



# The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 102, April 2002

E-mail: [gmvcc@hotmail.com](mailto:gmvcc@hotmail.com)

## President's View

by Gary Emslie

Snow in March, frost in April: can sunshine and 70 degree temperatures be next?

I'm keen to report that teachers and students at Martin Luther King Elementary School and the Bush School have groups working at the new P-Patch. Some children are working on the planting of the children's plot, while others work to prepare the ground for this year's plantings. The P-patch project has taken a community eye sore and turned it into a beautiful community development. Thanks go out to Sarah Trethewey, who got the project off the ground, and all those who continue to nurture this project. [Please see more about

progress at the "Mad P" on page 2.]

Mark your calendars: on July 13 from 10 am to 4 pm the community council and its volunteers, led by Eli Stahlhut, will gather in the Bush school's urban courtyard for the annual Greater Madison Valley Courtyard Sale. Our neighbors have been saving good "stuff" all year long and through their kindness and generosity we again will have unbelievable merchandise and bargains. If you have things you would like to donate, don't be bashful. Call Gary at 324-7139, Jerry at 325-6308, or Eli at 322-7196.

Students began the clean up of the trash filled alley between 30th and 31st Avenues East and Harrison but found more than they could imagine. Neighbors teamed up with a city provided dumpster and rented backhoe to remove tons of detritus from the alley

way. The alley now is cleared the for length of the first two houses. What a relief to have this forty year collection of garbage removed!

Work continues to move ahead on the plans for renovation of the Washington Park Fieldhouse. All parties involved feel that this plan is a good one for the community. If you wish to lend a hand, call Jerry Sussman at 325-6308.

Friends of the Seattle Public Libraries have their annual book sale on April 12-14. Best book bargains of the year. Call 523-4053 for more information.

The community council looks forward to seeing you at the next council meeting on April 16th at 7:30 in the portable at the Martin Luther King elementary school.▼▼

## New Grant Opportunity

City Offers "Small Sparks" Grants

by Miriam Roskin

At our February pancake breakfast, Carolyn Carlson of the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods helped spread the word about a new option for funding fun community projects. In the past, we in Madison Valley have benefited from City matching grants and "small and simple" grants – the traffic circle and 27th and Denny was partially funded from this source, and so was the Madison Valley p-patch. And a small and simple grant of approximately \$5,000 helped fund the planning process for the ongoing Washington Park Fieldhouse project.

Carolyn explained that the Department of Neighborhoods came to recognize that not every project sponsor needs a couple thousand dollars – nor wants the paperwork that accompanies a grant of this size. That's why staff at "DON" developed a new kind of grant: "Small Sparks" grants for up to \$250.

The grants provided to date have funded such projects as:

- ◆ Weekly neighborhood walks designed plot out good routes that point to neighborhood treasures.
- ◆ A village dance fest in West Seattle, where an African dance and music performance generated support for the neighborhood playground project.
- ◆ A boat-building day in Ballard, where kids built a small boat and learned about the maritime history of their neighborhood.
- ◆ A series of games and other fun activities to help kids learn what to do in an earthquake.

Other project ideas include activities like a community talent show, a quilting bee that tells the story of the neighborhood, or a planting party in a neglected corner lot. Candidate projects should take no more than two months to complete and help build community by bringing neighbors together. Applicants need to submit a simple (one page!) application, and assistance throughout the life of the project is available from City neighborhood coaches.

Do you have an idea for a worthy project? Call Carolyn Carlson at 206.684.0448.▼▼

## Upcoming Events

### Spring Activities at the Neighborhood Academy

Last month's newsletter offered some updates on March classes at Safeco's Neighborhood Academy at 23rd Avenue and Jackson. Here's an update on the great classes and discussion groups they'll be offering in April, May, and June:

- ✓ Thursday, April 18, 7:00 - 9:00 pm: **Pilates Primer.** A refreshing and energizing workout of ever-growing popularity, Pilates addresses everything from tight shoulder muscles to weak abdominals, all while building better posture and invigorating fatigued muscles. This session will orient you to the history and benefits of the Pilates workout.
- ✓ Saturday, March 20, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm: **Women and Money.** The Women and Money program covers goal-setting, budgeting, managing credit, risk assessment and diversification, insurance, retirement, and estate planning.
- ✓ Tuesday, April 23, 7:00 - 9:00 pm: **Organic Container Gardens.** Led by Kathy Dang of Seattle Tilth, this session will show you how to establish extraordinary gardens on your porch or deck. Learn organic techniques for setting up a chemical-free container garden and get some tips on what and when to plant.
- ✓ Thursday, April 25, 7:00 - 9:00 pm: **Tips for Buying and Selling a Home.** Joan Jevnikar of Madison Valley's own Landmark Group shows how to navigate the twists and turns that lie ahead of every home buyer and
- ✓ Thursday, May 9, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm: **Celebrate the Second Half of Life: Menopause with Attitude.** This session will help show how your attitude can break down the myths of menopause. Can menopause be a time to renew the body and spirit? Carolyn Scott Brown, founder of Women's Health Institute, will discuss ways to select the proper caregiver, examine the pros and cons of hormone replacement, and explore a holistic approach to making your menopause plan.
- ✓ Thursday, March 28, 7:00 - 9:00 pm: **Earthquake Retrofit Your House.** Roger Farris, the Phinney Neighborhood Association's house guru extraordinaire, will help you learn how to evaluate your home to determine if it needs retrofitting and will present information on retrofitting methods and tools as well as information on City code and permit requirements.
- ✓ April's monthly book discussion (April 30, 7:00 - 9:00 pm)

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Mad P-Patch Update

### Snap Peas, Children, and Spring

by Larry Grant

One day prior to Spring, 2002, a day bookended by snowfalls, twenty third graders proceeded from Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School to the Mad P. The children carried their 80-plus snap pea seedlings that they had grown in their classroom window. The excited children were met by eight adult volunteers and together they transplanted the peas. In two months pea vines will be six feet tall, enveloping the bamboo teepee that supports them. A small entrance in the teepee will give the children access to a hidey-hole.

The students read vegetable and garden stories to the adults, answered riddles, sang garden songs, conducted a scavenger hunt, and laughed. Thus commenced Day One of the Kids' Plot at the Mad P.

The children gardened again on April 2 and will come back regularly from now until the end of the school year. We joyfully thank the community volunteers, p-patchers, and the children who have worked to make this new garden. The Kids' Plot is still in a building phase and we are looking for volunteers. Garden experience is NOT required; kindness and an appreciation of children is. In addition, "master gardeners" are specially welcome as we would like to use the highly praised master garden kit in this children's program. If you're available to volunteer, please call Larry at 329-1159.

In other p-patch news, progress has taken shape as work parties have begun developing a french drain to channel the water from the natural springs on the hillside, adding new flowers and trees, and setting up five wire compost bins. Our next work party is Saturday, May 4, starting at 10:00 am. The next time the MLK third graders will come to work on the Kids' Plot is Thursday, April 18, at 1:00 pm. We welcome you to come join us then.

Everyone is also welcome simply to visit the Mad P at your convenience. We're at 30th Avenue East and East Mercer, one block north of Republican. Come see the origins of the Kids' Plot and some of the garden ornaments that local businesses and individuals have graciously donated.

In our next report we'll talk about the food we are growing for donation to the local food bank. Gardeners should note that April is a good time to sow peas (by mid-month), radishes, green onions (known also as spring onions or scallions), mustard greens, lettuces, spinach, and more. A happy spring to all! ▼▼



## Community Council Minutes

### Minutes for GMVCC Meeting of February 19, 2002

Charles called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm.

There was not a quorum present.

Jerry spoke briefly about the field house project. Things are going as planned with no additions to the project.

The "alley cleanup" project is still in progress. The city proclaimed the mess "too big" for them to clean up so we are now working on getting a machine (a backhoe or a front-loader) to help with the job. If you are interested in volunteering, feel free to call Jerry Sussman for further information.

The next big event coming up in the summer is the courtyard sale, so start putting things aside that you'd like to get rid of and feel are "sale-worthy." ▼▼

*Minutes prepared by Claire Levy, GMVCC Secretary.*

**NOTE:** Minutes of the GMVCC's March meeting will appear in the May newsletter.



### Neighborhood Academy, continued

will focus on Wild Life by Molly Gloss. This is the featured title for 2002's "If All of Seattle Read the Same Book," — the brainchild of one of the Seattle Public Library's resident treasures, Nancy Pearl. In this book, a single mother in southwest Washington State during the early 1900s supports five irrepressible sons by writing popular women's adventure tales. The story spins through a search for a missing girl near Mount St. Helens, and soon our heroine is setting off on an adventure both like and unlike anything she had imagined in her own fiction.

✓ The book for May 28 is Lydia Minatoya's Talking to High Monks in the Snow.

All sessions are **free of charge** and held at the Neighborhood Academy, located above the Walgreens/Starbucks shopping plaza directly atop Hollywood Video. The parking lot entrance is between 23rd and 24th on South Main Street — one block north of Jackson. Call 521-1100 to register for any or all classes! ▼▼

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## 20 Weeks of Fresh Produce from Penn Cove Organics....

More people than ever are turning to Community Supported Agriculture as a direct link to the best and freshest organic vegetables and an opportunity to support a vanishing institution: the family farm. Penn Cove Organics offers you an opportunity to do the same — and with a convenient pick-up point right here in Madison Valley.

From June through October you will receive a box full of certified organic seasonal produce — a wide variety of greens as well as peas, beets, broccoli, cauliflower, Walla Walla sweets, beans, cucumbers, corn, summer and winter squashes, leeks, and winter greens as we go through the season.

All are grown on Whidbey Island and picked the day before delivery. With your subscription to Penn Cove Organics, you also get a weekly newsletter full of recipes and stories from the farm.

We offer full shares (for 4 or more people) for around \$25 per week; half shares are also available.

Become part of a family farm, run by two generations of Hilborns (the seniors are residents of Madison Valley) and eat better and healthier than ever before.

For further information or to sign up, call Wendi (360/240-8125), or email at [hilborn@whidbey.net](mailto:hilborn@whidbey.net).

## Treasurer's Message

### Thanks to our Donors

By Sarah Trethewey

Here's our progress: an additional \$170 came into the Community Council's coffers during the month of March supplementing the \$200 contributed by Valley View readers during February. As always, we sincerely thank these generous donors for helping to keep the newsletter going.

Tax deductible contributions to the Greater Madison Valley Community Council are always welcome. A donation form appears on page 4.

Your support makes all the difference! ▼▼

*Sarah Trethewey is Treasurer of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council.*

**THE VALLEY VIEW**  
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 Mail to the address above.

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**Next Community Council Meeting**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
**Tuesday, April 16, 2002, 7:30 p.m.**  
 Martin Luther King Elementary School Portables  
 3201 E. Republican Street  
 (parking available on playfield) 

Paid Advertisement



*Community Day School Association*

**summer camp now enrolling**  
 at the following locations:

- Bush** (Call 326-7759)  
Serving incoming grades K – 5, starting June 17
- Hawthorne** (Call 725-2252)  
Serving incoming grades 4 – 6, starting July 1
- Leschi** (Call 323-9465)  
Serving grades preschool – 3, starting July 1
- Montlake** (Call 323-8299)  
Serving incoming grades K – 6, starting July 1

- ✓ Minimum three-week enrollment
- ✓ \$140 per week
- ✓ Subsidized funding is welcome

*Community Day School has provided non-profit before and after school and summer camp enrichment programs for 25 years.*

**NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS**

The Greater Madison Valley Community Council has a  
**NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS.**

From now on, you can reach us at:

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We love to hear from you; please write early and often!

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