



The Valley View

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER MADISON VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

may 2009 • issue 164 • madisonvalley.org

To Preserve and Share an Artistic Legacy

BY LIBBY SINCLAIR



DR. JAMES WASHINGTON, JR. WAS A LONGTIME MADISON VALLEY RESIDENT, AND IS CONSIDERED AN IMPORTANT ARTIST AND ACTIVIST. THIS PHOTO IS COURTESY OF THE JAMES AND JANIE WASHINGTON FOUNDATION. YOU MAY VISIT THEIR WEBSITE AT: www.jameswashington.org/studio.pl.

On May 20th the **Citizens for a Community Center at Martin Luther King School** invite you to attend an evening presentation about the life and work of James Washington Jr. He was a Madison Valley neighbor, artist and activist. Tim Detweiler of the James and Janie Rogella Washington Foundation will discuss his art and life in our community. Musician Stephen Griggs will also perform.

Tim Detweiler is the director of the Foundation which was established in 1997 as a nonprofit organization to preserve **the art, writing, and lifetime works** of Dr. James W. Washington, Jr. It seeks to share his vision through the preservation, interpretation, and showing of his artwork, **studio, family garden, and home**. James W. Washington, Jr. (1911-2000), an American artist of African American heritage, is acknowledged as one of the most original sculptors of the twentieth century.

Join us at The Valley School on May 20th, 7:30 -9:00 p.m., following a brief community council meeting, and enjoy an evening of music and discussion about our remarkable community member. 🏠



THE JAMES WASHINGTON, JR. FAMILY HOME AND STUDIO IS LOCATED ON 27TH AVENUE EAST. THE JAMES AND JANIE WASHINGTON FOUNDATION IS DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING EMERGING VISUAL ARTISTS BY PROVIDING THEM A PLACE TO CREATE WITH ONE-MONTH RESIDENCIES AT THE MADISON VALLEY HOME AND STUDIO.



events calendar

Tues, May 5, 8:30 a.m. – Madison Valley Merchants Association Monthly Meeting, at Café Flora.

Thurs, May 14, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. – SPU Stormwater Project Public Meeting, at Café Flora.

Sat, May 16, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. – SPU Stormwater Project Public Meeting, at My Coffeehouse.

Mon, May 18, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. – SPU Stormwater Project Public Meeting, at Bailey Boushay House, Community Room.

Wed, May 20, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. – GMVCC Monthly Meeting has been moved to the Valley School for the Month of May.

Wed, May 20, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. – Presentation on Dr. James Washington, Jr. at the Valley School. A special event sponsored by the CCC@MLK, featuring a lecture, music and discussion.

Sat, May 23, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. FastFrame Grand Opening Celebration at its new location on the corner of 29th Avenue E and East Madison St.

Tues, June 2, 8:30 a.m. – Madison Valley Merchants Association Monthly Meeting at Café Flora.

Mon, June 8, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – SPU Stormwater Project Public Meeting, at The Bush School, Community Room.



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may 2009 • issue 164 • www.madisonvalley.org

Published nine times a year by the
Greater Madison Valley Community Council
P.O. Box 22278, Seattle, WA 98122

Member of the Seattle Community Council Federation

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The Madison Valley Stormwater Project

BY NORI A. HAWKINS

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) hosted a Community Meeting on April 8 at the Garfield Community Center Gymnasium to provide design updates and solicit public comment on the Madison Valley Stormwater Project. Since attendance at the meeting was very low, the following is a synopsis of the information presented and discussed. In response to a request from GMVCC to facilitate additional community involvement (and to make the meeting sites more convenient to valley residents), SPU has scheduled three additional public meetings in the month of May. These meetings are a great opportunity for the Madison Valley community to provide input on this significant stormwater project (see below for dates).

SPU 2009 Spring Update: "After the August 2004 storm, which resulted in significant flooding in the valley, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) began an in-depth process to develop and evaluate many options to reduce the potential for flooding in the valley. SPU is currently designing a new stormwater conveyance and storage system to greatly reduce the potential for stormwater flooding in the valley. The project will be completed in two phases that, together, will be designed to contain the amount of stormwater that caused flooding in the two largest storms in 157 years of record - August 2004 and December 2006."

Phase One Updates: "Phase 1 consists of expansion of an above-ground stormwater holding area at 30th Ave E and E John Street. When complete, the area will have the capacity to hold 1.7 million gallons of stormwater during large storms. Typically when it rains, water is able to drain into a combined sewer system. However, during times of very heavy rainfall, the pipelines can become full. The purpose of the stormwater holding area is to collect and hold this additional stormwater until capacity becomes available within the combined sewer system; this typically happens within hours after a heavy rain storm."

Construction of Phase 1 is expected to begin in summer 2009 and the expanded stormwater holding area should be operational by the end of the year. Before construction begins, SPU will hold a final public meeting with the community to share the final design and construction details.

The Phase 1 site will also serve as a community open space when there are no large rain storms. Since July 2008, SPU has held four public meetings to gather community input on the project's public involvement plan, site design, and landscaping. The most recent conceptual design of the above-ground storage facility is shown above. Some site features include: multiple pathways including ADA / wheelchair access; native plantings; rolling and open lawns; stone garden; valley overlook vantage points."

Phase Two Updates: "Last summer, the Seattle City Council and the Mayor authorized SPU to design and construct a pipeline in the NW section of the Madison Valley basin that will convey

Location Change for GMVCC May Meeting

The GMVCC has changed the location of its May Council Meeting to the Valley School, in conjunction with the CCC@MLK event on local artist Dr. James Washington Jr. The Meeting will start at 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday May 20, but will conclude early at 7:30 p.m. We hope you attend this engaging community event!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

stormwater to a new storage system in Washington Park. The location of the stormwater pipeline will be determined based on engineering factors as well as community impacts, cost and schedule constraints.

The storage system is expected to have the capacity to hold 2.1 million gallons of stormwater with approximately half of the storage capacity in a below-ground tank and half in an above-ground landscaped area. Based on modeling results, stormwater would only appear in the Washington Park above-ground holding area during especially large storms like the two in August 2004 and December 2006. Stormwater will flow from the storage system to the combined sewer system as soon as capacity is available, typically within hours after heavy rain storms.

Construction of Phase 2 is expected to begin in summer 2010. The combined cost for Phase 1 and 2 is between \$24 and \$33 million. The cost range will narrow as Phase 2 design progresses. SPU will host several public meetings to discuss the design and future construction for Phase 2. The first meeting was held on Wednesday, April 8."

Phase 2 Decision Announced: On April 30, SPU announced their decision on Phase 2 construction and scheduled three upcoming public meetings to be held right here in Madison Valley. GMVCC strongly supported the trenchless construction option, which SPU has agreed to pursue. "Based on the triple-bottom line analysis i.e., financial, social and environmental costs and benefits, and comments from the public, SPU has decided to adopt the trenchless (shallow tunneling) construction method and alignment... The trenchless method and alignment has significantly less expected construction costs (including risk costs) and less impact on the community, businesses and the environment. However, the trenchless method will still cause inconveniences to residents and businesses near the alignment. In order to best mitigate potential construction impacts, such as to traffic and parking, SPU has planned the following drop-in sessions for community members to discuss their specific concerns and learn more about the stormwater project and trenchless construction."

You may contact SPU at info@madisonvalleystormwater.com or call (206) 455-5345 if you have any questions or concerns. To learn more about the project, visit their website at: www.seattle.gov/util/MadisonValley.

Please consider attending one of the upcoming community meetings scheduled right here in Madison Valley to make your voice heard on these important issues! 🏠

Thursday, May 14, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Café Flora, 2901 E. Madison St.

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
My Coffee House, 2818 E. Madison St.

Monday, May 18, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Bailey Boushay House, Community Room

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Our "Y" – The Meredith Mathews East Madison YMCA

BY LINDA BECKER



THE MEREDITH MATHIEWS EAST MADISON YMCA HAS BECOME A PROMINENT FIXTURE ON 23RD AVENUE, LOCATED NEXT TO THE MOUNT CALVARY CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

If you keep meaning to get more exercise (swim, lift weights, do yoga, whatever) and want to be surrounded by pounding music and fit people in purple spandex, this "Y" is not for you. If, on the other hand, you want to get in shape at a family-friendly, community-oriented place with neighbors of every age, shape and size, then join more than two thousand people and families who are members of the local YMCA at 23rd Avenue and Olive Street.

Perched on the southwest rim of the Valley you will find a city treasure, the Meredith Mathews East Madison YMCA. Since 1936, when black community leaders persuaded the Coleman family to deed the property to the YMCA, this facility has been serving residents of the Central District and Capitol Hill. During World War II it became an Armed Services YMCA for black service men. After the war, it began to reach out to young people, and the youth programs grew. Under the leadership of Meredith Mathews, those programs continued to grow, as did the building itself.

Today, the "Y" offers all the usual activities we associate with a YMCA facility; swimming, basketball, exercise classes, and more. When scheduled leagues are not playing, you can drop in for hoops. There is also a wide variety of special events and classes. For instance, in a partnership with Children's Hospital, the YMCA runs a program called "Strong Kids" to help families cope with childhood obesity by working with a personal trainer and nutritionist. With the Fred Hutchison Center and Lance Armstrong as partners, there is the "Exercise and Thrive" program for cancer patients. With Group Health they also have a program called "Silver Sneakers", for active older adults. On a recent weekend there was a Healthy Kids Fair, with more than 500 people coming by for all sorts of special activities. Those are just a few examples. Check out their website by going to www.seattleyymca, and then click on the "Locations" button for the alphabetized list of YMCAs.

So who was Meredith Mathews? The East Madison YMCA got its name in 1993, a year after the death of the man who turned it into

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the wonderful place it is now. Meredith Mathews began his YMCA career in 1937, and came to Seattle in 1957 to become the director of the East Madison location. Besides tireless efforts to raise funds for the YMCA and increase community outreach, Mathews was also very involved in the Civil Rights movement and the First AME Church. In his obituary his son wrote that his father “spent his life trying to do what he could to assure that everyone has an equal opportunity to enjoy life.” That spirit lives on in this gem of the Valley. 🏠

Champion Swimmer



LONGTIME VALLEY RESIDENT LEOTA ADAMS HAS BEEN SWIMMING AT THE LOCAL Y SINCE THE POOL OPENED IN 1966. BEFORE THAT SHE HAD TO DRIVE TO THE DOWNTOWN Y. AT 84, MRS. ADAMS ATTRIBUTES HER GOOD HEALTH TO SWIMMING, WHICH SHE USUALLY DOES FOUR TIMES A WEEK. IN THE 1999 AOA NEWS, A NEWSLETTER FOR ACTIVE OLDER ADULTS, MRS. ADAMS ADVISED OTHER SENIORS: “YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF FEEL BETTER IF YOU WASH UP, GET DRESSED, AND GET OUT. GO WALKING. DO SOMETHING. DO IT!”

The Arboretum Turns 75!

BY PENNY BOULTON

Welcome Spring! Did you know this year is the Arboretum’s 75th Anniversary? There are a lot of activities planned. Here is one that would be great for the kids.... The “Park in the Dark” Family Program will be held Saturday, May 23, 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. Meet at the Graham Visitors Center at 8:00 p.m. to join the fun.

The “Park in the Dark” program is an opportunity to explore the Arboretum after dark. Learn about the adaptations of nocturnal animals and see the gardens in whole new light during this special family adventure. Become a bat or moth, test your sense of smell, and use your “Deer Ears” to hear night sounds. Games and activities are designed for families with children, K-6. There is a 20-person maximum and you MUST register by May 20. Call Jean Robins at (206) 685-8033 to register or for more information. Fee: \$6 per person. Also note our future “Park in the Dark” dates: Saturdays, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 31 (times TBD). 🏠



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April Potluck Photos



Public Art Selection Announced

BY NORI A. HAWKINS

According to an April news release from Seattle Public Utilities, an artist has been selected to work on the Madison Valley Stormwater Project. "The Public Art Program of the Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs works with Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) to incorporate art and the work of artists into drainage project projects throughout the city. 1% for Art projects at SPU facilities highlight the work of the utility and enhance the workplace for SPU employees.

Portland artist **Adam Kuby** was selected to work with city staff and the community to develop and install site specific artwork at the 30th Ave E and John Street detention facility and at the proposed detention facility at Washington Park. Adam Kuby will begin working with the design consultants for the two sites in late-April 2009. At the 30th and John location, the artist will look at opportunities for creating artwork that will be appropriately sited within the design by Karen Kiest Landscape Architect.

At the Washington Park location, the artist will design artwork compatible with the character of the park and which addresses SPU's stewardship of water collection and drainage. Kuby's artwork includes public art commissions in the Northwest and Canada and exhibitions throughout the country. Kuby explores the intersection between urban infrastructure and natural systems. Among his recent public art projects are a "triptych" of three sculptural installations in parks in Vancouver, BC. He is currently working on a project for Seattle Parks and Recreation at Thomas Wales Park.

More information about the artist's work can be found at his website at <http://www.adamkuby.com/>. A panel made up of representatives from the Madison Valley neighborhood, the city, and the arts community selected Adam Kuby to develop and install the artwork. The panel selected Kuby based on the strength of his past work, his ability to develop conceptually cohesive artworks and his interest in the natural environment." For more information about the artwork, or the selection process, please contact Ruri Yampolsky, (206) 684-7309 or ruri.yampolsky@seattle.gov. 🏠

The Valley View Needs You!

The Valley View is seeking volunteers in 2009 to help keep us in circulation! We need a new **Graphic Designer** to work on layout and replace Elena Johnson when she relocates. Please contact editor@madisonvalley.org for more information.

GMVCC President, Peter Triandafilou is also seeking an **Advertising Correspondent** to assist in coordination of our advertisements, as well as a **Website Designer** to assist in the creation of a new Community Council website. Please contact Peter with interest on either volunteer position at (206) 720-0488 or at president@madisonvalley.org.



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FastFrame is Moving!

BY MOLLY BAIRD VAN NOSTRAND, FASTFRAME OWNER

It's been five years since we moved to the corner of Madison and Martin Luther King Jr. Way to open FastFrame. So much has changed in Madison Valley since then. Businesses have opened, some have closed, and some have expanded. Condos have gone up and buildings have come down. During this time there has been one constant, and that's the great sense of community and pride the business owners share. As times have gotten tough, it's comforting to know that we truly have a sense of community and support in our neighborhood. We know we can count on each other.

Needless to say, we were all a little surprised at the end of last year when we found out that the spa in the purple house on the corner of 29th and Madison was in fact being run as a brothel. Who would have thought? A brothel, really? Not one to shy away from an adventure, my husband Jon and I thought, hmmm, we can do something with that house! So, we made the decision to move FastFrame to the little purple house!

The most exciting part of moving our business is that we can utilize the space to support our community. With the large yard we are planning community events to support local artists and businesses. We're planning a garden with Café Flora where they can grow fresh vegetables, we'll be hosting art openings for local artists, and we're looking into other fun community events where all of our neighbors can gather and continue to build the great sense of community that we have in the Madison Valley.

We're moving to the little house in May, so if you'd like to keep up with latest developments, stop by to check out the fresh yellow paint, or give us a call at (206)568-1600. 🏠



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