



THE VALLEY VIEW

MAY—JUNE 2011 • ISSUE NO. 176 • www.madisonvalley.org

Cleanscapes Neighborhood Rewards Project Revoked

By Nori Hawkins, Editor

The following press release was issued by Cleanscapes Water Diversion Project Manager, Candy Castellanos, in late April. Upon reading it I was shocked to learn that Cleanscapes has revoked the \$50,000 Waste Reduction Award bestowed on Madison Valley in late 2010, in which Cleanscapes pledged to install new play equipment at the Washington Park Playfields. In December Cleanscapes announced the award to the Madison area community, with construction scheduled to begin this past April. However, in the ensuing months both Cleanscapes and the Seattle Parks Department have remained silent on the project status, and the existing swing-set remained in place, never deinstalled in February as indicated. Then Cleanscapes released this statement on April 25th, 2011:

To our customers and neighbors, Over the last six months CleanScapes has worked through a design review, planning and implementation process with the Seattle Parks Department on the proposed play structure at Washington Park. This playground was the first choice project selected by a community committee for the \$50,000 Neighborhood Waste Reduction Reward prize for the 2009/10 competition. In total, the committee ranked the five eligible projects proposed by the Seattle community:

1. New Playground at Washington Park
2. Historic and directional bronze sidewalk art in Madrona
3. New path & information kiosk at Montlake Gateway Park
4. SDOT information kiosk on First Hill (at 9th & Madison)
5. Madison Park stairway rails (safety improvement)

In February, Seattle Parks determined that the original proposal would not be approved, as they did not want the swings removed from the existing containment area to make way for a new playground structure.

Seattle Parks suggested to CleanScapes that Parks could expand the existing play area and install a containment curb into which CleanScapes could install the proposed play equipment. Prior to this work commencing, however, soils testing revealed un-compacted landfill soils. It was determined that construction issues around these test results would expand the project's scope of work and cost well beyond the reach of the \$50,000 project budget, even... Cont'd on p. 6



Swings at Washington Park Playfields — The fate of the proposed new playground next to the playfield restrooms remains in doubt as Parks Dept. and Cleanscapes revoke the \$50,000 grant.



Events Calendar

Mon, May 9, 8:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. — Nighttime construction work begins on E. Madison for stormwater infrastructure project. Through end of May. Problems: call 24-hr construction hotline: 206-455-5345, or Noise Inspector at 206-684-0720.

Fri, May 13, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. — Spring Runway Show & Benefit, at Vian Hunter House of Fashion, 2814 E. Madison St. Refreshments served, \$5 suggested entry fee. All proceeds will go to Jubilee Women's Center, providing women with safe shelter.

Sat, May 14, 9:00 a.m. - Noon — Green Footprints Work Party at Alder Creek Natural Area, 26th Ave & E. Helen St.

Sun, May 15, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. — Weekend Work Party at the Harrison Ridge Greenbelt on 32nd Ave E.

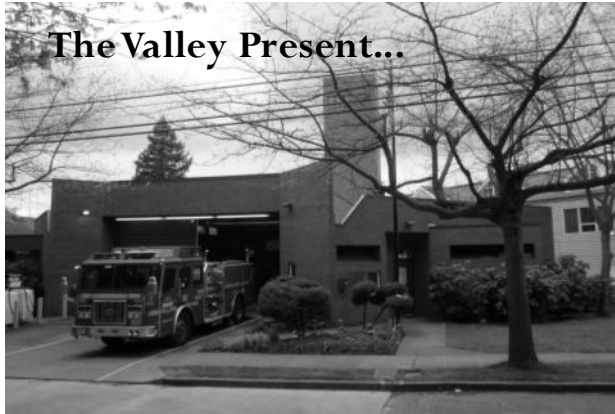
Wed, May 18, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. — GMVCC Monthly Meeting at the Valley School. Officer Elections will be held!

Sun, May 29, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. — Weekend Work Party at Harrison Ridge Greenbelt on 32nd Ave. East.

Thurs, June 2, 8:30 a.m. — MV Merchants Association Monthly Meeting. Contact Larry for location, 206-953-0283.

Sat, June 11, 9:00 a.m. - Noon — Green Footprints Work Party at Alder Creek Natural Area, 26th Ave & E. Helen St.

Wed, June 15, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. — GMVCC Monthly Meeting at the Valley School. No meetings are held in July or August!



The Valley Present...

GMVCC ID STATEMENT



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The Next Submission Deadline is June 21st!

We welcome your events, bulletins, photos, stories and ads!



GMVCC News Briefs

Wed, April 20 — Council Meeting Highlights

The meeting was called to order by Co-President, Lindy Wishard. There was not a quorum present. Introductions made.

First AME Church: There will be a meeting on Friday, April 29, 6p.m. at the former MLK Elementary School, where Church representatives will discuss plans for the building and welcome input from the community. Refreshments will be served.

Other projects: The group *Madrona Woods* is creating signage to indicate points of interest along their trails. Montlake is improving the pedestrian path at Boyer and 23rd Ave. An information kiosk will be installed at 7th and Madison. *Free the Trees*, an ongoing Harrison Ridge Greenbelt Project, reports all the plants have been installed. There will continue to be monthly work parties to spread wood chips and remove invasive plants.

Summer Community Barbecue: A date and committee will be formed at the May monthly meeting. Elections of new officers is also scheduled for the May 18th council meeting. Please come!


Neighborhood Safety: To join the Madison Valley Watch, contact Heather Scarce at heather@709core.com. By invitation only. For other neighborhood news, visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/madisonvalleycommunity>.

A **complete copy of GMVCC Minutes** can be obtained from Secretary Cathy Nunneley at cjunnunneley@yahoo.com. 

Flooding Along 32nd Ave Fixed

By Cathy Nunneley

We are thrilled to announce that after much effort on the part of several neighbors, the flooding along 32nd Ave E and E. Denny, near the Harrison Ridge Greenbelt clearing, has been addressed. SPU representatives determined that the constant stream of water, estimated to be 1 gallon/minute across the sidewalk and into the street, was due to a broken inlet. SPU notified Seattle Parks about the situation, as the Greenbelt is part of the Parks system. The swale, located on the northern border of the clearing, was easily repaired and the water is now flowing into the waste water system under the street. Motorists, pedestrians and adjacent neighbors can now enjoy a safer street.

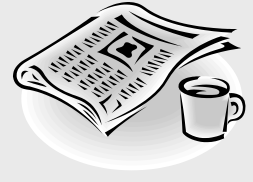
This type of community activism gets results. If you have a problem near your home, don't hesitate to contact your GMVCC for assistance. When we work together, it's possible to accomplish great things for our neighborhood. 

The Valley Past...



East Madison St. Fire Station — This historic photo of Fire Station 34 and the landscape of 32nd Ave. East is hardly recognizable today. This photo was taken in 1927 by the Seattle Engineering Dept. The old wooden structure was completely replaced in 1970 with the modern brick building that now sits at 633 32nd Ave East (see upper left, page two). Today 32nd Ave. is a shady residential street lined with a mature canopy of trees and a mix of contemporary and historic homes. Station 34 houses one engine company and a hose wagon. In the next 3 years the station will undergo seismic retrofitting to meet current earthquake standards and to add a new training area. Emergency services will be kept onsite during the upgrades. © *Seattle Municipal Archive Photograph Collection*

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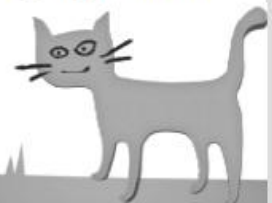
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What's Up on Madison

By Ann McCurdy



There wasn't room for this column in the March issue, so I have to announce *twice* as many French restaurants this time. In the site of the former Sues Chocolates comes **Inès Patisserie**. Yes, a French pastry shop as the name implies, and the fifth French restaurant in the area. Mon Dieu! The owner, formerly of Bistro Mazarin in Madrona, has named the patisserie after her daughter, and promises both sweet and savory fare, and of

course, coffee. My husband went in to get a treat for my birthday and the owner said, "Come back in two hours!" then made something divine just for us. We've since been back, and everything is delicious!

Sadly, **Island Video** has closed its doors after 30 years of business. According to the owner, "the current level of business no longer supports the high costs of operating in the Madison Valley/Park area." In its place comes **Belle Epicurean**, which describes itself as priding themselves "on preparing authentic Parisian street foods fresh for you each day." Yum! So now we have **Rover's, Luc, Voila, La Cote, Inès Patisserie**, and **Belle Epicurean**. Why did I take Spanish in high school?

For more (non-French) business news: across the street from **Belle Epicurean**, there's a "For Lease" sign at the financial planners of **Hollo & Associates**. Happily for them, they just needed a larger office, and so moved to bigger digs in Kirkland. Ardeth Hollo says "we loved our years in Madison Park and miss seeing everyone every day." If someone has to leave the Valley, it's good to hear they're doing well. On a final note, **Patty Pan Café** also closed its doors the last week of April, but the farm-fresh, baked-from-scratch wares of owner Devra Gartenstein can still be found locally — just look for her stall at the MLK Farmer's Market this summer, which officially opens for the season on May 20th at the Grocery Outlet parking lot on MLK Way and E. Union St. 

**MLK Farmers Market
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Neighborhood School News



Volunteers Wanted for Renovation Committee


As you may have heard, we are looking to secure a place on the upcoming Building Excellence (BEX) levy for the **renovation of McGilvra Elementary**. This is a long term project that will require lots of community support. We still need one or two more volunteers for this committee who are interested in helping us secure a place on the BEX levy and working with the community and the School District to create a better, safer school. If we secure a spot on the levy, it promises to be a lot of fun! If you're interested in joining the committee, please contact Mary Lane at mblane@seattleschools.org or call 206-252-3165.

Valley School Celebrates 25th Anniversary —



The Valley School celebrates its 25th Anniversary in 2011 under new leadership. The Board of Trustees appointed Robert Schultz as the new head of the school effective July 2010. Schultz has a deep understanding of progressive educational

principles and child-centered education, both core to The Valley School's mission, principles and practices. Schultz is a native of Washington State and grew up in West Seattle. He is a graduate of WSU with a B.A. in Human Development and a M.A. in Education from the University of Guam. Admissions Director Gail Mensher reported to Madrona News in April completion of a successful admission season with all classes full for the 2011-2012 season.

New Principal Appointed — St. Therese School is proud to welcome their new principal Mrs. Theresa Hagemann. She comes to St. Therese with an abundance of enthusiasm for education and a strong resume. *"I absolutely love working with children of all ages. Their curiosity and love of life makes coming to work every day a joy. I am passionate about Catholic education and working with teachers to create curriculum that inspires students to learn. I look forward to working with the St. Therese community and neighborhood as we begin this new chapter."* Mrs. Hagemann officially begins her new position July 1st. She is currently Vice Principal at St. Anne. For more information about St. Therese or to schedule a school tour, call Gina Purdy at 206-324-0460 ext.117 or email gina.purdy@hotmail.com. 



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Award Revoked, Cont'd from p. 1...

with assistance from Parks. Please direct any questions about Washington Park to Dewey Potter at Seattle Parks, at (206) 684-7241.

At this time, CleanScapes will begin a new process with the Seattle Department of Transportation to review the next slate of projects and determine which can be implemented within the \$50,000 project budget. We would like to share our sincere thanks to everyone in the community who worked on the Washington Park play structure project, namely the project proposers - Ann McCurdy and Michelle McKelvey and the many families who attended the public meeting. As we move forward with the other proposed projects, we will keep the community informed with status updates and outreach.

CleanScapes is still fully committed to providing the neighborhood with a \$50,000 project!

Best wishes,
The CleanScapes Team

This stunning reversal leaves Madison Valley residents with a very sour taste in their mouths and wondering which neighborhood is going to receive the \$50,000 reward project now, as it won't likely be ours. While initial community reaction to the award was positive, people were concerned to see a design proposal that permanently removed the only set of swings located within a mile radius of the neighborhood. Their concerns are valid, because although Madison Valley has numerous small, quaint "pocket parks" tucked along its slopes, none of them offers swings — the only current set is located at Washington Park Playfields.

One key factor of the Parks Dept's decision to leave the swings in place has not been reported: when Cleanscapes first presented the winning project design to the City Council back in December 2010, several council members questioned the lack of swings in the design and said that, at a minimum, they needed to include a "yellow swing" in the new play equipment. "Yellow swings" are a feature added to traditional swing-sets, which allow physically-challenged children the opportunity to participate at the playground by swinging in a large, bucket-shaped yellow chair with seatbelt safety restraints.

Cleanscapes decision not to re-work their original design to include a yellow swing component, or any swings in the playground simply doesn't make sense. The existing, contained play area should be big enough to accommodate a more versatile design with activities for every child, of every age and ability. This would simply require a revised, more modest equipment design that includes a couple of swings within the existing footprint.

If you would like to voice your opinion in the future of the Washington Park play area, and think Madison Valley should retain the \$50,000 grant, you may contact Dewey Potter at Seattle Parks at 206-684-7241, or email Ms. Castellanos at candy.castellanos@cleanscapes.com.

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Officer Elections will be held at the **May meeting of the GMVCC**. Please consider serving your community as an officer on the Council. Remember that positions may be shared to assure greater flexibility with busy schedules.

We are always looking for new volunteers to come forward and participate in decisions that will direct the future of our neighborhood. Please come to meetings with your ideas! **Our next event will be a Community Picnic & Barbecue this summer.** We are in the planning stages now and need your help to make this popular event a success. Hope to see YOU there!

Upcoming Council Meetings:

May — Wednesday 18th

June — Wednesday 15th

7:00 p.m. at the Valley School

318 30th Avenue East and E. Thomas St.