



THE VALLEY VIEW

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 149

madisonvalley.org

October 2007

Coyotes in our Neighborhood

by Kathleen Dayton



Howdy, neighbor!

Coyotes may be an increasing presence in Madison Valley, and in other neighborhoods around the Arboretum. While there is no official count of Seattle's coyote population, reports from neighbors and local blogs suggest that coyotes are well established in our part of the city and that their numbers may be rising.

A website started by Madison Valley resident Susan Stowers to track coyote sightings in Seattle, nwcoyotetracker.googlepages.com, reveals over two dozen sightings between SR 520 and I-90. Most sightings are concentrated around the Arboretum and Interlaken parks and there are several south of Madison Street. Adults and pups have been seen.

Is this cause for alarm? Coyotes typically hunt small animals such as mice, squirrels, rats and other rodents. One potential benefit of the coyotes' presence here is that "Coyotes . . . are great at rodent control," according to the Fund for Wildlife's website at www.fundwildlife.org/coexist/coyotes. Those of us who have been bothered by rats or mice may welcome the coyotes as natural pest controllers. However, they are resourceful, opportunistic hunters and will also readily prey on cats and small dogs. There have been eyewitness accounts of coyotes preying on cats in the city. According to a web posting: "I woke up early on a Saturday 2 weeks ago and saw a coyote running off with my outdoor cat that I have had for over 10 years."

The Fund for Wildlife and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife at wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/living/coyotes.htm advise keeping cats and smaller dogs indoors or under close watch outside. Many cat owners may find this a difficult or unwanted limitation on their pets' lives.

Should the City do anything to discourage or even eradicate the coyotes? Any proposal to remove the coyotes is likely to be met with vigorous opposition and passionate views from all sides. Coyotes self-regulate their population in their range, which means that if their population drops for whatever reason, the coyotes increase their numbers by either bearing more pups or even allowing other coyotes to move into "their" neighborhood. In other words, even if the City decided to try to get rid of its urban coyotes, actually doing so might not be easy.

In the meantime, here are some steps you can take to live with coyotes in the neighborhood:

- Coyotes forage for food, including fruit and garbage, so city dwellers should avoid inadvertently feeding them by keeping pet food indoors, making sure garbage cans are not accessible,

⇒ Please see **Coyotes** on page 7

Merchants & Crime Fighters

by Ann McCurdy



Julia Lee's Park

Julia Lee's (Knudsen) Park is usually a quiet place, a private mini-arboretum (on the corner of MLK and E. Harrison St.) open to the public. So when a large group of youth suddenly started congregating there at all hours this summer, neighbors and nearby merchants

became concerned and merchant employees and customers were reluctant to park nearby. While youth need a place to hang out, some of their activities appeared aggressive and illegal.

The Madison Valley Merchants Association decided to act. Inviting City of Seattle Police Officer Sina Ebinger to a merchants meeting, she listened to the merchants' accounts of alcohol consumption, gambling, and drug deals witnessed in the park. Due to this meeting, the police increased their patrol of the area, and soon arrests were made. Now the park is quiet again, a restful spot to sit on a bench and relax. (We hope the graffiti in one corner is removed by the time this story is printed. Thanks to the Merchants Association and the City of Seattle police for keeping our neighborhood safe!

At the meeting, Officer Sina Ebinger recommended the following practices to combat crime and prevent illegal activity from

⇒ Please see **Crime** on page 6



Events Calendar

Seattle Public Utilities Flooding Fix Meeting. Thursday, October 4, 6-8 p.m. Garfield Community Center, 2323 E. Cherry St. Public Discussion on the latest info about the long-term fix to Madison Valley flooding.

Madison Valley Merchants Association. Wednesday, October 10,

Greater Madison Valley Community Council. Wednesday, October 17, 7:30 p.m. Bush School's Common Room (entrance on E. Harrison

The East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition (EPCPC) and Seattle Neighborhood Group. Thursday, October 25, 6:30 p.m. at 2120 S. Jackson St., Second floor, Room 212. This meeting is the best way for all groups to get their issue on the front burner of the East Precinct.

GMVCC ID Statement

The Valley View

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New Aromas

by Jennifer Karkar Ritchie



Inside Sweet Petula

Walking down East Madison St. a few weeks ago, I noticed something different. Along with the chill in the air and the crunch of leaves under foot, I was overcome by an incredible scent that literally drew me into our newest neighborhood business.

Sweet Petula, (2717 E. Madison St), has taken up shop right next

door to Rue De Lyon. Owner Cory Smith has been making bath and body products for 12 years and selling them at her shop in Burien as well as at the Fremont Market. Luckily for us, she was prompted to move her shop and selected Madison Valley as Sweet Petula's new home.

Inside this welcoming, airy space, you'll find an amazing selection of handmade products that are all essential oil based, with no synthetic colors or oils. You'll find aromatherapy candles, olive oil soaps, hand and body lotion, and sparkling bath tablets, in scents like Ginger Blossom, Sweet P. Provence, and more.

Sweet Petula also sells luxurious bedding that is machine washable and adorable loungewear from brands like PJ Salvage and Petit Pois. In addition, they have started carrying a new jewelry line called By Boe, which is trendy yet affordable. In fact, you'll find a price range of merchandise that fits everyone's budget, making it the perfect place to splurge on yourself or to find a unique gift for a friend or loved one.

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Minutes from GMVCC Meeting of Wednesday, September 19, 2007

by Co-Secretary Heather Searce

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by Wallis Bolz. Introductions were made. Twelve people were in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Jennifer Janzen: We raised a total of \$894 at the summer barbeque. Profits totaled \$212. Postage went down for the *Valley View*. A report of ad revenue will be presented next month.

Disposition of Bob Cummings painting: Jerry Sussman: A painting by Bob Cummings valued at \$16,000 needs a new place to be displayed after the closure of MLK elementary. The painting was a gift and is now owned by the GMVCC. The artist's wish is that it be displayed in the African American community. The council discussed possibilities, including the Garfield Community Center, YWCA, or the African American Museum.

Kiosk: Cathy Nunneley: Cathy expressed concerns about misuse of the new trash can near the kiosk. If the can is abused, SPU will remove trash service. She proposed installing another community bulletin board on E. Madison St. and approaching Coyote Central to design it. The council approved a motion to present the idea to the Madison Valley Merchants Association.

SPU Community Meeting: Wallis Bolz: Wallis Bolz led the discussion about the SPU meeting on Oct 4th at the Garfield Community Center where they will present five alternatives for a long-term flooding solution. Neighbors expressed serious concerns about one of the proposed alternatives, which involves the removal of homes and displacement of families. A motion was approved to write a letter to SPU, the City Council,

and the Mayor's office to express the council's opinion on the proposed alternatives and propose a solution that does a better job of addressing the needs of the Madison Valley community. GMVCC President, Wallis Bolz, will write the letter [See page 4].

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Please Take Our Neighborhood Survey!

by John Potter

In conjunction with the Green Footprints ecology project (reviewed in the September *Valley View*), a neighborhood survey has been launched. In a short 14-question survey, we hope to collect the current priorities for the neighborhood and identify activities the residents would like to support. We want to get the perspective of the whole Madison Valley Community. Results will be in a future *Valley View*.

So far, our survey has received 25 responses (thank you!) and here is the picture we have so far of our neighbors. You are concerned about having safe places for kids to play and our green environment. Fifty percent of you know more than 11 of your neighbors. Eighty-five percent of you participated in our neighborhood potlucks and most would like to be involved in a couple of neighborhood events each year.

Please add your point of view. To participate in the survey, go to www.greenfootprintsactionworks.org and click on "Take Our Survey". It will take just a minute. If you would like to help update the survey and participate on the survey team, please contact John Potter, johnrpotter@qwest.net.



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Letter from the GMVCC President

[Editor's Note: This is a letter sent on September 21 to Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and other politicians, by GMVCC President Wallis Bolz, on behalf of the Madison Valley Community.]

Dear Mayor Nickels and Messrs. Conlin and Clarke:

The Greater Madison Valley Community Council wishes to express our opposition to one of the preferred alternatives Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) has put forward to address the issue of chronic flooding in Madison Valley: Above ground storage of storm water in the 200 block of 30th and 31st Avenue East.

Of five alternatives for flood control in Madison Valley, the utility has expressed a preference for two:

Diversion of the northwest lobe of the Madison Valley watershed to a storage facility in Washington Park Arboretum and expansion of the existing detention pond. This option will create 3.0 million gallons of storm water storage at a cost of \$18 - \$28 million.

Above ground storage of storm water in the 200 block of 30th and 31st Avenue East. This option rests upon the acquisition and demolition of 19 homes on the east side of 30th Avenue East and the west side of 31st Avenue East. The creation of a detention pond in the 200 block coupled with an expansion of the existing detention pond will create 4.2 - 4.6 million gallons of storm water storage at a cost of \$16.4 - \$18.9 million.


As noted above, the Greater Madison Valley Community Council (GMVCC) opposes the latter option, for the reasons noted below:

- The GMVCC does not support the removal of homes and displacement of community members in order to create additional storm water storage in Madison Valley.
- The 200 block lies at the heart of Madison Valley and is home to many longtime residents of the community; it represents one of the last remaining affordable home ownership opportunities in central Seattle. Without effective and generous relocation assistance, many of the residents of the 200 block will not be able to remain in the neighborhood, and many may not be able to remain in the city of Seattle.
- The expansion of an existing open pit and the addition of a second and larger open pit does not enhance quality of life nor improve property values for remaining residents. Chronic flooding of Madison Valley is the result of poorly-conceived changes to the area's historical topography as well as infrastructure deficits; it is exacerbated by poorly managed growth in the upper parts of the watershed and a corresponding significant loss in the watershed's capacity to absorb storm water. The conversion of Madison Valley from neighborhood into storm water storage facility penalizes the victims of a watershed-wide problem: victims pay with their homes, in demolition or loss of value.
- Above ground storage in the 200 block does not address flood issues in the 500 block of Dewey Place and 30th Avenue East; the Northwest lobe diversion alternative does address chronic flooding of East Madison Street, which is the cause of flooding in the 500 block of Dewey Place and 30th Avenue East.

The Greater Madison Valley Community Council supports a flood control alternative in our neighborhood that enhances and improves quality of life of its residents. This solution is a package of options that addresses flooding in the neighborhood now and into the future; these options emphasize an increase in storm water storage capacity throughout the watershed and conveyance or redirection of storm water out of the watershed before it enters the flooding zones in Madison Valley. This package of options includes both traditional detention strategies and natural drainage features.

Second, the Greater Madison Valley Community Council does not support retention or expansion of the existing detention pond in its present form nor will the council support the creation of additional detention facilities in the watershed whose form resembles that of the existing detention pond at 30th Avenue East and East John Street. From Bear Creek in Redmond to Thornton in Seattle, numerous examples exist within the city and region of detention ponds and storm water storage whose form supports detention, recreational use, and native flora and fauna. The GMVCC expects

⇒ *continued on next page*



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no less from SPU.

In closing, we respectfully request that:

- SPU implement an approach to surface and storm water management that encompasses the entire Madison Valley Watershed.

- SPU articulate its flood control strategy in a written document—a “master plan” for flood control in the Madison Valley Watershed. This document will describe all components of SPU’s strategy for flood control in Madison Valley, from its large capital project to a myriad of LID strategies. It will include SPU’s implementation schedule and detail SPU’s necessary leadership role in compelling neighborhoods to adopt and implement LID strategies, rain barrels and other tools to slow or capture storm water at a very local level.

Seattle Public Utilities has 5 alternatives for flood control in Madison Valley. Seattle Public Utilities favors options 3 and 5, and the Mayor has capped the amount available for flood control at \$33 million. The alternatives are:

1. *Retain the existing detention pond at 30th & John and use Washington Park Playfield as a storm water storage facility. Storage capacity: 1 million gallons (mg) at pond, 2.5 mg at playfield for a total of 3.5 mg at a cost of \$45 million.*
2. *Distribute storage throughout the Madison Valley watershed: create new detention sites at Miller Playfield (650,000 g), 22nd and Madison (260,000 g), three sites on MLK (500,000 g each), and retain the existing detention pond at 30th & John (1 mg). Storage capacity: 3.2 mg total at a cost of \$40 million.*
3. *Divert northwest lobe of Madison Valley watershed to storage facility in Washington Park Arboretum and expand existing detention pond. Storage capacity: 1.5 mg at playfield, 1.5 mg at 30th & John for a total of 3 mg at a cost of \$18 to \$28 million.*
4. *Expand storage at 30th & John with a 2.4 mg tank. Total cost: \$22 million.*
5. *Above ground storage. Acquire homes on the 200 block on the east side of 30th Avenue and west side of 31st Avenue plus two homes south of the existing detention pond; demolish 19 homes and create detention pond/natural drainage feature in 200 block. Expand existing detention pond. Storage capacity: 4.2 to 4.6 mg total at a cost of \$16.4 to \$18.9 million.*

- SPU work with the GMVCC and Engineering Sub-committee to convene a committee of Madison Valley residents to drive the community amenity aspect of detention pond design. These residents will work with SPU to select the landscape architect, public artist and other specialists who will help transform a current eyesore into a community asset.

We trust that SPU and the city of Seattle will work with the Greater Madison Valley community to select and implement an appropriate, effective and attractive solution to chronic flooding of Madison Valley.

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- **Don't wait for someone else to call.** The more complaints the police hear, the more they realize our neighborhood wants and needs their increased presence.
- **Call sooner rather than later.** Once a group establishes a hangout, they are harder to make leave.
- **Details, details, details.** When you call the police, give them as many details as possible about the individuals: How many? How tall? How old? What do they look like? What are they wearing? What are the make, model and license plate numbers of any cars involved?
- **Leave your name.** The police are more limited in what they can and will do about anonymous tips
- **Don't confront the people directly.** If someone is behaving aggressively, suspiciously, or even in the process of committing a crime, do not confront them directly—you don't know if they have weapons or allies. Call the police instead.


and Cornish College of the Arts. Karrie's passionate dedication to nurture her employees, mentor emerging artists and give back to her community, shine through her small business that is a gem of the Madison Valley. Karrie thrives on supporting the diversity of her neighborhood - "I love to bring community and people together and give back with my time."

Baas had also been nominated for the award in 2006. Congratulations to business owner Karrie Baas!

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Coyotes, continued from p. 1

and picking fruit from your garden as soon as it is ready.

- Avoid close encounters. Don't knowingly approach a coyote. Pick up small children, and make yourself appear aggressive and dangerous by yelling, throwing stones or sticks, and waving your arms. If a coyote acts aggressively, the Department of Fish and Wildlife asks that you contact them.

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Wanted: A Few Good Volunteers

The Valley View is staffed completely by volunteers...and we could use a few more to help us out! Please contact Ann McCurdy at editor@madisonvalley.org or at 568-7372, if you are interested in either of the following jobs:

Ad person: Are you friendly, outgoing, and like our neighborhood businesses? We need someone to contact our local merchants about placing ads in the Valley View. Typically, this would mean contacting only 8-10 businesses a month, often just asking if they'll renew their ad. It's a fun way to get to know our local businesses!

Writer: Would you like to write an article for the Valley View? I'm looking for individuals to write a page or two each month. I can either supply article ideas, or I'd love to hear yours!

We've Updated Our Mailing List!

We've just updated our mailing list in order to ensure every resident and business within the Greater Madison Valley neighborhood receives the Valley View, your community newsletter. Please check to see if we got your name and address correct. If not, please take 30 seconds to send us your corrections, either via editor@madisonvalley.org, or to Ann McCurdy at 568-7372. Thanks for your help .

Baas Receives Mayor's Small Business Award

by Ann McCurdy



Baas Art Gallery

Baas Art Gallery & Framing, owned by Karrie Baas, was one of ten businesses within the city to receive the 2007 City of Seattle Mayor's Small Business Award. The purpose of this award, now in its 23rd year, is to honor the diversity and excellence of Seattle's small businesses and their contributions to the city's economic vitality and quality of life. It is based on the following criteria: business history, management practices, entrepreneurial spirit

and customer service, community involvement, and overall impression. Past recipients include Starbucks Coffee Company, Uwajimaya, Ezell's Fried Chicken, Dilettante, and City People's Mercantile (who won in 1993). This year, another winner is Canlis Restaurant. Winners were honored at a special reception at Town Hall on September 10.

Baas Art Gallery & Framing (2703 E Madison St) opened in the Madison Valley in 1995 and has grown along with the business district. A neighborhood art and frame shop that provides "expert picture framing from Diplomas to Degas," Baas is active in supporting local schools, the Madison Valley Merchants Association, the Greater Seattle Business Association,

➡ Please see **Baas** on page 6



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