



THE VALLEY VIEW

JAN — FEB 2012, ISSUE NO. 180

Seattle Community Council Federation Member

Construction Halts for Winter

Seattle Public Utilities News Brief — Dec. 19



Crews are temporarily demobilizing from Washington Park and cleaning up for the winter. Work crews are wrapping up activities in Washington Park, clearing the staging area at 29th Ave E and E Roy St, temporarily demobilizing equipment, and cleaning up the streets. SPU anticipates the last day crews will be on-site this winter is Wednesday, December 21st. In November, SPU informed the community that work in the park was on hold until next spring. The soil conditions in the park are too wet at this time to complete the final grading and landscaping. SPU has installed temporary erosion control measures [white tarping shown above] in the park to protect the slopes from wet weather disturbances over the winter months. SPU will follow-up with the community when they know more information about a start date in Spring 2012.

While the project is on hold, the community can expect the following: There will be no project construction work without prior notice to the community. Maintenance crews will stop by the site periodically to inspect the condition of the park project site. The project email inbox and hotline will continue to be monitored. In Spring 2012, SPU will complete the final grading and landscaping in Washington Park, conduct pavement restoration near 29th Ave E and E Roy St, and will install a permanent sidewalk on E. Madison St near the former project construction entrance into Washington Park.

Seattle Public Utilities Contact Info: 206.455.5345

Email: info@madisonvalleystormwater.com


Website: www.seattle.gov/util/MadisonValley

No Playground for Arboretum

By Ann McCurdy

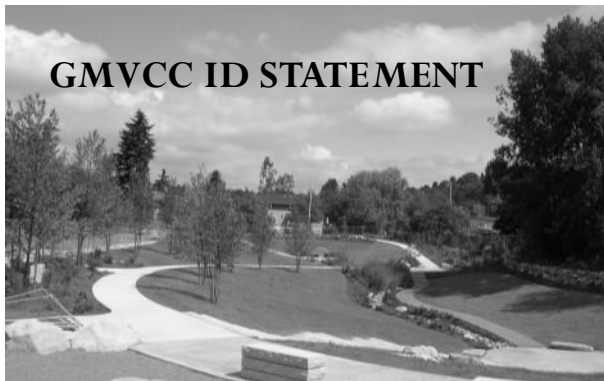
An attempt to put a playground in Washington Park at the south end of the Arboretum has failed a second time. Pamela Klimont from the Seattle Parks Departments acknowledged the playground proposal had “a good project idea, a good project application, and an enthusiastic community.” Nevertheless, the department rejected the *Neighborhood Matching Grant* meant to fund the playground because “Parks is facing large cuts to our funding for operations and maintenance over the next two years. Because of this, we can't support projects that would require new facility costs. The yearly cost to maintain this project would range between \$5,000 and \$10,000, depending on the scope of the project.”

This is a great disappointment for all involved, in particular Michelle McKelvey and Ann McCurdy, who wrote up the grant proposal and found enough volunteers to pledge \$10,000 worth of hours. Both McKelvey and McCurdy were involved in the first attempt to install a play structure at the current site of the swing set in Washington Park. In 2009, McKelvey and McCurdy won a \$50,000 CleanScapes community asset prize for the playground, pending feasibility of the proposed design. After a long negotiation with Seattle Parks Department, CleanScapes deemed it was not feasible given their budget and awarded the prize to another community. At the time, however, the Parks Department acknowledged that the site was an excellent choice for a playground, and recommended we pursue the idea via a *Neighborhood Matching Grant*.

There are no plans to pursue the playground at this point. We wish to thank to everyone who supported the idea. If the economy improves in a few years, someone may wish to revisit this worthy idea. 

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*The GMVCC is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit member of the Seattle Community Council Federation. The Valley View reaches 2,200 homes & businesses in the Madison area, published 6 issues a year in Jan, Mar May, July, Sept and Nov.



GMVCC News Briefs

Wed, November 16 Council Meeting —

President Lindsey Wishard called meeting to order. There was not a quorum of twelve present. Introductions were made.

Seattle Community Council Federation: The last meeting was about Community Council organization and function. There is a broad difference in models. All agree that the entity of a council is imperative for communities to have a forum for projects and problem solving. We would like to continue to send a representative from the GMVCC to the Federation meetings.

MLK F.A.M.E. Community Center: Several successful programs are up and running and they are adding new activities. Open House December 10th from noon to 2 p.m. F.A.M.E. is welcoming input from the community to further this successful beginning and needs local families to participate in the renovation of their playground (which is now open to the community). The Community Council is committed to a partnership with First A.M.E. and the next GMVCC meeting will be held at the MLK F.A.M.E. Community Center on January 18, at 7 p.m. We look forward to holding events there throughout the coming year. A preliminary discussion to re-establish the **Annual Spaghetti Dinner** in November 2012 was enthusiastic. The council encourages neighbors to attend the open house and embrace the MLK F.A.M.E. center as a focus of our community.

Merchant News: The Merchant Association and GMVCC have submitted an Economic Grant for \$300,000 to be used for neighborhood improvements. Merchant membership and participation has greatly increased and the organization is becoming a viable entity in the community. Meeting adjourned 8:20 p.m.

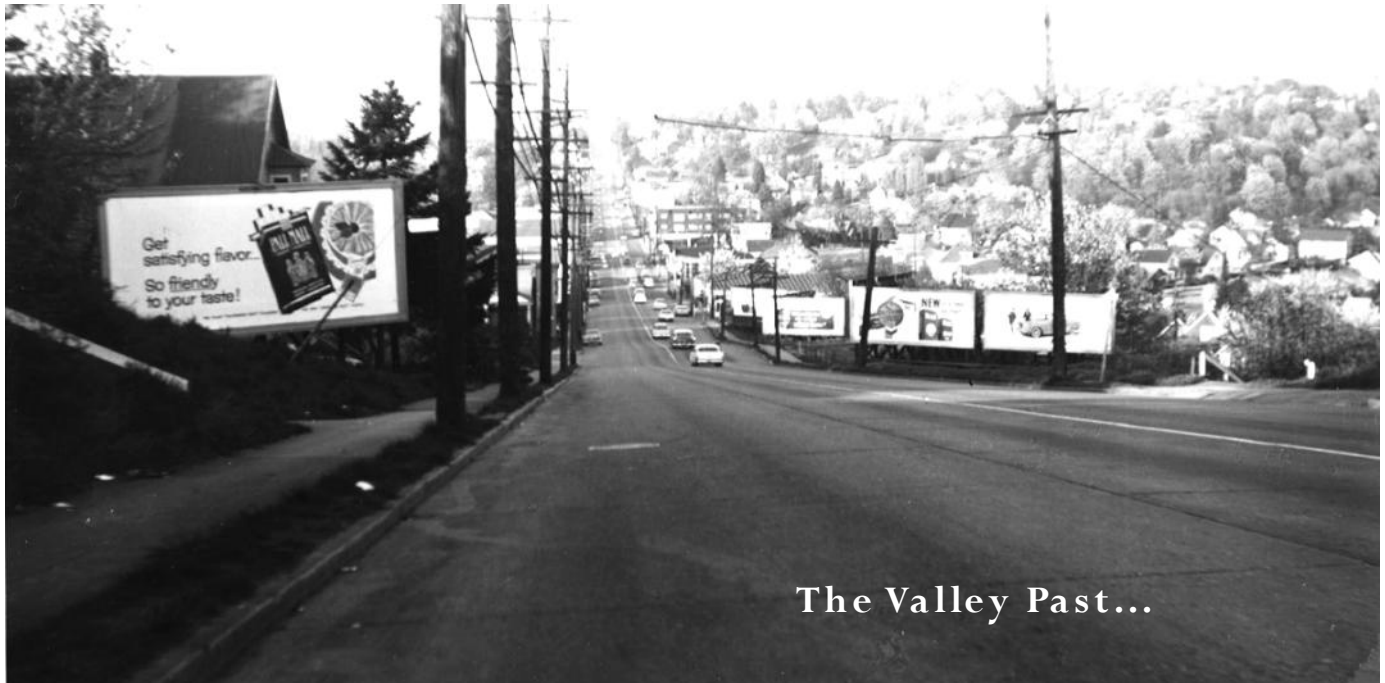
Come to the first Council Meeting of the New Year! Wed, January 18th, 7pm

New Location: MLK FAME Community Center
Or attend the Valentine's Meeting in February
Wed, February 15th, 3201 E. Republican St.

The Next Submission Deadline for the March 2012 Issue is February 21st —

We welcome your articles, ads, photos, events,
news briefs, letters and corrections!

Email submissions to: valleyviewED@gmail.com



The Valley Past...


Looking east along E. Madison Street showing a sweeping view of the entire East Madison Area, May 1959 — Since this area was considered a modest working-class enclave, very few photos of our neighborhood survive, except for city works project photos taken to document utility improvements. This image is a delightful exception that I stumbled across while searching the City archives. The handrail to the E. Thomas stairway (of today) can be seen descending into the valley at far right center. Thankfully the cigarette & automotive billboards no longer remain. Visit the website at www.seattle.gov/cityarchives/ © Seattle Municipal Archives Photograph Collection

What's Up on Madison?

By Ann McCurdy

There's a new store in town! **Design 10301**, in the site of the former **Gentleman's Consignment** store, is a women's clothing store featuring Jarbo, a "luce, European inspired collection made of the finest Pima cotton, silk, cashmere, and leather, ensuring wearable, modern, and edgy fashion." They also have a store on trendy Main Street in Bellevue. Perhaps Madison Valley can be the trendy street in Seattle.

Connected to the **Shell station** is the newly opened **Blue Sky Cleaners**, the seventh dry cleaners of a locally-owned chain, and the fourth dry cleaning store in the Valley (along with **Ultra Cleaners**, **Madison Cleaners**, and **Spotless Cleaners**.) **Blue Sky** claims to use a toxin-free cleaning method that's better for the environment. Whichever cleaner you choose, choose one in the Valley!

Belle Epicurean café by now should have the other half of their building open with **Provisions**, a small store selling wines and, well, fancy provisions. Perhaps if I buy the gourmet mustards and such, my homemade sandwich could taste almost as good as the ones at the café. I can dream, can't I? 



— The Valley View —

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Thierry's New Year Recipe

By Thierry Rautureau, The Chef in the Hat

Dungeness Crab Salad with Garlic, Roasted Shallots & Pomegranate Vinaigrette

Ingredients:

1 head garlic
2 shallots
3 tablespoons plus 4 teaspoons olive oil
Salt and freshly ground white pepper
4 slices thyme brioche or 8 slices baguette
1/4 cup plus 1 teaspoon of pomegranate juice
1/4 cup red wine vinegar
6 ounces Dungeness crabmeat
2 teaspoons minced chives
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Small handful chervil leaves or baby watercress
1 teaspoon basil oil or extra virgin olive oil
Garnish - Yellow bell pepper oil

Directions – Preheat the oven to 375°F. Peel away the loose papery skin from the whole head of garlic and trim a bit of the root end to expose some of the garlic flesh and make it easier to squeeze out after roasting. Trim the root end from the shallots as well. Set the garlic and shallots in the center of a large piece of foil, drizzle them with 2 teaspoons of the olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Wrap the package up securely and roast until tender when pressed between your fingers, about 1 to 1 1/4 hours. Set aside until cool enough to handle.

Trim the brioche slices into rounds about 4 inches across. Heat a medium-sized skillet over medium heat, then add 2 teaspoons of the olive oil. Add the brioche slices and toast well on each side, about 3 minutes total. Set aside on paper towels.

Combine 1/4 cup of the pomegranate juice and the vinegar in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat and boil until reduced to 2 tablespoons, 5 to 7 minutes. Take the pan from the heat, whisk in 3 tablespoons of the olive oil, and set the vinaigrette aside.

Pick over the crabmeat to remove any bits of shell or cartilage and set 4 large claw or leg portions aside for garnish. Put the remaining crabmeat in a medium bowl. Add the pomegranate vinaigrette and chives and season with salt and pepper to taste. Toss well to evenly mix. Squeeze the roasted garlic and shallots from their skins and coarsely chop them. Toss the garlic and shallots with the remaining 1 teaspoon pomegranate juice and season to taste with salt and pepper.

To serve – spoon the garlic/shallot mixture onto the toasted brioche rounds and set them on individual plates. Form large quenelles of the crab salad and set them on top of the brioche (or simply spoon the crab salad on top of the garlic/shallot mixture), topping the crab salad with reserved claw or leg portions. In a small bowl, toss the chervil (or substitute watercress) with the basil oil and a pinch of salt. Add the chervil salad alongside, surround all with a drizzle of yellow pepper oil on the plates, and serve. **Makes 4 servings.** ©2011 Thierry Rautureau, The Chef In The Hat™

Winter Oasis Under Glass

By Kyra Butzel, of City People's Garden



In the cold winter months, you can satisfy your green thumb without freezing them off by building a beautiful little terrarium for an indoor display. With a glass container of any shape or size, and just a few other materials, you can have a charming, lush green oasis or an inviting arid desert landscape.


You can buy terrariums pre-made at garden stores or create your own. They are fun to assemble, low maintenance, and greatly rewarding, and there are many resources online. Here is a quick run-down of what you will need:

A glass container – from a mason jar to an old fish tank. You just need the container to have an opening large enough to get the materials you want inside. Intrepid terrarium builders will use tweezers to get small plants through tiny openings.



An even layer of sand – for the bottom of your glass for good drainage. **A thin layer of charcoal** – to keep the environment clean. **An even layer of moss** – to separate the charcoal and soil and look attractive (optional). **A layer of soil** – enough to allow the plant to establish its roots.

House plants – of any number as long as they have the same water and light requirements. Use cacti and succulents for a desert landscape, and any number of small tropical houseplants for your lush landscape. As a tip, buy the smallest versions you can find. And if you want to **add some whimsy**, find a little gnome or miniature garden furniture to create a fun little scene.

When you are finished, you'll need to moisten the soil evenly and check now and then to make sure it has not dried out. If you create a desert landscape all you will need to do is mist it every once in a while. Then place your terrarium in a window and imagine yourself a tiny creature in your creation, out of the Seattle cold and rain! 

*Stop by CPG on Wednesdays to talk to Kyra about everything garden!



Please join us for our **Preschool, Pre-K and Kindergarten Information Night**
Thursday, January 19th, 2012
6:30 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

Or come visit for **Catholic Schools Week**
Open House Preschool to 8th Grade
Sunday, January 29th, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

For Info or Tours
Contact **Gina Purdy**
206-324-0460 x117
gpurdy@sttheresesea.org



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City People's Winter Workshops


Space is limited. Please call ahead to sign up or e-mail citypeoples.garden@gmail.com. Workshops are free & held at the garden store. 2939 E Madison St. 206-324-0737

Winter Fruit Tree Pruning Sun, Feb. 5, 11am – noon

Pruning fruit trees improves their overall health and appearance and can increase fruit production. This class presents the biology behind pruning fruit trees, basic cuts, tools, and how to stimulate fruit production. Instructor **Ingela Wanerstrand**, owner of Green Darner Garden Design, specializes in edible garden design, and has been pruning fruit trees for 15 years.



Build Your Own Terrarium – Sat, Feb. 11, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. Terrarium Experts **Gwen Buck & Terence Huang** will teach you how to make these popular desktop gardens. Easy-care, fun to make & beautiful, terrariums make a lovely **Valentine's Day gift**. Come to observe or build your own. We'll have mini terrarium kits for \$4.99, larger ones for \$7.99 & plants for \$1.99. Purchase a glass container or bring your own.



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Editor's Choice Award



I'd like to welcome **City People's Garden Store** as our first *Merchant Sponsor*. That means, in addition to their longtime annual ad (page 8), they made a sponsorship donation to support our publication in 2012. While advertising dollars are vital, they also support our newsletter by contributing great stories, and hosting fabulous (and free!) community events and workshops all year long (see p. 5).

I have shopped at City People's Garden Store (and their former Mercantile on 15th Ave.) for almost 20 years, and their friendly knowledgeable staff continues to impress me. So it is without hesitation that I award them an **Editor's Choice Award** for business excellence and stewardship.

In case you haven't noticed, they have retained many of the same employees for over a decade (or more), which indicates a management that values its staff. With a central urban location right on the Madison corridor, they offer convenient parking and prices that are affordable and competitive. Their plants are always healthy and well groomed, their selection is broad, and they stand behind their products. If they don't have what you're looking for, no worries, they're happy to order it. Not to mention their Annual Fall Plant Sale is a golden opportunity to score amazing plants and trees for a song. Whatever you might need for home décor, garden supplies, plant materials, or simply expert advice, CPG has it!

They are truly a pillar of our merchant community, and a fixture of the valley. If you shop there regularly you might also just rub shoulders with actor Tom Skerritt, who lives in the area and buys plants for his own garden there. I stood in line behind him at the greenhouse counter, waiting to ask a question to Jose as the handsome actor chatted away on all things green. So next time you're at City Peoples Garden Store, extend congrats on their Editor's Choice Award and let them know you appreciate their support of *The Valley View*.

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Winter Events Calendar

Jan 9 through Feb 12 — Mister Roger's Neighborhood Sweater Drive, sponsored by PCC Natural Markets & NW Center. Donate new and gently worn sweaters, coats, and cold-weather gear to keep our neighbors warm. Find drop-off bins at all 9 PCC's & KCTS studios. Children's sizes esp. encouraged!

Wed, Jan 18, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. — GMVCC monthly meeting, at the MLK FAME Community Center. Families welcome.

Sat, Jan 28 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. — Lunar New Year Celebration, Hing Hay Park, Chinatown-ID, Maynard Ave S. & S. King St. Ring in the Year of the Dragon with a Food Walk, Dragon & Lion Dances, Children's Costume Parade at 2pm.

Fri, Feb 3 — Wear Red Day to support the national Go Red for Women program sponsored by the American Heart Association, Macy's and Merck. Educate yourself & others about the No. 1 killer of women: Heart Disease. For local events & information visit pugetsoundgoesred.org.

Tues, Feb 7, 5:00-9:30 p.m. — Arboretum Foundation's Opening Night Party, NW Flower&Garden Show, Convention Center. www.arboretumfoundation.org/?page_id=229

Wed, Feb 15, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. — GMVCC Monthly Meeting at the MLK FAME Community Center.



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