

President's View

by Gary Emslie

September was beautiful. We've rounded the corner, lower temperatures and that feel of dampness in the air, remind us all that Fall begins its march to Winter. Our neighborhood food banks still need our help so as we stock up for winter, think of those less fortunate. Northwest Harvest is close and would even take that unneeded fruit from the trees in your yard. If you have unwanted fruit or vegetables but are unable to harvest by yourself, call the community council and we'll help to find neighbors who can help you get the food from your yard to someone else's table.

Neighbors are again getting ready for this year's 11th Annual Community Spaghetti Dinner. Thanks again to all the folks at M.L. King School for housing this great event in their cafeteria. Dinner will begin around 6:30 p.m. on Friday, November 5. SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 5, 6:30 p.m.

Interested in improving the safety on your street? City Light is offering two workshops (10/27 and 11/10) for neighbors interested in improving the lighting on their street or alley. These free workshops will be held 6:30-7:30 p.m. and will answer questions about the lighting options for your street. If interested, call Phillip Fujii at City Light, at 206/684-3896.

Last and certainly important in our city are the upcoming City Council

elections. We have teamed up with several other community councils to co-sponsor a candidate's forum that will meet on October 21 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m at the Montlake Community Center. Hope you will be able to attend and hear from those running for City Council.

Reminder: Community Council meets every third Tuesday of the month September through May. Hope to see you there. ▼▼

In This Issue

President's View	1
Florence Court Reborn	1
Candidates' Forum	2
Spaghetti Dinner	2
Arboretum Update	3
GMVCC Minutes	3

Our Local Scene: Florence Court Reborn

by Miriam Roskin

Back in 1970, East Florence Court had big problems. Jobs vanished in the wake of the Boeing Bust, and house after house fell vacant. At one point, up to one-third of the houses on this one-block street were uninhabited. Banks foreclosed. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development took over many of these sites, including one lovely old house near the eastern end of the street. Vandals came and set fire to the house. The HUD determined that the house could not be salvaged and overnight, bulldozers came and leveled it to the ground.

The Federal government still owned the site, but five neighboring families figured that no one would mind — or even know the difference — if they established a garden plot there. So they formed a cooperative and launched a hardscrabble style of farming amid the remaining blocks of foundation. Three years later, in 1973, one of the cooperative's members learned that HUD planned to auction off many of its foreclosed properties throughout Seattle, including this one. So the members of the cooperative pooled their funds and bid on it. They won the site for just \$2,800 (this was an empty lot in 1973, after all).

As the years went by, the cooperative members continued to farm the site and pay property taxes, which went up and up and up. Four years ago the members learned of a King County open space program that permits property owners to defer one-half of their property taxes until the future point of sale. To qualify for the deferment, the property must be farmed organically and the owners must provide a pathway, a bench, and a sign that explains that the public is welcome to enjoy the garden, although all plantings and produce belong to the owners. The tax deferment is nice to have, but cooperative owners warn that obtaining the open space designation and tax deferment

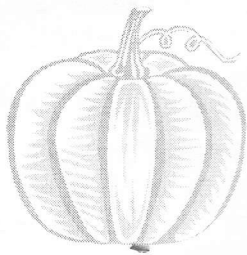
(Continued on page 2)

Florence Court, continued

required two years, over two hundred dollars, attendance at numerous public hearings, and plenty of persistence.

The eight members of the Florence Court Garden Cooperative include several teachers, a dentist, a Boeing engineer, and a homemaker. They farm together with a like mind, sharing the duties and the harvest. They have never bought topsoil, but instead have built up a fertile bed with 30 years' worth of homemade compost. The site is also blessed with an especially warm microclimate, which helps explain why their produce is so plentiful and looks so good.

Does it ever. The farm includes just about every vegetable you can think of, including lettuces, greens, peas and beans, beets, carrots, tomatoes, eggplant, a monumental stand of raspberry bushes, herbs, and an orchard with 12 apple, pear, and plum trees. The cooperative members even plant melons on occasion, though their mixed results with this particular crop can make the rest of us feel a little better. It's a 12-month garden, so winter crops such as kale and cabbages and leeks are just starting to come forth. And now, just in time for Halloween, is the time for pumpkins. If you stop by in the next week or so, take note of the new crop of Cinderella pumpkins, which are nearly the size of the chariot that sped their namesake away from the ball. ▼▼



Florence Court Garden

The Florence Court Garden is located at 3448 East Florence Court. This street forms a broad crescent just one block north of the Church of the Epiphany; it loops eastwards from the new #2 bus shelter at 34th and Denny toward the historic bus shelter at Denny Blaine Lake Park. The garden is open to the public, but all produce and flowers belong to the members of the cooperative.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: CANDIDATE FORUM

What's the difference between Judy Nicastro and Cheryl Chow? Or Curt Firestone and Margaret Pageler? How are you going to decide who to vote for for City Council? You could go by the number of buses you see bearing images of one candidate or another, or the 30 second TV ads. Or you could come to the Candidate Forum being sponsored by the Montlake Community Club along with Madison Park, Madison Valley, Madrona, and Portage Bay/Roanoke.

There you'll hear short statements from the candidates, followed by questions from a moderator and the audience. It's a chance to learn what the candidates think they can or will do about issues of importance in our part of the city as well as citywide matters.

Charlie Chong will be there. So will Dawn Mason and Heidi Wills. It's the place to be on Thursday, October 21 in order to make an informed choice about who is going to be deciding things in Seattle for the next few years.

DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1999
TIME: Informal Talk: 6:30 p.m.
Formal Discussion 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
PLACE: The Montlake Community Center
1618 - East Calhoun

(From 24th Ave. E., take Boyer Ave. going NW, passing the Greek Orthodox church on your right. At the five-way intersection with the island in the middle, take a 90-degree turn to your right — beyond the street sign that says 16th Ave. E. (i.e., bypass the hairpin turn immediately to the right). Go three blocks; parking for the Montlake center is straight ahead.)

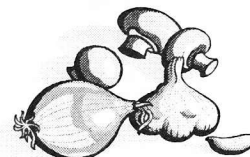
The organizing committee plans to prepare some questions for the moderator to ask. If you have any specific questions or particular issues that you would like to have covered you may send them to Paul Gibson at 1718 - 26th East or Cgibson@aa.net

ELEVENTH ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

Mark your calendars for Friday, November 5, the once-a-year pasta festivity. The place is M.L. King School and the menu is traditional Italian: savory spaghetti, unparalleled meat sauce (or vegetarian), green salad with olive oil dressing, loaves of hot garlic bread, and a choice of desserts.

All our cooks and servers are volunteers so we are able to continue our astonishing low price of \$3.50 per dinner, or \$12 for a family of four. Watch for our ticket sellers, or buy them at the door.

We start serving at 6:30. See you there!



Arboretum Update and Tree News

by Nancy Knapp

The Arboretum Park Preservation Coalition has succeeded in getting all of our requests for alternative plans included in the Scoping Document for the Environmental Impact Statement. An additional victory is the inclusion of an addendum that will describe the way each alternative will be funded. Now we have the long wait until around the first of the year, when the Preliminary EIS will be released. Then we will probably have a lot of work to do. In the meantime some of the APPC members met with members of Tremendous and Plant Amnesty to talk about putting together a Tree Commission, which can help protect Seattle's street and park trees. The city is already working on a new Department of Construction and Land Use (DCLU) ordinance that will require developers to save at least some existing trees during the construction process. Allied Arts is also interested in working to develop a Tree Commission and we will meet with them on October 13th. We'll keep you posted. ▼▼

Support the Valley View Newsletter

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Donation Amount: _____

I am not receiving 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

Minutes of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council for September 21, 1999

President Gary Emslie opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with introductions all around. A quorum was present.

The minutes of the previous (May) meeting were approved.

Treasurer Angel Chaffin gave her report, to wit, that we have \$7,894.96 in the Council's account. Gary said that the V-tech lab apparently no longer existed. All thank John Dirkman for all the work he did. Gary is not sure what the status is of any of the hardware or software we had, but he will contact John to find out.

Charles reported on the success of the two summer block parties at Frazier Park and at Adrienne's. Charles' area had a lot of house parties around the same time.

Gary began a discussion of this year's Community Council events. It was proposed that Cathy Nunneley, Charles and the Sussmans form the core of the Spaghetti Dinner crew; that Eli take the lead on the Silent Auction; that Celine set the ball rolling on a new Community Arts Event if a ball can be found; and that the Sussmans, Eli and Maggie form the core group for the next Courtyard Sale.

Gary spoke of a five council candidates' forum now in the planning stages.

Nancy Knapp and Chuck Pearman agreed to represent the council at the next planning meeting at a Mr. Gibson's house. Gary announced that the council had paid its annual dues to the Community Council Federation, and the council voted that the money should be spent.

Central Area District Council President Adrienne Bailey agreed to represent the council at Federation meetings. She passed out materials on Y2K preparations. She also asked if anyone wanted to join the group screening Neighborhood Matching Fund applications. (Call her if you're interested.)

Gary passed around an SCAA airport noise report, a flier announcing the next Seattle Public Library Book Sale, and an article about lighting up the top of the Space Needle.

He also asked if there was anyone who wanted to start attending the East Precinct Crime Prevention Group's meetings. There was some interest expressed.

Gary had a list of people who had expressed interest in getting more involved in the community and said he would call those on the list to see if they were interested in getting active in our community council.

Prop. 1 and school levy people who had been expected did not show. Jerry noted that the East Precinct Crime Prevention Group had heard a presentation on the poor way the courts and other government institutions deal with people who have mental health problems. New types of courts that could more effectively deal with problems of and those caused by these people are being considered. Jerry feels money needs to be put into creating and funding such institutions, and that we can help by pressuring legislators to act on this concern.

Nancy Knapp, president of the Arboretum Park Preservation Coalition, reported that the City is \$50,000 short of the approximately \$255,000 it needs to have an EIS on the Arboretum completed (see article above).

Chuck Pearman said he believed Mr. Ken Bounds needed to get a letter from the Community Council pushing him to move on the E. 32nd St. drainage problem. Gary agreed to write the letter using stats Chuck supplies.

Mr. Patrick Kennedy attended our meeting for the first time. Welcome, Patrick!

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. ▼▼

Minutes prepared and submitted by Celine Grenier, Secretary

THE VALLEY VIEW
2802 East Madison St., Box 184
Seattle, WA 98112
Greater Madison Valley
Community Council
Member of the Seattle
Community Council Federation

Newsletter Staff

Jerry Sussman
Celine Grenier
Eli Stahlhut
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.

1999-2000 Officers

President - Gary Emslie

Vice President - Charles McDade

Secretary - Celine Grenier

Treasurer - Angel Chaffin

Site Council Reps. - Volunteers Needed

E-mail: valleyview@altadata.com

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 6873

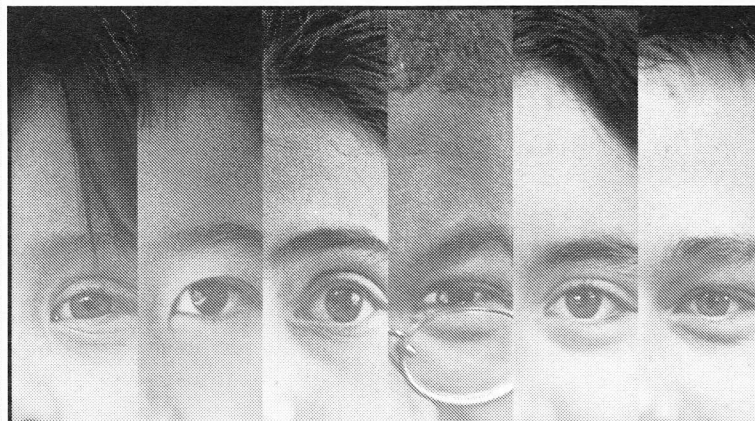


Next Community Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 19, 1999, 7:30 p.m.

Martin Luther King School
in the portables

3201 East Republican St. (parking available on playfield)



**The
Bush
School**

To spark in children of diverse backgrounds and abilities, K-12, a lifelong passion for learning, accomplishment and contribution to their communities.

The Bush School, founded in 1924 by Helen Taylor Bush, is an independent, co-educational, college preparatory kindergarten through twelfth grade day school in Seattle.

Please call to learn more about our Open House on Sunday, November 14th.

(206) 326-7736 admin@helen.bush.edu www.bush.edu



*The Bush School
Celebrating 75 Years*



CAFE FLORA

2901 EAST MADISON
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
98112
(206) 325-9100
(206) 324-9783 (fax)