



The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 93, April 2001

E-mail: madisonvalley@juno.com

President's View

by Gary Emslie

April reminds us that our Uncle wants to hear from us before the 15th, but thanks to mother nature's earthquake we are all given an extension until the 30th. This is great for the procrastinators among us.

Many thanks to Sarah T. and the many volunteers who have worked steadily on building the P-Patch and the end of 30th and Mercer. This entire street end is being revitalized. If you have a few extra hours on Saturdays drop in to lend a hand, experience is not required.

While the city's Mayoral race is still several months off, we've already begun to see the candidates dance. It seems as though the next mayor of the city will want to have the Seattle Police Guild and rank and file on their dance card several times. Events like

WTO and Mardi Gras in Pioneer Square have polarized public and political opinions. We hope that a constructive dialogue will emerge to help heal and improve the City's sense of itself.

Earth Day events are coming up in neighborhoods all over the city. Hope you'll find a way to contribute — perhaps at our very own p-patch!

Coming up we anticipate another grand courtyard sale in July. Watch the next newsletter for more specifics, but if you have donations that you'd like picked up call Gary at 324-7139 or Jerry at 325-6308. Your donations are important and the proceeds from this fund/friend raiser underwrite this monthly newsletter.

Mark your calendars: the Bush School and the Carlson Architects will host an open house in the Bush Commons at 36th and Harrison on May 1st, from

5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. The school's Campus Master Planning Committee and architects will explain the plan and answer questions. Come and hear the school share its dreams for the future.

Spring Break approaches, so enjoy the time with family. Hope to see you at the next meeting of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council on Tuesday, April 17, at 7:30 pm in the portables at Martin Luther King Elementary School. ▼▼

In This Issue

President's View.....	1
Arboretum News.....	1
Madison's Changing Scene.....	2
Arboretum Fieldhouse Preview.....	2
Gardening with the Natives.....	2
P-Patch Update.....	3
GMVCC Minutes.....	3
Announcements.....	4

A Heated Arboretum Hearing

By Miriam Roskin

Over 70 people signed up to speak both for and against the proposed master plan for the Washington Park Arboretum at a March 28 hearing sponsored by the Seattle Parks Board and Seattle City Council. The evening hearing was attended by members of the Parks Board; City Councilmembers Nick Licata, Richard Conlin, Richard McIver, Margaret Pageler, Peter Steinbrueck, and Heidi Wills; and over 100 audience spectators, many of whom had signed up to speak.

This hearing provided a forum in which citizens spoke and policy makers listened. It was the last formal opportunity for citizens to weigh in on the proposed plan before a City Council committee makes a recommendation to the full Council (scheduled for April 25) and the full Council takes a vote thereafter. Any plan approved by the Council must also be approved by the University of Washington Board of Regents.

The University's role in the decision comes about because of

the Arboretum's complex system of governance. The University manages the Arboretum and its plant collections through the Center for Urban Horticulture. The City of Seattle's Department of Parks and Recreation holds title to the land and cooperates in its management. The Arboretum Foundation manages fund raising, membership, and volunteer services. Over the years this mix of responsibilities has led to some differing viewpoints about the principal purpose of these 230 acres of green space. Is it a park? Is it an educational facility? Is it a botanical and horticultural resource? And if it's all three, what's the proper balance among those roles?

These questions were at the heart of the opinions expressed on March 28. The speakers were relatively evenly divided among those who approve of the plan as is, those who object to implementation of any element of the plan, and those who object to aspects of the plan and seek amendments. This last view is the official position of the Arboretum Park Preservation Coalition (APPC), which has contributed opinion pieces

(Continued on page 3)

Comment

Madison's Changing Scene

by Jack Irwin

We're getting a mix of signals from the tides of time. The earthquake following the melee in Pioneer Square shadowed all our thoughts.

Boeing's announcement of its departure added to our malaise, already stirred by the defection of so many star athletes. Someone wrote hopefully to the New York Times that Seattle should not mourn these losses but think instead they are pangs of a rebirth. Does a greener future await?

A few bright signs have appeared: Seattle has 50,000 new residents who I hope will be using more public transport and will move us toward solutions of the traffic impasse. George Bush is recognizing Congress's refusal to permit the oilmen to drill in Alaska's wildlife refuge. (At the same time he doesn't worry about losing more CO2 and arsenic on the world. Why worry?) Locally it looks promising that our mayoral race this fall will give us lively choices.

The stock market continues to wobble. Does it go down in a cataract later this year as some foresee, or will the old capitalist machine beat the odds again? A disquieting sight appears just down the block, adjoining the greenbelt. A substantial house once stood there under sequoia and other big trees. Along came some alightnik with an attache case full of stock options, bought the place for half a million dollars and promptly tore it down. Then came earth swallowing ma-

chines that excavated an immense pit and chopped down all the trees. Next a huge concrete foundation on deep piers went in, topped by two-story concrete walls. It looks like 80% of the lot lies under this Ozymandias, in spite of the 35% rule. All this furious work came on abruptly and just as abruptly ended. Tools, men, and machines all disappeared in February. Did the dot.com slump do this? Did they just lose interest? Will anybody return to backfill against the neighbor's land so his house won't fall in the hole? Will the DCLU require the builder to secure the site? We don't know but we're working on it. Have hope.▼▼



Arboretum Fieldhouse Preview

In a letter to the Parks Department, a fieldhouse task force from the Greater Madison Valley Community Council has requested approval to proceed with a proposal to rehab the Arboretum fieldhouse (the brick building near the soccer field) for use as a community meeting space. The first step will be to hire a designer to prepare plans and a cost estimate.

We'd be delighted to coordinate our efforts with any other groups that might also have need of such a meeting place. Please contact Jerry Sussman at 325-6308, or Sally Richardson at 323-6312.

Stay tuned for more information on this new project! ▼▼

Gardening with the Natives

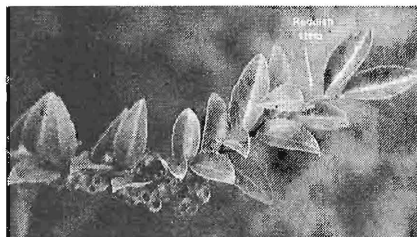
Evergreen Shrubs of the Heather Family

by Cathy Nunneley

Evergreen shrubs are one of the mainstays of the native garden. They provide year round structure and add a dramatic background to many of the more showy perennials. Habitats range from the bog conditions which seem prevalent in our Madison Valley gardens to the drier soils of our water-conscious designs. Many of these plants may be relatively unknown to the city gardener.

Bog Rosemary (*Andromeda polifolio*) is a low growing shrub, which spreads by creeping roots. It has leathery leaves and soft pink pendulous flower clusters. Sun or part shades light in rock gardens suit it well.

Labrador Teas (*Ledum glandulosum*) are other bog-loving plants. It grows about 3 feet with long narrow leaves. The leaves are very aromatic when crushed and can be brewed as a tea. This variety has a nice compact habit suitable to



Evergreen Huckleberry

city garden and a profuse summer bloom.

Bog Laurel (*Kalmis occidentalis*) are low growing shrublets of the more common mountain laurel. This variety has dark green leaves with a whitish underside. The showy purple flowers grow in clusters like rhododendrons. It can take full sun.

Western Leucothoe (*Leucothoe Davisiae*) is another bog plant growing 3 feet high with roundish leaves and beautiful white flower clusters in June. It likes some shade and is nice in clusters bordering larger evergreens.

Evergreen Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*) is a welcome evergreen addition to the berry bush family. The black-purple fruits are much prized by berry lovers. In the wild the bushes grow up to 15 feet but in urban sun they remain a compact 2 to 3 feet. The bushes are beautiful with rhododendrons. The new leaves are bronze and mature into a brilliant dark green. They can be successfully grown in containers. An added bonus for the berry-laden branches is their inclusion into dramatic flower arrangements. ▼▼

Arboretum, continued

to past issues of the Valley View and whose positions have been previously endorsed by the Greater Madison Valley Community Council.

The revised Arboretum Master Plan eliminates some of the features that the APPC objected to most forcefully. For example, the new plan cuts the size of a new 5,000 square foot building proposed for the south end of the Arboretum by half, eliminates a proposed building on Azalea Way, retains Arboretum Drive as an open road, and scales back the buildings originally planned for near the Graham Visitors Center.

A March 10 letter from APPC states the group's conditional support for the revised master plan pending adoption of seven APPC-sponsored amendments. The text of the amendments is available at www.scn.org/arboretum. Sample amendments call for retention of smaller parking lots rather than consolidation into a larger lot; elimination or relocation of classroom and meeting spaces proposed for the south end of the Arboretum; less obtrusive signage; and a statement affirming the park function of the Arboretum.

About a dozen speakers addressed similar points, objecting especially to any encroachment on the green space between the playfield and the Japanese Garden, construction of new classroom buildings, and consolidation of scattered parking areas. An additional 20 to 25 speakers objected to other—or all— aspects of the plan. Some questioned what parts of the plan would fall away if funding fell short of the \$44 million price tag. "Will new construction and parking and trails ... improve the maintenance of this resource? Will the implementation effort abandon (the maintenance aspects of) this plan once the buildings are built?" asked Nancy Knapp. Some spoke against the proposed bike trail and speculated that expanded parking areas would attract tour buses. Education served as another flash point, with several speakers arguing that classrooms belong in schools, not a park. "This Master Plan reads like an application for a building permit," said another speaker, to applause.

About 25 speakers stood up in favor of the plan, and a good half of those speakers stressed education as a key role for the Arboretum. One speaker from the University framed the debate as choice between a status quo public park versus an exemplary educational and community resource. Other speakers in favor of the plan, including radio celebrity Ciscoe Morris, stressed the opportunity to save a renowned collection of plants and promote biodiversity. "This (plan) looks like a wonderful compromise," concluded one Madison Park resident.

The debate over the plan itself is only the beginning. "Now the hard work begins," said one Montlake resident. No matter which approach is finally approved, the big questions will center on how to implement any decisions and balance the diverse claims on this precious resource. ▼▼

P-Patch Update

by Sarah Trethewey

A huge thank you to everyone who has been helping us make this p-patch happen. We are making great progress at 30th and E. Mercer, but it is never too late to come and help. Our work parties are Saturday mornings from 10 am to noon (although we usually work longer). When you're out and about, take a spin by the site. It already looks so much better than before!

It is very important that we log at least 500 volunteer hours, so anything that you can do would help us meet our goal. Here are some of the ways you could help. Are you...

- a baker? We could use treats for the work parties.
- thinning out your own garden? We could use your extra plants. Both the plants and your time could be donated.
- an artist? We'd love an entrance sign and other garden art to jazz up the space.
- a carpenter? We could use a picnic table and benches.

There are so many ways to help, and every bit will help make this an even better neighborhood improvement. Please call me at 325-3734 to volunteer. ▼▼



Community Council Minutes

GMVCC Meeting of March 20, 2001

Charles called the meeting to order at 7:45.

First, Adrienne informed us of an amendment for the last minutes; she is *not* able to be on the field house committee. Though she can't be on the committee Adrienne has agreed to help with the project by giving information and advice to the council. Thanks Adrienne!

Angel then gave the treasurer's report. Our current balance is \$7,672.91.

Next, Sarah told us that they are looking for a local artist who would like to design a sign for the p-patch. More p-patch news: the water meter is in!

The important subject of the air quality in MLK School was also discussed. The council read the damage reports that contained evidence of asbestos and bad water running through the school's pipes. There was a motion that we support the school. There was not a quorum so a resolution was seconded.

Sally then told about the progress on the field house at Washington Park. It was decided that a letter would be sent to the Parks Department about the GMVCC and why we would like to use the field house.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30. ▼▼

Minutes prepared by Claire Levy, GMVCC Secretary.

THE VALLEY VIEW

2802 East Madison St., Box 184
Seattle, WA 98112
Greater Madison Valley
Community Council
Member of the Seattle
Community Council Federation

Newsletter Staff

Amity Lumper
Cathy Nunneley
Miriam Roskin
Eli Stahlhut
Jerry Sussman

The Valley View is published 10 times each year.

Deadline: First of each month.

Your submissions are appreciated!
Mail to the address above.

2000-2001 Officers

President - Gary Emslie
Vice President - Charles McDade
Secretary - Miranda and Claire Levy
Treasurer - Angel Chaffin
Site Council Rep. - Adrienne Bailey
E-mail: madisonvalley@juno.com

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 6873

Next Community Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 17, 2001, 7:30 p.m.
Martin Luther King Elementary School Portables
3201 E. Republican Street
(parking available on playfield)

Advertisements and Announcements

SUPPORT THE VALLEY VIEW NEWSLETTER

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Address: _____

Donation Amount: _____ I don't receive the Valley View; please add me to the mailing list.

Please contact me for mailing parties, writing, reporting, artwork, or other. My interests are:

GMVCC ▼ 2802 E. Madison Street, #184 ▼ Seattle, WA 98112

Coming Next Issue

Martin Luther King School: Views from a Volunteer

If you have news or perspectives to share on our neighborhood public elementary school, please call Bob Edgerton at 325-0757 or email him at bobcello@aol.com. It would be great to include lots of views in this special article!



Community Day School Association

summer camp now enrolling
at the following locations:

Bush (Call 326-7759)
Serving incoming grades K – 5, starting June 25

Hawthorne (Call 725-2252)
Serving incoming grades 4 – 6, starting July 2

Leschi (Call 323-9465)
Serving grades preschool – 3, starting July 2

Montlake (Call 323-8299)
Serving incoming grades K – 6, starting July 2

- ✓ Minimum three-week enrollment
- ✓ \$130 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.