



The Valley View

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER MADISON VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

june 2009 • issue 165 • madisonvalley.org

Gearing Up For Summer

BY NORI HAWKINS



You may not be aware of a wonderful urban amenity located right here in Madison Valley. Or running through it, that is. It is the **Lake Washington Bicycle Loop**, which connects our neighborhood to a 50+ mile bicycle route that follows the bucolic shores around Lake Washington. Summer is a perfect time to dust off your bike, stretch your legs, and take advantage of our close proximity to the lake's beautiful parklands, beaches, and viewpoints, open to the public all year long.

The route is marked with green street signage at regular intervals to keep you on track. If you get lost, just stop and ask the nearest pedestrian to point you in the right direction, or follow the next bike rider to come along. Although the Lake Washington Bicycle Loop does not incorporate a separate bike lane along most of its route, it does establish and protect the bicyclist's Right-of-Way along the loop. Just remember to wear a helmet (it is State Law now and a smart precaution), and keep right to allow vehicles safe passage. Try to ride in a straight, steady line so drivers can predict where you're going. Just like in an automobile, drivers and pedestrians appreciate when you clearly signal your intentions for turns and stops, and remember to follow the rules of the road when you're on two wheels.

I decided to take my own advice over Memorial Day Weekend and go for a spin in the balmy weather. I have been a cyclist in Seattle since 1991, when I moved here to attend the University of Washington and rode on the Husky Collegiate Cycling Team. I especially love riding along Lake Washington Boulevard – the air is always fresh and cool coming off the water, and the views are tranquil and relaxing. However, the birth of my daughter in 2008 forced me to take some time off from the bicycle. In May I realized it had been a year since I had ridden my bike and it was time to get back in the saddle. There were a lot of cyclists on the road, of all skill levels, and the lakeshore was packed with people picnicking, walking, boating, and just enjoying the warm sunshine. I rode south to Seward Park and returned home recharged, refreshed, and ready for summer!

The **Lake Washington Bike Loop** runs through Madison Valley along **28th Avenue East**, then turns east onto **E. Harrison Street (one block south of Madison)**. The bike route continues on Harrison past the Bush School, up the hill to a beautiful vista overlooking the lake and the Bellevue skyline. It then dives down the



With summer fast approaching, it's about time for another party! The next neighborhood Potluck Party will be held on Saturday, July 25th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., at The Valley School. The turnouts at the last two parties were large, and we anticipate an even higher turnout in July. Everyone is welcome. Bring some food and wine (we'll provide soft drinks, ice, plates and flatware) and share in a great time hanging out with your neighbors. There's plenty of play space for kids of all ages. We are going to have communal drumming, and are encouraging folks to bring a drum and join in the fun. And if you play the guitar or another instrument and want to entertain the crowd, by all means share your musical talent. We look forward to seeing a lot of you there!

JUNE events calendar

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

Mon, June 8, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – SPU Stormwater Project Community Meeting. Located at the Bush School, Community Room, entrance on E. Harrison Street.

Wed, June 17, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. – GMVCC Monthly Meeting, at the Bush School Community Room. This is the last meeting for the summer season, until September! **Annual Election of GMVCC Officers**.

Sat, June 27, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. – Park in the Dark Arboretum Family Program. For children ages 6 – 10. Pre-registration required by June 19, Fee \$6 pp, at www.arboretumfoundation.org

Tues, July 7, 6:30 p.m. – Merchants Association Monthly Meeting, meeting to convene at the Bailey-Boushay House. Refreshments and food to be provided.

Sat, July 18 – Old-Time Picnic in the Arboretum, celebrating its 75th Anniversary.

Sat, July 25, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Neighborhood Potluck Party at the Valley School!

Thurs, July 30, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Sundaes on Thursday at the Arboretum. Educational tours, plus delicious hand-crafted ice cream, sponsored by Snoqualmie Gourmet Ice Cream!

Tues, Aug 4, 6:00 p.m. onward – Annual "Night Out" Celebration, an event to promote neighborhood safety and increase crime prevention awareness. See related article.

Thurs, Aug 6, 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. – Art in the Park. Local artists display botanical & natural history works. Optional wine and cheese tasting also available for \$25 per person. Call the Arboretum Foundation for information at (206) 325-4510.



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Community Council News Bulletin:

The Annual Election of GMVCC Officers will be held on the June 17th Council Meeting, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., located at the Bush School, Community Room.

GMVCC Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2009 – Treasurer's Report - \$10,608.98

A short one-half hour meeting was held in conjunction with the James Washington Jr. Lecture, hosted at the Valley School. Announcements were made about the July 25th Potluck Party and the May 30th clean-up at the MLK School. It was reported that volunteers have responded to the requests for help on the newsletter and GMVCC website.

Crosswalk Flags

A vote was passed to allow the council to spend up to \$150.00 for the purchase of crosswalk crossing flags for East Madison Street, if a Small Sparks Grant cannot be secured.

Summer Season

GMVCC will adjourn for July and August, and will resume the monthly meetings in September.

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What's Up on Madison

BY ANN MCCURDY



Want a new place to have brunch? Try **Rover's**, at 2808 E. Madison! They are now offering Sunday Brunch, in addition to their evening meals and their Friday lunch. And regardless of when you go, check out their new garden, complete with fountain, in their hidden courtyard tucked behind **Fury**. Beautiful. Now I only wish Rover's owner and chef, Thierry Rautureau, would come cook for me **and** do my yard!

Veritables is shrinking, but still alive and well! I always thought it was strange they had two home decorating stores just a couple storefronts away from each other. Now they are closing the tiny store **Veritables Object** (only 450 square feet) at 2816 E. Madison, where they first opened 16 years ago, and consolidating with **Veritables Decor** at 2806. Squeezing into the single space means a big sale until June 15, as owner Marie Harris reduces her inventory. Hurry on in! No news yet about a new renter for the charming space at 2816, but lots of interest...

Something that is NOT alive and well, sadly, is the **Madison Valley Art Walk**. Art is a harder sell in the current economy, and business owners are already busy enough scrambling to make ends meet. So, no Art Walk this year. This would have been its seventh year. Let's hope it returns in 2010!

There's another new business in the neighborhood! **Paragon Fitness Physical Therapy** is opening up shop in the former Conscious Body location at 2921 E. Madison, located between Café Flora and City Peoples Nursery. And **Fast Frame** should be in its new digs at 2840 E. Madison as you read this. I just toured the not-quite-renovated house, now painted a lovely shade of butter yellow, and I have to admire all the work they've done to turn that old house (and former brothel!) into a nice storefront. And who is moving into their old space at 2800 Madison? Nothing confirmed yet, but rumors are flying that a new bistro might appear there. Don't hold your breath, I've been wrong before! In the meantime, **Voila Bistro** just across the street is expanding their hours of operation, and will be serving hearty French fare seven nights a week.

So, why are so many businesses playing musical chairs? It was explained to me that many of these businesses started out 5 years ago, and signed, you guessed it, five year leases. As leases end, the businesses are moving to locations to help decrease expenses. Happily, everyone is still in business! 🏠

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Summer Updates on Neighborhood Planning

BY ADRIENNE BAILEY

We've come to the half way point in the first year of our **Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee (NPAC)**. Thus far, we have formed a number of subcommittees and have been trying to play catch up with the city's timeline for the updating process on the Neighborhood Plans. In actuality, it is the **City's Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan)** that is being updated.

Currently, the City has held approximately five community meetings on Neighborhood Planning for the first three communities they selected for the updating process: **ML King at Holly Street, North Rainier, and North Beacon Hill**. By the time these communities return from their summer hiatus, the city will have developed quite a bit of planning verbiage for the updating process. As a committee member on several subcommittees I will not have a hiatus this summer. We will be working diligently on selecting the next Neighbors to go through the city's planning and updating process, and hope to rework the timeline and improve community outreach.

valley snapshot



NEIGHBOR KERRI LAUMAN SPENT A SUNNY MORNING IN LATE MAY TENDING THE BEAUTIFUL VEGETABLE GARDENS AT OUR COMMUNITY P-PATCH, LOCATED AT THE DEAD-END OF EAST MERCER ST. AND 30TH AVENUE EAST. KERRI HAD JUST GATHERED A BUMPER CROP OF SWISS CHARD, MINT, HERBS AND ASSORTED GREENS, WHICH SHE DONATED TO THE LOCAL CHERRY STREET FOOD BANK. THIS WELL-KEPT P-PATCH IS SO POPULAR WITH VALLEY RESIDENTS, THERE IS A 3-YEAR WAITING LIST TO OBTAIN A PLOT!

steep switchbacks that lead past Denny Blaine Park, to the lake-shore below. The Lake Washington Bicycle Loop continues south along the shore, passing through Leschi, Genesee, all the way to Seward Park. There is a nice paved 2-mile path that encircles the Seward Park peninsula, with stunning views across the water. Just remember to ride slowly on any path shared by pedestrians and their pets!

For those wanting to ride further, the Loop winds through the Seward Park neighborhood before it drops down into Rainier Beach and turns left on Rainier Avenue South. The Loop follows Rainier to the Renton Airport, where it circles the airfield and links up to a trail leading to Coulon Park (a nice place to stop for refreshments and refill your water bottle). The Bicycle Loop follows the entire eastern shore of Lake Washington, sometimes jutting inland, passing through downtown Kirkland and traversing Juanita Hill, before it links up with the Burke Gilman Trail at Kenmore. Riders can also link up with the bicycle trail on I-90, which cuts across Mercer Island and connects to the bridge back over the lake to Leschi.

For most valley residents, the ride to Seward Park is rewarding enough, and it's the prettiest scenery along Lake Washington. If you don't feel comfortable riding on city streets with traffic, there are plenty of other opportunities to enjoy the Bicycle Loop. **Bicycle Sundays** is a great public program that opens up a long stretch of the Lake Washington Blvd every summer to bicycles and pedestrians only, from the **first Sunday in May to the last Sunday in September**. The city closes a portion of its roadway to motorized vehicles every Sunday afternoon, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., from Mount Baker to Seward Park. Bicycle Sunday is co-sponsored by Seattle Parks and Recreation Department and the Cascade Bicycle Club Education Foundation, and is supported by the Seattle Police Department. For more information, see www.seattle.gov/parks/bicyclesunday/. For a complete map of Seattle bike trails, paths and scenic routes, visit any local bike shop to pick up a copy of the **Seattle Cycling Guide**, published by Seattle's Department of Transportation. Happy riding this summer, and remember, keep the rubber side down. 🏠

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Green Footprints At Work

BY WALLIS BOLZ



Hello friends and neighbors, here are updates on the Green Footprints Action Works spring activities! The GFAW steering committee decided against submitting a grant application to the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods to fund construction of a trail system this year. However, this does not mean we aren't pursuing construction of a trail system or better entry into Washington Park and the Arboretum.

Seattle Public Utilities is expanding its storm water detention capacity in the Washington Park playfield and has presented a concept plan for a new park entry and trail. GFAW and the Seattle Department of Parks & Recreation are working with SPU to create a trail that includes at least 2 pedestrian access points (south near Roy St. AND central near Helen St.) that tie into a larger neighborhood/ Washington Park trail system. There will also be a swale demonstration project along 28th Ave. East, in conjunction with the trailheads, to support our ob-

jective of reducing storm water flow from our neighborhood to King County's sewage/waste water treatment facility in Discovery Park. Finally, the project also hopes to complete restoration on the "remnant forest" buffering our neighborhood on the western edge of Washington Park, as a component of trail construction. It is hoped that respect for the existing social trail system, currently in use, will be taken into consideration when deciding final placement of the new trails.

GFAW steering committee members Max Morris, Ann Hirschi and Mary Lynn Jensen have flagged the route of the East Helen Street trail. On May 5, the GFAW steering committee flagged the Roy St. area trail to the park.

Seattle Parks and the Green Seattle Partnership are also developing a system to better track the pace of urban forest restoration efforts on Seattle park properties. Seattle Parks and the Green Seattle Partnership have contracted with Seattle Urban Nature (SUN) to map park restoration efforts. SUN met with Wallis Bolz at the Alder Creek Natural Area and identified several restoration zones, including Upper Alder Creek, The Bowl, Ravine 1, Ravine 2, the Orchard, and Lower Alder Creek.

Lastly, at the suggestion of Thomas Whittemore from the Dept of Neighborhoods, the *Friends of 24th Ave. East* (a longstanding "beautification" entity) submitted a small application to the Department of Neighborhoods in order to hire Earthcorps to complete restoration of the E. Harrison Right Of Way at 25th Ave. East.

GFAW steering committee meetings are held every other week, on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. Please contact GFAW chair Ann Hirschi (annhirschi@treesolutions.net) if you are interested in attending future steering committee meetings. We welcome your participation in Green Footprints Action Works! 🏡

Friday Farmers Market Returns!



The **Friday Farmer's Market** has returned to our neighborhood for another season, and is **now open every Friday, from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.** It will occupy the same location as last year, and is sure to catch your eye while driving by with its large tents and bright banners set up in the parking lot of Grocery Outlet on MLK, Jr. Way and E. Union Street. The Market opened its 2009 season on Friday, May 15th with a large turnout of vendors and shoppers, and offering a large selection of locally grown produce and flowers, artisanal breads and cheeses, handmade jewelry, basketry, crafts and much more. The Friday Farmer's Market is operated and managed by the Seattle Farmer's Market Association (SFMA). For more information on how to participate in and support farmer's markets throughout the city, visit their website at www.SeattleMarkets.org. 🏠

Valley View Available Online

BY PETER TRIANDAFILOU, GMVCC PRESIDENT

Did you know that this newsletter is available online? The current issue of *The Valley View*, and prior issues as well, are posted on the community council's website: www.madisonvalley.org. We have done some polling, and many of your neighbors have told us that they would be willing to read the newsletter online, and do not need to continue to receiving a hard copy of the newsletter mailed to their homes. Obviously we can save money, through lower printing, handling and postage costs, if we mail out fewer copies. So this is a call-out to those of you who would like to read the newsletter online and do not need to continue receiving a hard copy. Please send an e-mail to president@madisonvalley.org to let us know that we can stop mailing the newsletter to your home (be sure to give us your address). This is one small way that you can pitch it to help the organization with its finances in these difficult economic times. 🏠

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2009 Night Out Against Crime!

BY ADRIENNE BAILEY



This year's **Night Out** event is **Tuesday, August 4, 2009**. "Night Out" is a national Crime Prevention event. It is designed to heighten crime prevention awareness, increase neighborhood support in anti-crime efforts, and unite our communities. It is a great chance to learn about crime prevention, while also celebrating your community and spending time with your neighbors.

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you are welcome to close the street to traffic for your "Night Out" Celebration. Indicate on the registration form that you plan to close the street. Individual blocks are responsible for providing barricades, but a street closure sign can be downloaded from the following website. On the registration form please mark not only the street name, but also the hundred block number of the street. An added bonus, the City waives the fee to block your street off for "Night Out" participants! To sign up and get materials for your block party go to: <http://www.seattle.gov/police/nightout/>. 🏠

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