



The Valley View

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER MADISON VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

November-December 2009 • issue 167 • madisonvalley.org

Proposal Submitted to School District

By Kimberly Larson-Edwards

Citizens for a Community Center at MLK(CCC@MLK) has had a busy fall generating support and submitting a proposal to the School District to create a community center at the currently closed school.



Through the end of September, CCC@MLK had a table at several Madrona Farmers Markets in an effort to educate residents about our vision and showcase materials that outlined our programming through a "week-in-the-life" at our center, and the potential building design. We gathered over 100 letters to be mailed to the School Board in support of community ownership of Martin Luther King Elementary School.

In early October, the *Central District News* ran an article titled *Two Competing Proposals for MLK* (see <http://www.centraldistrictnews.com/2009/09/30/two-competing-proposals-for-mlk-school>). The story detailed our plans for the M.L.King, Jr. Community Center and confirmed the Bush School's plans to use the property as a playfield. CCC@MLK had met with the Bush School in the spring of 2008 to discuss possible collaboration. A critical element for a vibrant M.L.King, Jr. Community Center is that the public, the neighborhood, community groups, and non-profits have access to the property at all times, and not be limited to the hours when the property is not in use by a private entity. Therefore, when the Bush School indicated their intention to submit a proposal for a privately owned playfield this past summer, CCC@MLK decided it did not want to pursue such a partnership.

Before submitting our proposal to the School Board this October, we needed to raise \$10,000. In less than a week, Madison Valley neighbors and Central Area residents stepped up and contributed in great numbers. Thank you to everyone who made a donation! Our approval rate for developing a community center at the closed school is quite impressive and shows the support we have in the community for this vision.

On October 15, 2009, CCC@MLK submitted its proposal to the Seattle School Board to buy and/or lease the M.L.King, Jr. property. We have many partners signed on including Creative Beginnings Preschool/Cuddles Daycare, Spectrum Dance, African American Veterans Association, Mitchell

Dance, African American Veterans Association, Mitchell House, Greater Madison Valley Community Council, and Herndon Alliance. Additionally, Delridge Neighborhood Development Association, which has been involved in the development and management of the Youngstown Art Center, signed on as a partner to manage and operate the M.L.King, Jr. Community Center. We have also received several letters of support for our proposal from city, state, county and federal officials.

The School Board will be working on the selection of a finalist between through November, and we know there are several competing proposals. If you support our vision of a M.L.King, Jr. Community Center, please voice your support to the School Board. Call the District at **206-252-0040** or send a letter to the Board via our website. Most importantly, go to our website and sign up for our e-newsletter, and keep an eye out for upcoming School Board meetings and other events. We will need your attendance and ask for your participation: www.mlkcommunitycenter.org.



events calendar

Wed, Nov 18, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. – GMVCC Monthly Meeting is now being held at the Valley School. Please note there will be no meeting held in December.

Wed, Nov 18, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. – Seattle School Board Meeting. Located at the John Stanford Center Auditorium, 2445 Third Ave S, Seattle 98134. Please attend in support of a developing a Community Center at MLK School!

Sat, Nov 21, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Book Signing at Rue de Lyon. Featuring journalist and political analyst Claude Salhani on a world book tour for his work, "While the Arab Would Slept". Reception at 5pm w/ wine & Lebanese apps; Lecture at 6pm; Book Signing after.

Fri, Nov 27, 8:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Macy's Annual Holiday Parade, 8:45 a.m. start, downtown. See your local High School Marching Bands perform! 5:00 p.m. Macy's Annual Holiday Star Lighting, downtown Macy's Seattle store at 4th & Pine.

Tues, Dec 1, 8:30 a.m. – Merchants Association Monthly Meeting, at Café Flora.

Tues, Dec 1, 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Holiday Open House at City People's Garden Store. Free hot cider & food samplings!

Thurs, Dec 3, 10, 17, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Thursday Night Shopping Events in Madison Valley. Select Merchants and Restaurants to offer extended holiday hours, every Thursday evening in December (except Christmas Eve).

Sat, Dec 5, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Holiday Sidewalk Sale at Fast Frame, located in the little yellow house at 2840 E. Madison St. Stop by for one of a kind gifts!

Wed, Dec 23, Christmas Ship Festival, Parade Finale – Seattle Girls Choir, Prime Voci performs. From 8:45-9:05 p.m. at Portage Bay (W. Montlake Park), and 9:45-10:05 p.m. at Gasworks for the Grand Finale.



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GMVCC Minutes October 21, 2009

Treasurer's Report:

Sept. balance: \$8374.50 Oct. Balance: \$8704.38
The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by President Peter Triandafilou. A quorum was present. Introductions were made. Guest State Senator Adam Kline was recognized.

General Business:

Jerry Sussman reported that the Northwest African-American Museum has agreed to keep the Bob Cummings painting for another year as we await our own community center in which to display it.

The crosswalk flags at 29th and Madison have been installed. The proposal for a community center at MLK Jr. School has been submitted to the school board.

Adam Kline reviewed work done in the state legislature this year. He is encouraging the senate to support the creation of a state income tax as an alternative to increasing sales taxes. He is also leading an effort to ban assault weapons, with a bill named in honor of Aaron Sullivan. Aaron was a young man from our community who was murdered this past July, dying as a result of gunshot wounds from an AK-47 rifle.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.



Christmas Ships Festival



The annual Christmas Ships Festival has been a Northwest tradition for the past 60 years and is sponsored by the Seattle Times, Key Bank, Komo 4 Television and Parent Map, in cooperation with the Seattle Department of Parks & Recreation. Its main purpose is to bring communities together, on the water and on shore, to celebrate the holiday season. This flotilla of decorated boats sails around the greater Puget Sound from November 28 to December 23, stopping at 45 waterfront communities to give free live musical performances. The following dates are for nearby locations where you can see this wondrous sight!

SAT, NOV. 28, PREVIEW NIGHT – Seattle Girls Choir, Cantamus. *Depart:* South Lake Union 7:00pm, *Return:* 9:20pm
From 7:40-8:00pm Seattle Yacht Club (Portage Bay)
From 8:30-8:50pm at MOHAI*

SUN, NOV. 29, PREVIEW NIGHT – Lake Washington Singers. *Depart:* South Lake Union 6:00pm, *Return:* 8:30pm
From 6:00-6:20pm at South Lake Union Park

TUES, DEC. 1, OPENING NIGHT – Snohomish Co. Windjammers. *Depart:* Kirkland 7:00pm, *Return:* 9:30pm
From 6:30-7:00pm Opening Ceremony, Kirkland Marina
From 7:05-7:25pm Kirkland Marina Park*
From 8:20-8:40pm Gasworks Park*

FRI, DEC. 4 – Northwest Boys Choir, Advanced Choir. *Depart:* Leschi 7:00pm, *Return:* 9:30pm
From 7:50-8:10pm Pritchard Beach*
From 8:25-8:45pm Seward Park*

SAT, DEC. 5, SECOND SAILING – Voices Northwest. *Depart:* Kirkland 8:00pm, *Return:* 10:30pm
From 8:45-9:05pm Chism Beach
From 9:25-9:45pm Madrona Beach*

SUNDAY, DEC. 6 – Northwest Boys Choir, Intermediate Choir. *Depart:* Leschi 5:00pm, *Return:* 7:20pm
From 5:40-6:00pm Ferdinand Street,
From 6:15-6:35pm Stan Sayres Park*
From 6:45-7:05pm Mt. Baker Beach*

SAT, DEC. 19, FIRST SAILING – Rainier Ensemble. *Depart:* Kirkland 3:45pm, *Return:* 5:55pm
From 3:55-4:15pm Kirkland Marina Park*
From 4:55-5:15pm Madison Park*

WED, DEC. 23, PARADE FINALE – Seattle Girls Choir, Prime Voci
From 8:45-9:05pm Portage Bay (W. Montlake Park)
From 9:45-10:05pm Gasworks* Grand Finale

*Bonfire Location, subject to weather. See Argosy website for complete sailing schedule.

Home for the Holidays

Twelve Simple Ways to Celebrate the Season of Giving & Spread Holiday Cheer Right Here in Madison Valley.

1. Give a tin of homemade cookies to your postal carrier or garbage man, just to brighten their day and show your appreciation.
2. Go caroling with family and friends, even if it's just singing along to holiday classics on the stereo in your living room, or serenading a next door neighbor.
3. String popcorn and cranberries into a natural garland and hang it outside for wildlife to enjoy. Or craft a simple birdseed ornament to give hungry birds a holiday feast.
4. Pull up an extra seat at the table and invite an elderly neighbor, single friend or new colleague to join your family celebration.
5. Think about your favorite holiday foods and fondest memories of family meals, then donate an inspired gift of ingredients to the Cherry Street Food Bank at 711 Cherry Street (north of James Street between 7th and 8th Avenues).
6. Extend goodwill to all your neighbors by spending an hour raking leaves from the street gutters and picking up trash on your block. Reward yourself with a hot chocolate!
7. Buy at least one present on your list from a local merchant to support the independent businesses in Madison Valley! Visit one shop that you've never been to before.
8. Go for a walk in the Arboretum to admire the natural beauty of living trees and serene woodland paths. Marvel at the stately grace of conifers, hollies, and sequoia growing tall amidst a green carpet of native sword ferns and moss.
9. Revel in a visual feast of holiday lights twinkling on the water and the sounds of choirs singing in one of many Boat Parades at nearby Gasworks Park, Portage Bay, Madison Park, Madrona Beach, and Leschi.
10. Take a wet and gloomy afternoon to gather up gently used blankets, coats, jackets, gloves, hats, socks, rain gear and other warm clothing for donation at the Northwest Harvest collection site on MLK and East Union. Your donations will brighten the cold winter months for many needy families struggling in our community. NW Harvest picks up donations at the Grocery Outlet parking lot every Sat & Sun from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
11. Celebrate the Winter Solstice on Dec. 21 with an evening stroll in the dark through your neighborhood to look at the lights and decorations on homes. Or window shop on Madison St. to enjoy the holiday lighting and storefront displays.
12. Share your favorite holiday memories or family traditions with the *Valley View*. Submit them to editor@madisonvalley.org, and include a photograph if you have one! We'd love to publish one of your stories in our January edition. 🏠

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Top Holiday Picks

By Nori Hawkins, Editor

Something Sweet –

Whether you're looking for a delectable hostess gift, or just a special dessert to grace the family table, make sure to visit **Bella Dolce Bakery & Café** at 2711 East Madison Street. Owner, chef and baker Joanne Corsi is sure to entice you with her daily selection of fresh baked goods, desserts, soups, sandwiches, salads and espresso! During the warm summer months, this boutique bakery offers a charming and secluded brick patio to relax in the dappled sunshine and sample her wares. But in blustery fall weather, it's a great place to grab a hot beverage and indulge your sweet tooth.



For the Thanksgiving and December holidays, Bella Dolce is offering an **Apple Spice Torte** filled with apples, raisins, spices and pecans... an elegant choice for those wanting a fresh alternative to a standard holiday pie. Another classic is her Red Velvet Cake, voted *Best In City* in 2009 by *Seattle Magazine*. But if you're also tempted by the Coconut and Old Fashioned Chocolate Cakes, the best strategy is sample them all with her delicious cupcakes, offered in each flavor.

If you prefer something savory, there are plenty cold weather dishes to warm you through the winter, including Chicken Pot Pie, Stuffed Squash, and Mac and Cheese. The Salmon Cakes are a popular menu item all year long, as are the hearty seasonal soups. Joanne also offers catering for those who'd like a custom order.

Bella Dolce is celebrating its sixth anniversary in Madison Valley this November, and is open **Monday – Friday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.**, and **Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**. You're sure to feel welcome in her cheerful little shop, and Joanne usually has a dog treat in her pocket for customer's loyal companions. Which is nice, as Bella Dolce is located right next door to All the Best Pet Store!

Aromatherapy – The Christmas season is especially vibrant in Madison Valley thanks to one merchant who's been a fixture in our neighborhood since 1988. **City Peoples Garden Store & Nursery** is the first place to stop on Thanksgiving weekend to stroll amidst their tree lot and catch the holiday spirit!

It has become an annual ritual for me to visit City Peoples Garden Store the last weekend of November, to wander the aisles of greenery and gifts and find inspiration for my own decorating and shopping ideas. In fact, I visit City Peoples every week in December, just to indulge in an aromatherapy session that no spa could ever match. The moment you walk in their greenhouse, the intoxicating smell of fresh evergreens overtakes your senses,

stimulating a highly pleasant feeling of nostalgia and holiday cheer. Your pace slows, your body relaxes and your breathing becomes slow and deep. Wreaths and topiary and garlands abound, with lights twinkling and mistletoe hanging from the rafters. It's easy to take the wonderful smell home with you with fresh evergreen garland sold by the yard at a very affordable price. Staff is always on hand to help you design a custom wreath, or tie the bow of your choice from a wall of shimmering ribbon spools.

This season, City Peoples is hosting a **Holiday Open House on Tuesday, December 1st**, with free hot cider throughout the day, and samplings of holiday gift food in the afternoon and evening! All regularly-priced merchandise will be 15% off at the Open House, and customers will receive a free gift with purchases of \$50 or more (while supplies last). **Expanded shopping hours** during the holiday season will offer added convenience, with the store staying **open until 8 p.m. Monday – Friday, from December 1 – 23.** 🏠



Service with Style - Longtime City Peoples Garden Store staff Jose Gonzales is also an accomplished jazz musician who plays the piano and sings at local venues in Seattle. Catch Jose this season at St. Clouds Restaurant on Madrona, where he performs every first Saturday evening of the month, or at Serafina in Eastlake, every second Saturday evening!

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What's Up on Madison

by Ann McCurdy

A new restaurant will be joining us soon! **LUC Restaurant** and **Food 2 Go** will reside in the old Fast Frame location at 2800 E Madison. Operated by Rover's chef and owner Thierry Rautureau, plans are to open in February with a bar and neighborhood restaurant featuring a casual atmosphere and sidewalk seating in the summer. **Food 2 Go** will be a quick and healthy solution to the question, "What's for dinner and who's cooking tonight?" With four unique French restaurants situated in one block (**Rover's**, **Voilà!**, **La Côte**, and **LUC**), perhaps Madison Valley should be renamed the French Quarter.



The **Real Card Company**, formerly at 2814 E Madison, has moved out of the Valley to relocate to Fremont. We're glad to see they're still in business, but sorry to see a long-standing merchant depart. However, the space has quickly filled with an exciting new women's apparel shop named **Vian Hunter House of Fashion**, scheduled to open in early November. The boutique store will offer custom clothing designed by owner and fashion designer Lisa Vian Hunter, with styles inspired by the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's.

After a long (and apparently successful) closing sale, **Veritables** has finally closed its tiny second store and consolidated into the larger shop two storefronts away at 2806 E Madison. And a new business has already opened in its place: **River Song Jewelry**, at 2816 E Madison, which has beautiful handmade jewelry inspired by nature and meant to invoke "the essence of the earth." Welcome to the neighborhood to both our new merchants!


I was concerned when I saw the window sign removed from **Hair by Boyce** at 2921 E. Madison. Boyce has been styling hair in the neighborhood for over a decade. But fear not: he's just getting a new sign...and a new partner! **Jeffrey Lee Salon** (formerly hidden away next to Rover's) is moving and will now share space with Boyce.

The **John L. Scott Real Estate** office formerly at 3121 E Madison has closed and consolidated with its University office. Let's hope the real estate market picks up soon, for all of our sakes! Meanwhile, **Madison Park Physical Therapy** will take over the upper half of this building. Their expanded space will have more treatment rooms, a larger gym space, and a new therapist. It's good to see a local business succeeding! 🏠

Madison Valley Merchant Association at Work



This fall the Madison Valley Merchant Association (MVMA) sponsored the much-needed purchase and installation of pedestrian crosswalk flags in the business district, located at 29th Avenue East & Madison. The Merchant Association also sponsored the installation of festive holiday lighting on the trees along Madison, which will light your path well into the New Year! Many thanks to the Merchant Association for making our shopping district a safe and friendly place to patronize. 🏠



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*Thank You for Supporting our Madison Valley
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*Have a great Holiday Season from all of us in the
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We look forward to serving you in 2010!





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