

The Valley View

Issue 62

Greater Madison Valley Community Council

November 1997

Don't Miss This Event

Everyone is invited FREE to a Central Village festival at the Meany Magnet School Auditorium, Thursday, November 20th, 7:00 to 8:30pm. The Village Schools Partnership will present jazz ensembles, school choirs, the Senior Sliders dance team, Ewajo dance performances and Esther Little dove John, solo flutist. Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Ron Sims!

The partnership includes the entire community of Meany School, Bush School and MLK School plus the Miller Park and Madison Valley councils.

See you there!

Seattle Open Space Program Phases Out

Seattle's Open Space Program, a model for other cities, will acquire its last properties early in 1998. Forested slopes, ravines, streambeds and waterfront access have come under public ownership as natural preserves. The area of land saved in this way is well over 500 acres. These woodlands and creeks provide habitat for wildlife like herons, eagles, and owls, raccoons and even a few red foxes. The agency began work in 1990, financed by a \$36 million bond issue approved by King County voters. We have really got our money's worth because managers of the program found ingenious ways to multiply their funds by receiving state and county grants and land transfers from other jurisdictions. Individuals donated land to be preserved. The

properties added to the Park Department's holdings are valued at over \$90 million.

In many neighborhoods these lands represent the last views of greenery or suggestion of wilderness that people have. They form an



amenity reminding everyone of the natural landscape of the past. Activists and community councils like our own urged the Open Space people to come look

(Continued on page 2)

New Madison Valley Bus Route

The commute to Queen Anne, the Seattle Center, Capitol Hill, and Rainier Avenue has just become much more convenient with the extension of the bus 8 route. The bus has stops along Martin Luther King Jr. Way S and Madison Street, and runs approximately every 30 minutes from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM on weekdays. The cost for the bus is 75¢ for youth aged 5-17 years at all times. Adults pay 85¢ during off-peak trips and \$1.10 during peak trips. Schedules for all of the buses that serve the Greater Madi-

9th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Our regular November event brought in the voters in record numbers. Was there anyone eating at home Nov. 7? No! They flocked to MLK School and savored succulent pasta sauce (meat or all-vegetable) over fresh-cooked spaghetti. Hot garlic bread, green salad with olive oil and home-baked desserts made a memorable repast for all Madison-Denny town. The school choir sang to great applause.

Our thanks to the happy crew who cooked and served, to the businesses that donated food, and the tireless neighbors who made posters, set up banners, and sold tickets.

As we dined we watched the Ladies Auxiliary 3 of the International Longshoremen's Union present King School another \$2,100 to help parents with tuition to our before- and after-school daycare program. Many members of this auxiliary live here in our valley.

son Valley area (the 2, 3, 8, 11, and 84) plus information on how you can join or start carpools and vanpools will be distributed at the next Community Council meeting. For more information on bus routes and times, call the 24 hour Rider Information Line at 553-3000.

Next Community Council meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 18 in the MLK School Portable Building at 7:30 PM. See you there!

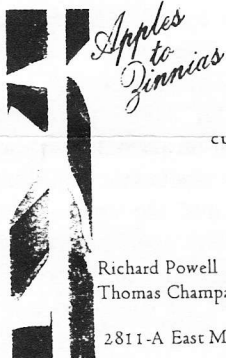
(Open Space...continued from page 1)
 at woods or wetlands in their part of town about to be built on. When private building lots in a greenbelt were in question, developers and local citizens fought over the best use of the land: was this a site for a quarter-million dollar house or a greenspace? Often the owner relented and sold to the city. The price was negotiated on the basis of market value.

Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods' program of matching grants enabled local groups to plan and carry out restoration projects, trash cleanups, and tree plantings in these newly acquired lands. P-Patches, guided nature tours and school activities all blossomed out of this program. Citizen initiative thrived. Our own Harrison

Ridge Greenbelt of 6.2 acres was secured by Open Space and then cleaned up and planted with hundreds of young conifers. For those of us who cannot look out our windows to see the lake or the Cascades, we are happy to have that green hillside. It is our horizon, an extension of the Arboretum, a home to hawks, woodpeckers, and migrating wild pigeons, a pleasure to see. The Open Space people are proud of their service to the city and are conducting van tours of the various sites they have acquired. Call for information about dates and locations, and reserve a spot on a tour! The phone is 684-7046. They'll send you publications and maps if you like. Just ask! You might offer congratulations for a job well done.

**Greater Madison Valley Community Council
 Minutes of the Regular Meeting
 October 21, 1997, 7:30 PM**
 Recorded by Jerry Sussman

Quorum of 12 members present
 People volunteered to keep us on schedule and to bring refreshments to the next meeting.
 Additional agenda items were requested.
Candidate Presentation: The council hosted a presentation by Aaron Ostrom, candidate for City Council.
Minutes of the Previous Meeting were not read. Secretary JoMarie Cunningham absent.
Museum of History and Industry spending approved for Jerry Sussman: A motion by David Foecke was seconded and passed: \$15 registration fee at MOHAI for community publication sale.
Spaghetti Dinner Announcement: Pearl announced that the Council's Annual Fall Spaghetti Dinner is scheduled for Fri., Nov. 7, 6:00 PM, MLK School, \$3.50/person.
Treasurer's Report: David F. reported a current balance of \$674.84. Jerry suggested we needed a business person to solicit ads. New member Diane Le Sourd volunteered to enthusiastic applause.
Van and Student Transport: David F. told us that Bush School and MLK school are asking about the use of our van for student transport from the south end. The Village Schools Partnership asks for this use also. The van is not now in use. Our insurance will cover drivers; no special license is required. Sliding scale for students recommended. We hope to earn enough to maintain the vehicle. Member consensus approved these uses.
Village Schools Partnership Kickoff Announcement: Village Schools Partnership will host a kickoff with gospel choir, Senior Sliders and more from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at Meany School on Thurs., Nov. 20th.
Traffic Light: Fred Stahlhut: raised the issue of a traffic light at 29th and Madison.
MLK Rejuvenation Project: Lisa St. George presented two options, geometric and curvy, for the MLK School playground layout and play equipment configurations. Council members expressed their preferences. Gary Emslee warned about play equipment that might offer hiding enclosures for overnighters or serve as a collection point for litter.
Computer Resources Collaboration: John Dirkman spoke of his plans to work with Principal Butler and Sara Poore, the new MLK school computer teacher, to maximize use of the Community Council's Lab and the school's computer resources. He announced the next beginners computer class, which will be Sat., Dec. 6, 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the MLK school computer classroom.
Bylaws Revision: Members of the he bylaws group asked for consensus: The group has not met, but members have proposed a revision and submitted it to all members and officers. Let's look at this during the November meeting, discuss it with all members present, publish the result in the newsletter, and vote on it at the following meeting. A consensus approved this request.
 Port of Seattle Position #1: A spokesperson for candidate David Ortman spoke on his qualities. Mr. Ortman himself appeared and remained for the rest of the council meeting.
 The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM



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New Book About the Central Area

Just published is a charming book, Tribute: Seattle Places Named for Black People by Mary T. Henry, a retired Seattle public school librarian. The book gives lively descriptions of many parks, buildings and monuments that memorialize outstanding personalities of our city and our time. Brief biographies of these figures accompany the accounts of key places. Many of the people honored in this way are nationally famous like Langston Hughes and Thurgood Marshall. Others are keen in our memory as citizens of Seattle like Flo Ware and Edwin T. Pratt. The careful line drawings in the text were done by Marilyn Henry, the writer's daughter-in-law and longtime resident of our Madison-Denny neighborhood.

Meet the Author: Ms Henry, who is also editor of the Black Heritage Society of Washington State Newsletter, will be on hand to present her book and greet us all December 6th at the MOHAI museum. The museum is hosting a Holiday History Fair and the city is invited. Our Madison Valley council will be there too with our own publications. Mark your calendar:

Don't Miss: Next Community Council meeting Tuesday, November 18th in the MLK Portable building at 7:30pm

King School Notes

Principal Euhania Butler tells us there will be early dismissal November 17th-25th for parent-teacher conferences. For families that cannot make afternoon appointments, teachers can arrange evening meetings.

Performance assessment testing is now city-wide for reading, writing and mathematics reasoning. These tests are not multiple-choice but require students to write out their answers, to explain their thought process. This type of questioning takes more time to grade, but is a surer indication of real understanding. They are given in grades 4, 7 and 11. A 2nd grade pilot version will be given at King School.

Bush School and MLK kindergartens join in monthly activities together. The teachers arrange this in collaboration. Thirteen Bush high school students come to King weekly to tutor individual students. Another cooperative project is underway in Ms Charlene Smith's 4th grade and a corresponding class at Bush: students will tour the neighborhood noting parks and interesting houses. They will be accompanied by a University of Washington architecture student who will help them interview neighbors and make reports and drawings back in class.

MLK has a new volunteer coordinator, Ms Alma Frank Brown, who can be reached at 726-6660.

MOHAI- Museum of History and Industry, at north end of the Arboretum.

HOLIDAY HISTORY FAIR, December 6th, Saturday 11am to 4pm

Community P-Patch Wanted by John Dirkman

We are looking for a dedicated volunteer or two who would be willing to investigate opening one or more community gardens, otherwise known as P-Patches, in the Greater Madison Valley area. If you have the desire and time to coordinate this initiative, please contact John Dirkman at 328-1268 or e-mail him at dirkman@scn.org.

Free Computer Classes Offered

by John Dirkman

On Saturday, December 6th from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM there will be a free computer class in the Martin Luther King School computer lab. The class is open to all residents of the Greater Madison Valley community. The class is titled "Computers 101" and will cover the basic operation of Microsoft Windows 95 and Microsoft Word. If time permits we will also cover Internet access using the Microsoft Internet Explorer. Absolutely no prior computer knowledge is required. Please call John Dirkman at 328-1268 to reserve your place in the class. Also please indicate if you would like to attend a more advanced class the following weekend. If there is sufficient demand, we will conduct this class as well. See you there!

THE VALLEY VIEW

2802 E. Madison St, Box 184
Seattle, WA 98112
Greater Madison Valley
Community Council

Member of the Seattle Community Council
Federation

Newsletter Staff

Pearl Castle and Suzanne Wilson

- co-editors

Jerry Sussman - reporter

S. Zahraie - layout

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day of the month at noon. Your
submissions are appreciated! Drop
off at 2956 E. Republican.

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President - Celine Grenier

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In This Issue...

Open Space, Village Festival, neighborhood schools and activities ...

November Meeting Highlights

City Councilwoman Margaret
Pageler will make a presentation on
local ecological issues; John Dirkman
will provide information about the
changes in the Bus 8 Route; proposed
bylaw changes will be discussed; re-
freshments, good cheer and more! All
welcome!

Neighborhood Cleanup Report

Thanks to all who have called to
report dumping and abandoned cars
in the neighborhood. Also thanks to
those who have offered help! I will
stop accepting new reports on Nov.
10. Then I'll begin contacting City
Departments to tell them what prob-
lems we've identified and to ask them
what they are willing to do to help us
and WHEN. I will let those who
have contacted me know their re-
sponses either by phone or through
this newsletter. Anyone who would
be willing to spend part of one day
helping load trucks, please call me at
323-5801. -- Celine, president

Big Changes for VTEC Lab

by John Dirkman

The computers in the VTEC Lab, currently in the portable building, will be moving to the Martin Luther King School computer lab on December 6th. The goal of this partnership and relocation is to improve the accessibility of the computers to both the students and the community. The students will benefit by having access to computers, printers, and scanners immediately after school hours, and the community will benefit by having more computers available. The lab will be open from 3:30PM to 6:00PM every Monday and Wednesday evening. Access to the computers is free of charge. The computers have Internet access, word processing, spreadsheet software, and much more. Stop by the lab during open hours to try them out.

Volunteers are wanted to assist in moving and connecting the computers. Meet at the VTEC lab at 10:00AM on Saturday, December 6. We also need volunteers who are willing to staff the computer lab during open hours. This is a great chance to meet and assist students and community members. Computer experience is helpful but is not required. If you are interested, please contact John Dirkman at 328-1268 or e-mail him at dirkman@scn.org.

ROANOKE

HOME RESTORATION

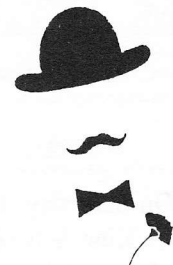
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