



THE VALLEY VIEW

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Madison Valley Wins Play Structure

By Ann McCurdy

CleanScapes has announced that the winners of their 2009 CleanScapes \$50,000 community improvement project are... Ann McCurdy (me!) and Michelle McKelvey. CleanScapes solicited proposals from the community, and Ann and Michelle independently proposed building a play structure at the site of the current swing set in Washington Park, at the south end of the Arboretum. The play structure proposal was almost taken out of the running because it appeared it would exceed the \$50,000 budget maximum. But CleanScapes, excited about the project, worked with city departments and play structure manufacturers to keep the costs within budget.

Plans would have the structure installed early this spring in 2011, with CleanScapes planning a two-day installation volunteer party. See page 6 for their proposed design. As soon as they have an installation date set, they will be looking for volunteers to help put the play structure together. "It should be a great event!" says Candy Castellanos, CleanScapes Waste Diversion Project Manager.

Perhaps not surprising these days, installing play structures is expensive. The proposal could only stay within budget by removing the existing swings and installing the structure in its place, since the area below the swings is already sited and prepped as a play area. To expand the play area would vastly increase expenses as the land would have to be surveyed for drainage and filled with the proper material for kids to safely run, jump, and fall on as they play. Community... *Cont'd p.6*



A new playground is coming to Washington Park Playfields this spring, in the site of the existing, and much-used, swing set.



Winter Events Calendar

Wed, Jan 19, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. — GMVCC Monthly Meeting at the Valley School on 30th Ave. East. Come meet your new and returning council members and reconnect with neighbors!

Thurs, Jan 20, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. — Community Meeting for the Cleanscapes Playground Project (see notice at left). Graham Visitors Center. Find more info at www.cleanscapes.com

Thurs, Feb 10, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. — NEW Capitol Hill Art Walk Blitz, on the second Thursday of each month in 2011. See <http://www.blitzcapitolhill.com/> for info, maps & venues.

Sun, Feb 13, 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. — Weekend Work Party, Friends of the Harrison Ridge Greenbelt. Tools are provided, wear clothing appropriate for weather. Rain or shine.

Sun, Feb 13, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. — First Viewing Day at the Japanese Garden, at the Washington Park Arboretum. 2011 season officially opens Tues. Feb. 15th.

Wed, Feb 16, 10:00a.m.—8:00 p.m. — GMVCC Monthly Meeting at the Valley School. Hosted the third Wed. each month.

Thurs, March 3, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. — First Thursdays at Seattle Asian Art Museum, Free Admission. Also, **First Fridays Free Admission** for Seniors (over 62). And **First Saturdays Free Family Admission.** Note: All SAM venues will be closed for a 2week long furlough from January 31st — February 13th.

Community Meeting Notice: Cleanscapes Play Equipment Donation



**Thursday, January 20th, 2011
6-8 p.m. at Graham Visitors Center
In Washington Park Arboretum**

Come learn about changes being proposed for the Washington Park Playfield. You are encouraged to participate! For addn'l info, contact Pamela Alspaugh, Sr. Landscape Architect, at 206-684-7328, or pamela.alspaugh@seattle.gov.



GMVCC ID STATEMENT



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2011 GMVCC Officers

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Vice President: Charles McDade

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Treasurer: Adrienne Bailey

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The GMVCC is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit member of the Seattle Community Council Federation. *The Valley View* reaches over 2,200 households and businesses in the Madison Valley area, and is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November.

**Submissions for the March 2011 issue
are due by Friday, February 18th.**

We welcome your articles, comments, events, ads & photos!



GMVCC Minutes


Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Treasurer's Report: Closing balance: \$7,283.52

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Charles McDade. Introductions were made. There was a quorum of twelve present. Election of Officers for 2011 are as follows: Lindy Wishard & Richard Winsler as Co-Presidents, McDade as Vice President, Adrienne Bailey as Treasurer, Cathy Nunneley as Secretary.

Friends of the Greenbelt: Cathy Nunneley reported that we had additional volunteers at the last work party and that significant progress has been made freeing the trees of the many vines. Cathy and Libby Sinclair met with Jenny Beuning, an environmental scientist from the University of Washington. She agreed that our greenbelt would make a good project for a graduate student in the Environmental Science program and will take our plea to the professors. She was also able to provide us with other possible resources for assistance.

The Valley View: a lengthy discussion of the future of the newsletter ensued with many options for its continuance. A subcommittee was formed to review these options and submit a plan to the council in January. Subcommittee members include: Adrienne Bailey, Richard Winsler, Lindy Wishard, Larry Levine, and Chris Page.

Adrienne Bailey discussed the current struggles with the economic environment and its effect on community activism efforts. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. 



Upcoming Meetings

You're invited to come meet the new and returning GMVCC Officers at upcoming council meetings hosted by the Valley School, 7:30—9:00 p.m. on

Wednesday, January 19th

Wednesday, February 16th

We'd also like to extend warm congratulations to The Valley School, celebrating its 25th Anniversary in Madison Valley in 2011. We wish you many more!

Greetings from your Co-Presidents

Lindy Wishard — As a longtime member of the Madison Valley Community Council, I was recently elected to serve as co-president. Neighborhood councils throughout Seattle are doing great things. I want Madison Valley feel like a small town — pretty and safe, where people know their neighbors and take time to say hello on the street. I have lived on the north side of Madison Valley for eleven years, renovating my home and taking long walks with my white Labrador, Marley.

I also serve on the board of the Madison Park Community Council. I enjoy my dual roles, and feel that both neighborhoods can learn from and benefit one another. I'd like to encourage my neighbors to participate in any way they can. Let's work together to improve our community. Below are suggestions for getting involved.

- Attend meetings, held the third Wednesday of each month
- Read and write articles for the *Valley View*.
- Send us your comments & suggestions via email to: president@madisonvalley.org
- Join one of the following Neighborhood Yahoo Groups:

Madison Valley Community focuses on news and issues related the Valley: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/madisonvalleycommunity>

Madison Valley Watch focuses on reported crime activity in the neighborhood: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/madvalleywatch>

Richard Winsler — I would first like to say what an honor it will be to serve my community as the newly elected co-president of the GMVCC. I have made this great neighborhood my home for over a decade and I couldn't imagine living anywhere else. I've contributed such things as acquiring the 4 way stop at 28th Avenue E and E Roy St. I also spearheaded the RPZ (Residential Parking Zone #23), hung CrimeWatch signs throughout the neighborhood, assisted in pedestrian safety flags for the crosswalk at 29th and Madison, and let us not forget closing down the infamous purple prostitution house a few years back.

My first goal and priority will be to ensure the *Valley View* newsletter continues. It is a vital component in spreading the word of Madison Valley for the people who live here. I would also like to invite the Madison Valley Merchant Association to increase their advertising with us. It is such a wonderful and inexpensive way to let over 2,200 residents know what you sell and where you are located. My second priority will be to get more folks involved with each other, ... *Cont'd p. 6*



Fundraising Updates

Dear Readers,

January 2011

Happy New Year! I'm happy to report that generous donations have begun to come in from our loyal readers and we've received over \$545 from Madison Valley residents just like you. Many donors prefer to be anonymous, so I'd like to offer our utmost thanks to all those who have contributed. The names of listed sponsors can now be found on page 2, at lower left of our ID Statement. I hope to see this list grow in future months, proving that you want to keep our paper in print (and not just available online, as some are proposing)! But we need your continued support, and even the smallest donations help. If we got just half our readers to send in \$10, we'd cover our costs in a flash. Since my family live in other regions, I often send them a newsletter to keep them posted on what's happening in our neighborhood. So I was pleasantly surprised when Treasurer Bailey forwarded me the latest donor list, and that saw my own mother (who lives in Tacoma) had sent something in. So here's a special thanks to you, mom! If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to clip out the form below and mail in a donation to support our efforts. I wish all our readers much health and great happiness in the coming year! Sincerely — *the Editor.*

THE VALLEY VIEW FUNDRAISING DRIVE!



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Free the Trees!

By Friends of the Harrison Ridge Greenbelt




Friends Work Party on Dec. 11th — (left to right) Libby Sinclair, Claire Levy, Kwane Robinson, of the Parks Dept, and Cathy Nunneley.

The Friends of the Greenbelt have been hard at work this fall. We had another work party in November and added a few more gardeners to our ranks. We plan monthly work parties throughout the year. Announcements of work weekend dates will be made on the Madison Valley Yahoo group email. Additionally, interested neighbors may contact us directly to be added to our email group and garner more information. Email Cathy at cjunnunneley@yahoo.com, or Libby at mizsinclair@hotmail.com.

The Friends have two primary goals. Firstly, to remove the vines such as blackberry, ivy, and clematis that are strangling the trees and secondly, to remove invasive plants like holly and deadly nightshade that threaten our native plants. We are working with the Green Seattle Partnership and are applying for the UW REN project. The UW project will assign us a graduate student and, with faculty assistance, will help with the revitalization of the space as well as to formulate a long-term plan.

The greenbelt is a vital part of our neighborhood. It is a continuation of the Arboretum natural corridor that hosts a variety of resident and migratory birds as it links habitats for wildlife. Long time resident Jerry Sussman once spotted 25 turkey vultures among the trees! He and other neighbors have also observed a Great Horned Owl, Band-tailed Pigeons, Pileated Woodpeckers, eagles and our state bird, the Goldfinch. Our greenbelt shelters a myriad of birds, from tiny hummingbirds and bushtits to flickers and hawks. The Audubon Society compiled an extensive list in the 1990s.

In addition to the benefits to wildlife, the Greenbelt provides a delightful respite from the urban landscape, promoting livability and vitality to our neighborhood. Please consider participating in this community project! We provide lots of tools and companionship. **The Next Work Party for Friends will be held Sunday, February 13th, 11am-3pm.** 

Public Art Installed at Basin


By Seattle Public Utilities

Portland artist Adam Kuby began installation of his artwork at the Stormwater Facility at the end of December. The anticipated timeline of activities is between 2-4 weeks. The Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs' public art program works with SPU to incorporate artwork into utility projects throughout the city. Funded by the 1% for Art Program, the art projects at SPU facilities highlight the work of the utility. Adam Kuby developed site specific artwork for the stormwater basin facility, and for the stormwater tank in Washington Park.

The proposed artwork at the basin incorporates trees and stone in ways that suggest the power and healing ability of nature. A panel comprised of representatives from the Madison Valley neighborhood, city staff and arts community selected Adam Kuby to develop and install artwork at these two sites. The panel selected Kuby based on the strength of his past work, his ability to develop conceptually cohesive artwork, and his interest in the natural environment.



The *Weaving Stones* is a matrix of low stones that inhabit an area of 14x18 ft. One tree is planted in the matrix that will ultimately push the stones around and change the rectilinear pattern into something more organic. In the *Splitting Stones*, (in above photo) clusters of vine maple trees grow up in the cracks of granite slabs that are broken in half. As each tree grows, it pushes apart the slab pieces even more, evoking the raw power of nature colliding with the urban environment.

In *Bowls*, two identical stone bowls sit near a path. One bowl is split into two pieces and is being pushed apart by one tree, portraying nature's ability to break and destroy. The other bowl is broken into two pieces and being pushed back together by two trees, evoking nature's ability to repair and heal over time. Lastly, in *Closing Stone*, one granite cube is broken into two and placed between two trees that will slowly push the cube back together representing nature's ability to repair and heal over time. 



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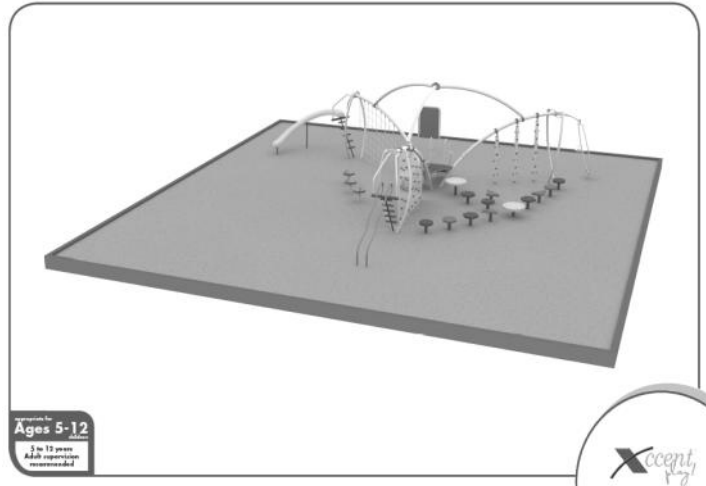
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Above: Cleanscapes' design proposal for the new play equipment.

Play Structure cont'd from p. 1...

meetings will be scheduled to encourage feedback on the planned structure. The goal for the ribbon cutting for the new playground is April, 2011.

As a participant, I found the entire contest interesting. CleanScapes invited proposals from community members in Capitol Hill, First Hill, Madison Park, Denny Blaine, Madrona, and Montlake. They received only twelve proposals, two of which did not meet their criteria. Of the remaining ten, mine and Michelle's were essentially the same. When it appeared that our proposal may be too expensive, I was encouraged to see how hard CleanScapes worked to keep our proposal viable. Then... a month of silence while they deliberated. When I finally received the call from Candy, she was so calm I wasn't sure we'd won. I had assumed contests such as these were long shots, but now I'm more encouraged than ever to look for contests and grants in the future. Perhaps other community improvements could come our way, just by asking for them. 

Co-President Greetings cont'd from p.3...

their neighborhood and what's happening just around the corner from them. From summer ice cream socials in 2011 to greenbelt work parties; or bringing your family to a fundraising pancake breakfast, contributing an article to the *Valley View*, or attending a community council meeting. There is so much to do! I encourage everyone to show up to at least one function in 2011 and meet some new and exciting people – your neighbors!

My email address is co-prezGMVCC@hotmail.com. Feel free to contact me with any of your concerns, comments, suggestions, or criticisms. I look forward to a great and eventful 2011 in Madison Valley!

Richard J. Winsler II
Co-president GMVCC

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Valley Snapshots — *Sledding Mecca at the Basin in late November, 2010.*



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