

# The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 134

February 2006

## Neighborhood Announcements

### Annual Pancake Breakfast

Neighborhood Appreciation Day!

**Saturday, February 11th 9-11AM**

Bush School Lunchroom on E. Harrison

Free pancakes, sausage, coffee/tea, juice

Come out to meet neighbors, Mayor Nickels, and Seattle City Council members.

### Annual Food Drive

Sponsored by

The Madison Valley Merchant Association

Through February 14th

in support of

The Rainer Valley Food Bank

See page 5 for more details

### Next GMVCC Meeting

Come and share YOUR ideas about

Grant Applications for Community Improvements

Wednesday, February 15th, 7:30 PM

ML King Jr. Elementary School Portable

## Inside The Valley View

One of Our Neighbors.....	1
GMVCC Boundary Map.....	2
Pit Bull Attack in the Valley.....	2
Advertise in <i>The Valley View</i> .....	2
Support <i>The Valley View</i> .....	2
GMVCC Meeting Minutes.....	2
Parking Woes Continued.....	3
Valley Flooding Update.....	3
Happy Medium School.....	4
Around the Neighborhood.....	5
Food Drive.....	5
Valley Gems (new business column).....	6

## One of Our Neighbors

### They Work for Our Future

Joshua and Heather Tallis are known affectionately to their neighbors as "The Scientists". When they moved into our neighborhood a couple of years ago, they were both deep into the academic realm of graduate school. Joshua has since graduated with his master's degree in restoration ecology and Heather continues to labor on towards her Ph.D. They both study the environment and its relationship to the planet's human population.

Joshua's specific area of interest lies in the biodiversity of forests. He understands the impact of encroaching civilization on the delicate balance of flora and fauna. In part, Joshua's education was formed by his many years in Ghana, Africa. While working with the Peace Corps,

*Continued on page 7*



Joshua and Heather

## GMVCC Contact Information

**Council Affairs:** Gary Emslie, President

Email: [gary.emslie@bush.edu](mailto:gary.emslie@bush.edu)

Council business, agenda requests, inquiries, concerns

\*

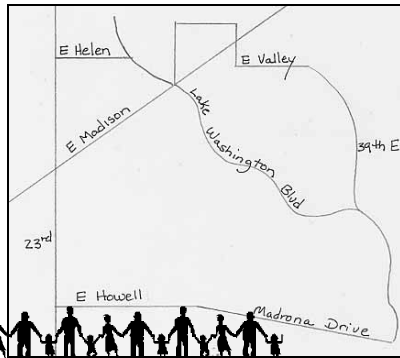
**Valley View Newsletter:** Cathy Nunneley

Email: [cjnunneley@yahoo.com](mailto:cjnunneley@yahoo.com) or 329-4083

Article submission, advertising, suggestions, volunteers

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**Support *The Valley View***

*The Valley View* staff cheerfully works countless unpaid volunteer hours to bring you this newsletter. The printing and postage costs are over \$700 per month. We must have financial support from the community to continue the newsletter. **Please** make a contribution or place an ad with us. Everything helps! **Thank you so much!**

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Contact the editor: Cathy Nunneley  
329-4083 or cjnunneley@yahoo.com

Minutes for January 18, 2006

The meeting was called to order by president Gary Emslie. Introductions were made and the last meeting's minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Still spending down our capital due to newsletter costs. We are approaching The Bush School for help with printing the paper.

The Friends of Street Ends are still awaiting progress on the E. Harrison property. The committee seeks to make public property along the Lake accessible to the community. Presently, adjacent homeowners pay the city \$50,000/yr to use the land and restrict access. See page 5 for contact information.

Andy Goulding will invite Emma Moren to the next meeting to help with the grant application that is due in April. Decisions about which projects to tackle will be made at the next meeting.

The SPU plan for an open space, which will be used as an emergency water retention pond, was discussed. (See page 3). We will ask the flood victims committee to send a rep to the GMVCC meetings to keep us aware of progress and dates of future meetings with SPU to enhance neighbor participation.

Review of the spaghetti dinner was discussed, with a call for next year's volunteers.

Neighborhood Appreciation Day Pancake Breakfast will be on Feb 11<sup>th</sup> at The Bush School.

A neighbor reported alcohol sales to minors at the Madison Market on 29<sup>th</sup> Ave E and E Madison. Drug dealing has also been observed in the store's parking lot. Gary Emslie will contact the police for investigation into these allegations.

Neighbors, frustrated with the congested parking, are placing orange cones and barriers in the street in front of their houses to prevent parking in those spaces. This action is illegal and will be investigated. There were several suggestions about how to approach the problem, and we will try to find the proper city office to stop this behavior.

The Spring Art Walk is being discussed. We need both a business and artist leader to move forward. The date is set for May 13, the Saturday before Mother's Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 9PM.

**Pit Bull Attack**

In December, three neighbors were attacked and severely injured by pit bull dogs. The attacks occurred in an alley between E. John ,MLK Way, 29th E. and E. Thomas. One man was attacked while washing his car in the alley. After he escaped, the dogs attacked a nine year old girl and her grandmother. Adjacent neighbors report that the owners are breeding and fighting the dogs.

**Fighting an animal is a felony offense.** The situation is under investigation by Animal Control. Neighbors are urged to report any dog fighting activity by calling **Animal Control at 386-7387**. Additionally, if you have any information about these dogs or questions regarding the investigation, you may contact the **Animal Control Enforcement Supervisor, Don Baxter at 386-4289**.

## Parking Woes Continued

The parking problem in the neighborhood that borders East Madison Street continues to be of concern. One frustrated neighbor has begun action to have zoned parking a few block to the north of Madison Street. Should this solution be enacted, vehicles would have to sport a parking permit to be allowed to park over a 2 hour limit. Each household would be **required** to pay a yearly fee of \$35 to the City for this permit. Guest permits are also available for purchase. This is like the zoned parking used in Montlake during the football game season.

**As a reminder: if you have a problem with vehicles parking too close to your driveway, please consider painting your curb red, 5 feet in either direction, from your driveway's opening.** The City encourages citizens to take this action, and it is definitely a deterrent to motorists who violate this law.

Some neighbors are illegally putting out orange cones and construction barricades to save parking spaces. This action will not be tolerated, and proper city authorities will be contacted by the GMVCC. Frustrated neighbors are encouraged to attend meetings to review solutions.

Additionally, we are trying to have parking enforcement make more frequent visits to ticket illegally parked vehicles. The Madison Valley Merchant Association is looking into having back-in angle parking along Madison Street to increase available spaces.

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## Valley Flooding Update

Seattle Public Utilities hosted another dinner meeting at the ML King Jr. Elementary School on January 10th. Interested neighbors were treated to a chicken dinner. The purpose of the meeting was to design the open space which will result after the destruction of the condemned homes at 30th Ave. E. and E. John. This plan is only a temporary solution to the valley flooding, while ongoing studies will determine a long term fix.

SPU presented a drawing of the space from which participants were able to make suggestions. The 5-lot parcel will be graded into a gradual slope with an emergency drain at the bottom. The slope will be very shallow but allow for the accumulation of storm water in an emergency. The basin will be capable of holding at least a million gallons of water. SPU will drain any accumulation within 48 hours. Additionally, pipes will be placed within the neighborhood to assist with the drainage of standing water.

Neighbors considered choices for a perimeter path surrounding the space, benches for seating, and plantings. SPU will be responsible for mowing and trash removal.

SPU anticipates the permit process to take several months, and announcements of an environmental impact study will be in the local papers.



**Fitsum Aberra** will become the SPU project manager for the Madison Valley Flooding beginning in March. He can be reached at (206) 615-0865.

The current SPU manager, **Tracy De La Torre-Evans** may be reached at 684-8596.

**They both encourage you to contact them if you have any concerns.**

  
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## A New Name for the Happy Medium School

### Another Choice for Independent Education

By Sam Reich-Dagnen

Happy Medium School, located in Seattle's Central District, has changed its name to Giddens School. The school is now named in honor of the school's founder, Huda Giddens.

Giddens School was founded in 1972 by Huda Giddens in the University District of Seattle. Seeking a more diverse setting, the school moved to the Central District in 1980. Giddens was originally a preschool, but over the years, the school's creative, committed, and highly-trained staff developed a primary program that is a natural extension of the preschool program. The primary program reflects the values of the preschool and its founder, building a strong academic foundation infused with the energy and exploration that mark high-quality early childhood classrooms.

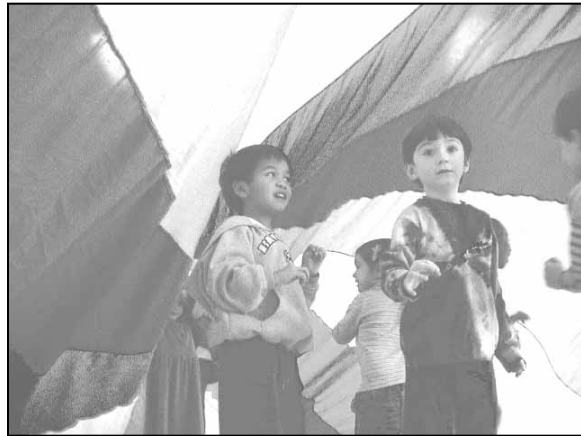
Housed in a historic brick schoolhouse in Seattle's Central District, Giddens is an independent school that offers preschool through 5th grade children a developmentally appropriate and academically excellent curriculum. Students are encouraged to appreciate each other and develop self-confidence. When they graduate, they are curious, socially responsive, creative young people, well-prepared for a lifetime of learning.

More than a school, Giddens is a community of students, parents, teachers, and staff, who embrace the diverse cultures, economic status, races, and family structures of its members. In fact, Giddens School may be the most ethnically, economically, and socially diverse independent school in the Northwest. Approximately 30%- 40% of families receive tuition assistance, and more than 40% of their students are children of color. This means that students learn about diversity in a truly heterogeneous environment that provides vital, tangible learning opportunities.

Giddens is dedicated to the ideal that critical thinking and social responsibility form the basis of an academically excellent curriculum. Students develop a love of learning

*Show love for your neighbors  
with a gift of food.*

Please participate in the community food drive.



and self-expression in a stimulating environment unconstrained by ability grouping, rote instruction, and curricular conformity.

Today, Giddens is an accredited member of the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools. Additionally, the school has been cited as a model of multicultural education by the Southern Poverty Law Center, and featured in *Starting Small*, a book published by the Center that reports success stories in anti-bias, socially responsible education. *The Seattle Times* has written about the school, and the *Seattle Weekly* readers recently voted the Giddens School best local independent school along with the Lakeside School.

To schedule and take a tour of the school, call 206.324.4847, ext. \*830 or sign up at an Open House on February 7th, 2006. We are located at 620 20th Avenue South. You may also visit the website at [www.giddensschool.org](http://www.giddensschool.org).

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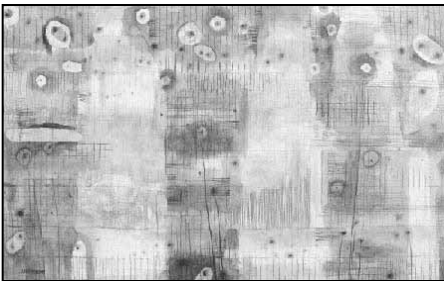
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## Around the Neighborhood

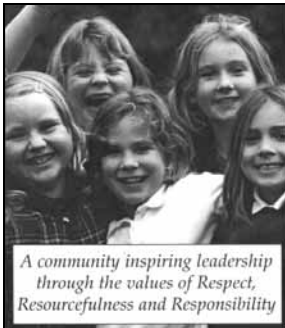
Traffic on E. Republican and 29th Ave E continues to be a concern of neighbors. Vehicles are speeding and drivers are talking on cell phones. The intersection is confusing so there are many reports of pedestrian and vehicle near misses. Residents would like a traffic circle.

**Café Flora** will host their 15th annual Valentine's Day dinner. Call early as this is a reservation only dinner.

**Baas Art Gallery** will host **Angela Scott's Meditations** through February. This month's opening reception is on the first Wednesday evening of the month February 1. **Rue de Lyon** will be reopening in February after closure for flooding repairs.



Yellow Arches  
by  
Angela Scott.  
This month  
at  
Baas Gallery.



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The second annual **Spring Art Walk** is scheduled this year on Saturday, May 13th. Interested in participating as an artist or helping? Please contact:

Cathy Nunneley at [cjnnunneley@yahoo.com](mailto:cjnnunneley@yahoo.com).

**The Friends of Street Ends**, a group that strives to return public shoreline back to the public, is still awaiting a decision on East Mercer. To become involved or for information: Anita Rowe at [rowennw@cbcomputer.com](mailto:rowennw@cbcomputer.com)

The **Madison Valley Merchant Association** is financing a valentine art project for the students at ML King Jr. School. The Association provides the only art funding available to the school. Look for valentine hearts in store windows!

## Food Drive Needs Your Donations

The Merchant Association is planning this year's food drive to support the **Rainier Valley Food Bank**. This food bank supports one of Seattle's poorest neighborhoods. Many families, including the elderly, depend on the bank for their groceries.

Please consider donations of non-perishable items to support this effort. Due to the large numbers of immigrants, ethnic foods for Hispanic and Asian families are especially appreciated. Cash is always welcome.

Look for participating merchants with signs in their windows. Several businesses are offering discount incentives with donations. Thanks a bunch!

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# Valley Gems

This is a new *Valley View* feature that will appear monthly thanks to the efforts of our neighbor, Jennifer Karkar Ritchie. Jennifer is a public relations professional and is interested in promoting our neighborhood businesses. Thanks a bunch, Jennifer!

## Rue de Lyon

By Jennifer Karkar Ritchie

Madison Valley's downtown is a plethora of treats and treasures. Moving here nearly two years ago, I've loved watching the emergence and re-emergence of stylish boutiques, delicious restaurants and cafes, and first-rate spa services in Madison Valley's commerce strip. It's reminiscent of a small European town.

However, for some, the allure is often tempered by the thought that these neighborhood hotspots are simply out of reach – financially, that is. On the surface, the charm of the commerce district translates into expensive.

Not true! Madison Valley's downtown is rich with unique, well-priced valuables, whether you're giving a gift, buying yourself a treat, or just treating yourself to a delicious dinner. And, during the coming months, I hope to unveil some of these treasures by encouraging, even inspiring, you to enjoy them, too.

### First stop: Rue De Lyon.

Located on 2719 E. Madison, in between **Essential Bakery** and **All the Best** pet store, this boutique shop, owned by **Hillary Henry-Neff**, offers a nice selection of merchandise, from cookbooks to candles, jewelry to purses, picture frames, to a great collection of children's items. While looking around for a housewarming gift, I spotted *my find*: an adorable clay piglet that looked like it had been carefully created to exude both class as an antique and playfulness as a piglet that had just rolled around in the mud. It was adorned with a beautiful iridescent orange ribbon, which served as elegant wrapping and at the same time saved me a few bucks otherwise spent on paper. The cost: \$30. Perfect for the budget I had set, and even better because it looked like it could have cost \$100.



See you next month with another great find!

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he lived in a rural village where he managed a tree nursery. There he encouraged the community to improve their health and agricultural practices. He was not always successful. As an example, Joshua tells of his attempt to foster the use of latrines. Although the people initially utilized them, it was culturally inappropriate to empty the latrines, and they were soon abandoned. This experience brought home to Joshua the importance of working with existing cultural practices when planning for the environment's protection. After earning his master's degree this year, Joshua now works as a plant ecologist with an international environmental consulting company.

Heather's attitude about the environment and its human population is similar to her husband's. Her work focuses upon the impact of people's life work, such as fishing or logging along our shorelines on the marine ecosystem. She claims that it is not appropriate to simply confront these people with environmental ultimatums. Instead, she studies methods of educating people about how to protect the environment from which they make a living.

Heather earned two master's degrees in marine science before undertaking her current goal of a Ph.D. in zoology. Her present research centers upon the health of our Washington shoreline. Heather plans to continue doing applied research either as an academic or perhaps for a non-governmental organization like The Nature Conservancy. She also likes the idea of teaching others how to care for the environment.

Both Joshua and Heather have invested their education in the future. Most of us realize the importance of maintaining ecosystems so that the next generations may enjoy nature as we have during our lifetimes. Since they both love working in tropical developing countries, their dream is to someday purchase land and build a field research station coupled with an artists' colony. They envision the commingling of ideas and disciplines from around the world as particularly fruitful.

Please let us know about *your* interesting neighbors! With their permission, we will feature them in an upcoming issue of *The Valley View*! We all benefit from learning about our community. Thanks a bunch!



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**Newsletter Staff**  
 Cathy Nunneley, editor  
 Jerry Sussman  
 Ilana Guttmann  
 Lindsay Felcyn Zaccara

\*

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 Your submissions are appreciated!  
 Contact the editor—see page 1.

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# The Valley View



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