

# THE VALLEY VIEW

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## Fate of MLK School Hangs in Balance

By Kimberly Larson-Edwards



The Seattle School Board has yet to decide the fate of the now-closed M. L. King Jr. Elementary School in the Madison Valley neighborhood. There are now three entities vying for the property: Citizens for a Community Center at MLK (CCC@MLK), First A.M.E Church, and The

Bush School. As reported earlier in April in *The Seattle Times*, Hamlin Robinson has decided to pursue a lease at T. T. Minor Elementary School instead.

The School District Selection Committee, chaired by the CFO Don Kennedy, issued a draft report on the four proposals in January, and CCC@MLK met with the Selection Committee in February. However, the Selection Committee has not taken further action despite several inquiries by CCC@MLK and its supporters.

Under the rules set out by the School District, the School Board makes the final decision on who will lease or purchase the property. CCC@MLK remains concerned that the Selection Committee has not issued an updated report responding to our rebuttal, as it probably means the Board still has misleading information that alleges CCC@MLK does not meet the RFP criteria for providing 50% (or more) of youth programming or social services – which means they would not consider our proposal. From looking at other recent School Board actions, CCC@MLK and its supporters are also very concerned that the School District is primarily seeing dollar signs and will not equally weigh the longer-term non-fiscal benefits of having the school go towards direct community use, and not the highest bidder.

CCC@MLK continues to organize poster and community events. Most recently they held a pasta-art card making event at The Valley School to send to the School Board the message that Madison Valley needs gathering space for events like spaghetti dinners and potluck parties.

CCC@MLK delivered dozens of the creative cards to the April 7<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting and ... *Continued on page 6.*



**Pasta-Art Craft Party:** CCC@MLK sponsored a campaign event at the Valley School on March 27. Concerned neighbors of all ages made pasta-art cards which were mailed to the Seattle School Board to voice their support of a MLK community center.



## Spring Events Calendar

**Fri, May 14, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. — MLK Farmer's Market Season Opening**, at Grocery Outlet parking lot on E. Union St. Open every Friday afternoon until September 24.

**Wed, May 19, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. — GMVCC Monthly Meeting**, at the Valley School. May Agenda: Officer Elections!

**Wed, May 19, 6:00 p.m. — School Board Meeting**, at the John Stanford Center, 2445 Third Ave. South. Discussion: the fate of MLK Elementary School. Please voice your support!

**Fri, May 21, thru Sat May 22 — Arboretum Bio-Blitz.** A 24-hour Species Inventory. See pg. 7 for details on this fun event.

**Thurs, May 27, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. — Green Footprints Action Works, 2010 Community Meeting**, at Valley School. Discussing current ecology projects. Kids are welcome!

**Tues, June 1, 7:00 p.m. — MVMA Monthly Meeting**, at the Bailey Boushay House. Food & Networking, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**Wed, June 2 & Wed, June 16, 6:00 p.m. — Regular School Board Meetings**, at the John Stanford Center. Also, **Wed, June 23rd at 6:00 p.m. is a Public Hearing on the Budget.**

**Wed, June 16, 7:30 p.m. — GMVCC Monthly Meeting.** Meet the movers & shakers in your community, at Valley School.

## GMVCC ID STATEMENT



### THE VALLEY VIEW

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## The Taste of Madison Valley



The Madison Valley Merchants Association (MVMA) is pleased to announce *The Taste of Madison Valley*. This event will showcase many of the 22 eating establishments located in Madison Valley. Activities will take place between 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave E. and Lake

Washington Blvd E. *The Taste of Madison Valley* will be held on **Sunday, July 11, from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm**. Participating restaurants and establishments will offer specially priced menu items and entertainment is also planned. Many shops will be open for this special event so please bring the whole family to sample the fun!

**MVMA meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.** Food & Networking is between 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Upcoming meetings will be held at the following locations:

**May 4, Baas Framing Gallery** – 2703 E. Madison  
**June 1, Bailey-Boushay House** – 2720 E. Madison

## GMVCC Minutes – March 17, 2010

**Treasurer's Report:** Ending March Balance: \$8121.57.

**General Business:** The President called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was present and introductions made. The proposal for a community-wide rummage sale is gaining volunteers. A date still needs to be determined. It's proposed that individuals bring their own items for sale, with a \$10 donation to the GMVCC for coordination of event publicity and to arrange unsold leftovers to be picked up by a charity. The neighborhood barbeque may be revived as the summer potluck. We would need to charge attendees a nominal fee to cover the costs of food and supplies.

The LOLA group is hoping to expand Madison shoreline park to the north and will host a meeting to receive community ideas on March 18, at the Parkshore Condos. Citizens concerned about the 520 A+ plan (which would add two additional lanes of traffic through the Arboretum) will be meeting on March 22, also at the Parkshore Condos.

**MLK Community Center:** The effort to create a community center for our neighborhood seems to be stalled at the School Board. Neighbors are encouraged to contact the School Board members expressing support.

**Green Footprints Action Works:** Members of the neighborhood group seeking to utilize green spaces more effectively presented a history of their efforts. They are currently seeking support in an effort to purchase the vacant lot at Madison, E. John, and 24<sup>th</sup> Ave East. They wish to create bio-swells along 24<sup>th</sup> Ave E, (between E John and E Thomas) to control surface water flow. The Council voted for support of the Green Footprints plan. The group will create a liaison position to keep the council informed of their progress.

**Harrison Rain Garden:** Daniel Johnson presented ideas to create a long-term plan for improvement and maintenance of the Greenbelt, specifically addressing the storm water runoff that floods 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave E. He is seeking support of his ideas with the goal of applying for grant money. Cathy Nunneley will meet with Daniel and other neighbors of the Greenbelt to review ideas. The Council voted to support the Harrison Rain Garden plans in theory but wishes to review specifics. A neighborhood group will meet with Daniel.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*Editor's Note: GMVCC Meeting Minutes are prepared for your reading enjoyment by Secretary Catherine Nunneley and are printed in condensed format.*

## GMVCC Minutes – April 21, 2010

**Treasurer's Report:** Ending April Balance \$6918.81

**General Business:** The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was present and introductions made. Cathy Nunneley reported meeting with neighbors of the Harrison Ridge Greenbelt and Daniel Johnson to review his grant proposal. It was decided to give Council approval for moving forward with his plans. Quarterly potlucks will continue to be held. Adrienne Bailey suggested creating a community cookbook based on the delicious dishes offered at these events. The community-wide Rummage sale will be held on July 31<sup>st</sup> combining this event with the summer quarterly potluck.

Jerry Sussman reported he heard a plea on the radio for citizens to reclaim alleys in the city. He and his neighbor enthusiastically created a new sign for their alley, naming it "Swanson's Alley" after the family that built their two homes at the beginning of the last century. Jerry will contact the Swanson family and let them know of this newly-named alley in their honor.

Allison Swartz, a representative of the Seattle Community Parking Program, reviewed efforts to manage neighborhood congestion and is conducting a survey of counting cars and walking tours to better understand parking challenges in Madison Valley. For questions or input, you may call her at 386-4654. Adam Kline, our State Senator, reviewed the state's budget woes and discussed the arduous efforts made to find the money to keep government running. With cuts and some new taxes, the budget has been balanced.

**Officer Elections:** We need new GMVCC officers for next year. Elections are in May and all offices are open except for vice-president. Charles McDade has agreed to continue in this position.

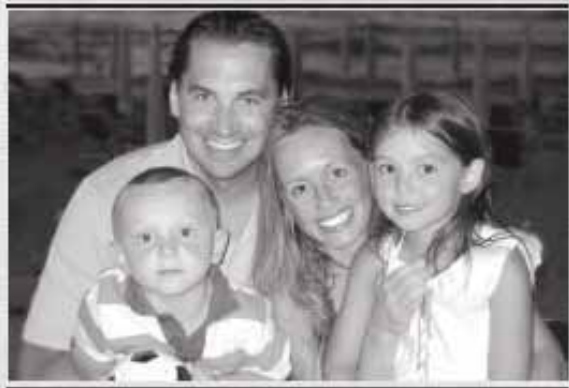
**MLK Community Center:** the legislature did vote to set aside money to support efforts to create a community center at the old MLK School. There has been no decision from the School Board.

**Merchant News:** Larry Levine reported that flood abatement construction is still unscheduled but should happen sometime this summer. There were 3 robberies and some car vandalism reported in March among the businesses. Madison business owners have applied for a grant that addresses efforts to encourage the community to shop locally.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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**Yard Waste Overcharging**  
By Catherine Nunneley




As a follow up to my inquiries regarding over charging on community members yard waste bills, Jerry Sussman and I met with two representatives from SPU. We were assured that the chronic overcharging was most likely a result of new tally techniques used by the drivers. Apparently, some additional training was required so that errors can be curtailed. In addition, there remain some behaviors on our part that can help eliminate the confusion.

1. If you co-mingle your bin with other neighbors at the end of an alley or driveway, try to provide some separation from each other and make sure your bin is clearly marked with your address. You may need to touch up the original lettering.
2. If you DO have extra yard waste one week, please clearly mark the bag with your address so that a neighbor is not charged by mistake.
3. Do not overfill your bin. If the lid does not close completely or debris is spilling out (like the one shown in this picture), you will be charged for extra waste.

We are gratified that SPU addressed our concerns seriously and took action to investigate the problem. If you continue to have unwarranted charges, do not hesitate to contact them.

**TOP THREE REASONS FOR EXTRA CHARGES ON GARBAGE & YARD WASTE**



- \* Containers Overfilled Beyond Rim
- \* Containers Over Weight Limit
- \* Extra Containers/Materials Set Out



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Catherine and Editor,

Thank you for writing the yard waste article in *The Valley View*. I live on 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave East and checked my bills for the first time in a long time and found that I too was being charged almost each and every time for extra yard waste. When I called the utility company, the woman I spoke with agreed to reverse the charges but cautioned me that if it ever happened again, they would not be able to reverse the charges. I asked her how I could protect myself, as I don't put out extra yard waste and I have 2 containers, which are plenty... I am stunned by this because I am retired and can assure you (as I did her) that extra containers aren't the problem for me, and I've been out there watching the guys pick up the garbage. Anyway I am very frustrated... If you have any suggestions for me I would be most grateful.

Sincerely,  
S. Jewell

*Subsequent letter from Ms. Jewell:*

Good news! I talked to the man who picked up the yard waste today and he was really nice. He invited me to look inside his truck and showed me his computer screen where it said I was only assigned one 32-gallon yard waste can, but in fact I pay for two 32-gallon cans (as it shows on my bills). I got his name and called SPU and the fellow there was super helpful. He said that when the changes happened last spring with a new contractor, there have been some disconnects. So he is going to re-enter the 2 containers as if it was a change, in hopes that will fix the problem. He did tell me this is the only instance he's heard of where this particular problem was occurring and he was glad I got a chance to go into the "batmobile" and read their computer screen. So I am completely reassured this will end the problem for me. I would say the best thing for people to do is to actually talk to the yard waste carrier, if possible, to see if they're having this same problem. When I suggested this possibility to a SPU representative over the phone, she insisted the contractors had the exact same information the city office has (which obviously is not always true). Again, thank you for the article. I learned a valuable lesson!

Sincerely,  
S. Jewell

*Letters to the Editor continued on Page 6...*

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### Fate of MLK School, cont'd from page 1...



re-submitted the rebuttal memo for review. Back in mid-March the District told CCC@MLK that they will have "an update in a few weeks" but the clock continues to tick against the community. CCC@MLK is asking supporters of a community center to send the message to the School Board that residents want and need social gathering and play space in the valley, and most importantly, the School

District should support community needs over cash!

**For more information or to get involved with our campaign for a community center, please visit our website at: [www.mlkcommunitycenter.org](http://www.mlkcommunitycenter.org).**

### Letters to the Editor cont'd from p. 5...



Dear Editor and Ms. Yeung (of SPU),

I think the name of the new stormwater basin in Madison Valley should be "Kate Fleming Park" (or "Kate Fleming Stormwater Detention Facility"), in memory of Ms. Fleming, who died during the 2006 flood. Or perhaps "Anna's Field" or "Anna Fields", a more indirect reference to Kate Fleming, as she recorded audio books under the name of Anna Fields, her great grandmother.

Please reference the article: [http://www.seattlepi.com/local/296094\\_fleming15ww.html](http://www.seattlepi.com/local/296094_fleming15ww.html)

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Jacobson



## What's Up on Madison? By Ann Mccurdy



**Bill the Butcher** is now up and running at 2911 E. Madison St. I went in, and you may be more surprised by what is NOT in there than what is: no Styro-foam, shrink-wrapped packages of already cut meat. Instead, you'll find large slabs of aged, high-quality, organic, locally grown meat and an honest-to-goodness friendly, knowledgeable butcher to help you decide on a cut and how much to get.

Fresh items include eggs, chicken, cheeses, milk, yogurts, and occasionally seafood (none at the moment). There's also a big selection of varied gourmet salsas, sauces, condiments and extras, from chimichurri sauce to dried mushrooms to fine chocolate. Excuse me while I wipe the drool off my keyboard before moving on...

**Spoiled by Nana** has closed its doors, and is now an online store and will continue to offer available inventory of children's clothing for special occasions at: [www.spoiledbynana.com](http://www.spoiledbynana.com) — at greatly reduced prices. **Birth and Beyond** (at 2719 E. Madison St.) which owns Spoiled by Nana, will use the space for their ever popular classes, workshops, and special events.

By the way, Birth and Beyond has been catering to expectant moms and new families in Madison Valley for over 16 years. But the antique store **Apogee**, at 2811 E. Madison St, still has them beat — they celebrated over 40 years in the business. Congratulations to both!

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## The Arboretum Bio-Blitz!



The year 2010 has been declared the International Year of Biodiversity. The UW Botanic Gardens is jumping on the bandwagon and want you to join us. With generous support from the Arboretum Foundation, teams of

scientists, students and inquisitive citizens will attempt to inventory all the life they can find in the Arboretum's north end.

**The Bio-Blitz will occur on May 21 and May 22, from 3:00pm on Friday to 3:00pm on Saturday.** Open House for the public will be on Saturday from 1 - 3p.m. at the Visitor Center and Greenhouse. Food will be provided for the volunteers and the Visitor Center will be available for those who want to "camp" out Friday night.

There are 2 reasons for the Bio-Blitz: First is to get an inventory of all the species, especially on Foster Island, that will be impacted by the expansion of the 520 Bridge, and along the stream for potential salmon restoration. Second is to let the public know what a diverse park they have in their own backyard. For information, call Patrick Mulligan at 206-616-3381 or visit the weblink for a signup application: <http://depts.washington.edu/natmap/bioblitz/wpa/>

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**EVENTS NOT TO MISS!**

**Wednesday, May 19 —  
 GMVCC Officer Elections!**

Cast your vote at The Valley School, 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, July 11 —  
 The Taste of Madison Valley**

Sponsored by the MVMA, 11a.m. — 5p.m.

**Saturday, July 31 —  
 Summer Potluck & Rummage Sale!**

Don't miss THE social event of the summer. Potluck BBQ from 4 – 7p.m. at the Valley School. Community-wide Rummage Sale from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Stormwater Basin Park.



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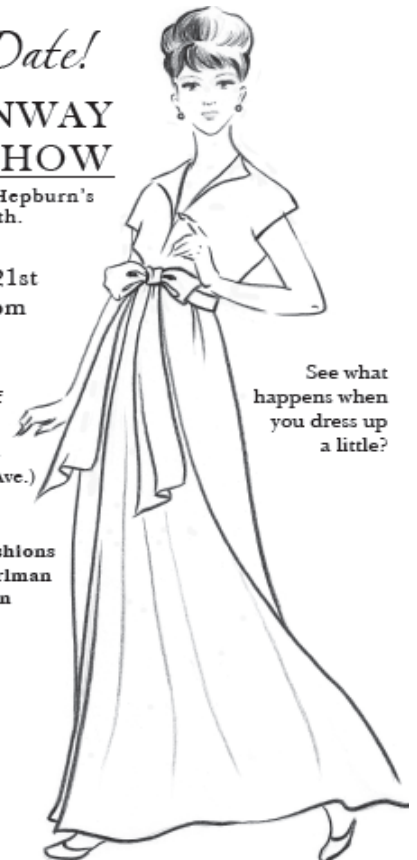
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