



THE VALLEY VIEW

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 157

madisonvalley.org

September 2008



Peter Triandafilou and Charles McDade at a Night Out Block Party. See p. 2

Fun in the (Hot!) Sun: Madison Valley BBQ

by Lindy Wishard

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 3rd Annual Madison Valley Summer Barbecue on June 29! The Valley School was a wonderful location for this summer's event. Families from all around the neighborhood braved the 90 degree heat and ate hamburgers and hot dogs, and the children enjoyed the school's playground. Adding to the fun, we had face painting by Christi Anne Hofland, music by The Toucans and Doug Fleming, Jr., a visit from our Fire Station 34, and pinwheel crafts provided by Arts Corps (paid for by the Madison Valley Merchants Association).

This year's barbecue was sponsored by the Citizens for a Community Center at Martin Luther King, the Madison Valley Community Council, and the Madison Valley Merchants Association. We shared our vision for the MLK School project with over 200 of our neighbors, and attendees were able to subscribe to email bulletins for community news and more information on the school project.

Special thanks to Barry Wright, director of The Valley School, for the use of their facilities. And thank you to all who bought extra raffle tickets or donated to the event!

MERCHANT DONATIONS PROVIDED BY: Baas Art Gallery, Cafe Flora, Doug Fleming Jr, Fury, The Toucans, Sugar Lump, Thrive Art School

EXTRA BIG THANKS to Andy Engelson, Eric Gier, Jennifer Janzen, Peter Triandafilou, Kim Larson-Edwards, and Ann McCurdy. Without their help the barbecue would not have happened!



One of Our Neighbors: Café Flora's Artist-in-Residence

by Pippa Kiraly

Not many restaurants can boast a resident artist, but that's what James Sutherland has become, de facto, at Café Flora. His official title is operations manager: "From building and facilities maintenance to creating ambiance to deciding that we'll open Mondays. It's so weird. I'm the grease between the wheels. I do everything that falls through the cracks that isn't to do with cooking food or managing people." One of his responsibilities is coordinating the art that regularly appears on Café Flora's walls.



Art by James Sutherland

Sutherland had wanted to create art himself since childhood, and in community college in El Paso he took numerous ceramics and painting classes. Over and over again: "Ceramics 1, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3, Painting, 1, 2, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4. It gave me studio time and was very affordable." He worked in plaster of Paris, sculpture, woodcuts and linoleum cuts, painting in oils and acrylics, eventually turning more and more to acrylics because, he says, "I was too impatient to wait for the oils to dry."

Ironically, when he moved to Seattle and found work at Café Flora 14 years ago, he was too busy to paint, even as he was helping others to show their work. He also felt too intimidated by the idea of putting his own work out there. But, "After a year (of helping others to show their art) I became more comfortable with the idea of showing mine," he says, "and the owners told me to put myself on the schedule if that's what it took to do it. So I did, and then I panicked about what would I do. Paint on canvas? Boards?"

Please see *Our Neighbors* on page 2



Events Calendar

Madison Valley Merchants Association. Wednesday, September 10, 8:30 a.m. Café Flora, 2901 E. Madison St.

School Use Advisory Committee for MLK. Thursday, Sept. 11, 7:00 p.m. Madrona School (1121 33rd Ave). See p. 6.

CANP Stewardship Land Use, Open Space and Housing Committee. Monday, September 15, 6:30 PM Madrona Shelterhouse (34th and Spring). See p. 7.

Greater Madison Valley Community Council. Wednesday, September 17, 7:30 p.m. Bush School (entrance on E. Harrison St. and 34th Ave. E.)

East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition. Thursday, September 25, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Seattle Vocation Institute, Room #401, 2120 S Jackson St.

CANP Stewardship. Thursday, October 2, 6:00 p.m. Garfield Community Center (2323 E Cherry St.). See p. 7.

The Valley View

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2007-2008 GMVCC Officers

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What's Up on Madison?

by Ann McCurdy

After our summer vacation, we have lots of tidbits to report! Remember the **Children's Hospital "Shop for Children"** waaay back on April 26? Children's tallied up the numbers, and our merchants officially raised \$3,589. Hooray!

Also way back, May 31 was the day of the **6th Annual Madison Valley Art Walk!** Despite off-and-on rain, attendance was good, and about \$500 was raised for scholarships both to **Thrive Art School**, and **Coyote Central**. The Art Walk's best-kept secret: Thierry Rautureau of **Rover's** was serving ceviche in the courtyard in front of his restaurant. I'll remember that for next year.

Speaking of **Coyote Central**, executive director Marybeth Satterly was one of five winners (out of 229 applicants) of the Sixth Annual Mayor's Arts Award. The recipients will be honored August 29 and are presented in partnership with Bumbershoot. After engaging over 10,000 students since its founding in 1986, Coyote Central well deserves this award.

If you read the August 2 edition of *The Seattle Times*, you'll know that **Conscious Body** owner Heather Scarce now has a beautifully organized toddler bedroom. The article is about room organizers, but the photos are all about Heather. You (and your daughter's room) look marvelous. Check it out at http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/homegarden/2008086457_clutter02.html.

Miss Madison's Spray Tan & Skincare Boutique closed this summer, but the space is already being used by next-door-neighbor **Hoa Salon** (2900 E. Madison St). Hoa's expanded space allows group parties and more services. So we can still be pale, but beautiful.

And the name of the third and final business to go into Madison Lofts? **Madison Ave Nails & Spa**, NOT to be confused with **Madison Avenue Salon** (2710 E. Madison St) and NOT to be confused by the fact they're both really on Madison Street, not Avenue.



Our Neighbors, continued from p. 1

Sutherland's family had always been creative, mostly working with machines, but good all-around fixers. While thinking about art mediums for his now-scheduled show and plaster-patching a crack in his basement wall, Sutherland had an epiphany. He was thinking about his grandfather who had taught him plaster work. "Then it hit me. I could use plaster and wall-patching compound to do my art work! I could make a frame and spread the plaster around, carve it, make it chunky, paint it. I always loved painting that was very textural with lots of layers."

For that first show in the fall of 2002, Sutherland carved and painted 25 enchanted trees. "I knew they were magic, I used lots of colors." To his amazement, 22 of them sold opening night. "Omygod!" he remembers thinking, "this is what I'm meant to be doing and people appreciate it! Everybody wins!" He went home, painted more, and sold another 25 before the show closed that Christmas. He was thrilled.

Since then, Sutherland has had three or four shows a year at Café Flora. "Part of my job is keeping Flora looking seasonal, and the owners like the feel of the place with my work hanging there, with the whimsy and fun we try to project at the restaurant." In 2005, Sutherland cut back his managerial hours to three 10-hour days, since he could do the job in that time, but also because he needed more time to do his artwork.

Sutherland has also found that his artwork can benefit various charities. People were willing to spend a couple of hundred dollars for something he made, more than he could give out of his pocket. Sutherland has continued to make art donations to many causes, such as Bailey-Boushay, and 25% of sales from his September exhibition at Montlake's Fuel Coffee goes to Green Seattle for restoration and tree planting in Interlaken Park, close to his home. As can be seen by the trees which show up regularly in his work, nature has always been very important to him.

His whimsy doesn't appear only at art shows. Anyone living in his Montlake neighborhood knows that the house and yard he shares with his partner, Don Zimmer, is transformed at Christmas, Easter and Halloween into "over-the-top" shows guaranteed to lift the spirits of all passersby: ghouls and pumpkins at Halloween; lights, decorations and snowmen at Christmas; and, my personal favorite among the eggs and chicks at Easter, a row of sashaying bunnies in the window.

James Sutherland's next show at Café Flora, "Soul Spools," will open in early November. 

Madison Valley Block Parties Abound!

by Kimberly Larson-Edwards

On Tuesday, August 5th, Madison Valley residents organized several block parties as part of the City of Seattle's annual Night Out, including at 26th Avenue and East Helen, 29th Avenue and E. Republican, and 29th Avenue and Denny.

Night Out is a national event to promote safety, crime prevention and awareness. The parties also prove to be an excellent tool in building local community and sampling neighbors' culinary talents. Treats at the parties included chicken wings, homemade cakes and blueberry pie, homegrown zucchini, corn pudding, pasta salads, Chinese BBQ pork sandwiches, and jambalaya. The Grocery Outlet once again provided a gift certificate to help offset costs for the 29th & Denny party.

Madison Valley Community Council Vice President Charles McDade made his rounds to the parties on his bike. One Block Party Organizer Anita Ertel relayed how Charles exclaimed, "This is awesome!" as he downed a piece of blueberry pie. The Seattle Police Department also visited a few of the parties to introduce themselves to neighbors.

Organizer Penny Bolton summed it up well: "It seems like our part of the neighborhood is being reborn! It was a good opportunity for the new and old neighbors to get to know each other."

Night Out is always the first Tuesday in August each year, and the City waives the fee to close non-arterial streets for the evening. It is very easy to register via mail on the City website. Save the date for next year's block parties. 



E. John St. ("The Pit"). Two adjoining properties have already been purchased and the houses bulldozed, but construction isn't planned until 2009. When asked why the pit wasn't immediately enlarged, an SPU engineer replied they wanted to see what the final design was for the area, since that would affect slope, landscaping, and possible retaining walls. Features for the area will be based on input from the community.

Phase 2 consists of diverting stormwater flows from the north-west section of Madison Valley through 48" and 60" pipes to a stormwater storage facility in Washington Park. This would divert 1/3 of the stormwater out of the Valley. Construction is planned for 2009 to 2011. Businesses are concerned about how long Madison St. would be closed while pipes are laid. (See map for proposed pipe line.) Public input will also be sought for Phase 2, and alternative routes will be evaluated.

SPU will notify the public via newsletters, e-mail, and their webpage. If you have questions, contact Elaine Yeung (elaine.yeung@seattle.gov, 684-7823), or go to [www.seattle.gov/util/About SPU/News/Current Issues/MadisonValleyFlooding](http://www.seattle.gov/util/About%20SPU/News/Current%20Issues/MadisonValleyFlooding).



What's your wish list for "The Pit"?

SPU is taking our input for their project!
Here's my wish list for SPU:

- Install a play area at "The Pit"-we do not have any in the Valley now.
- Put in a stairway or path leading from Madison St. down to the Washington Park fields.
- If they tear up Madison, put back the turn lane on Madison for 29th Ave. E., which was removed without prior notification a couple of years ago.
- A shorter SPU website address for the Madison Valley project.

What's your wish list? E-mail editor@madisonvalley.org, and we'll print your ideas in next month's *Valley View*!

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GMVCC Meeting Minutes for June 18, 2008

by Ann McCurdy, co-Secretary

Officers in attendance: Charles McDade, vice-president; Ann McCurdy, co-Secretary; Jennifer Janzen, treasurer

Treasurer's Report: Opening balance was \$11,887, closing (June 18) was \$12,327. There is \$1,700 still due to us for Valley View ads. Valley View is averaging \$1070 a month in income, and about \$1,200 in expenses—almost breaking even.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary as Community Center: Andy Engelson of Citizens for a Community Center at MLK (CCC@MLK) met with various Seattle politicians, including Eric Pettigrew (State Rep, 37th District). He learned that there's \$4.5 million designated for the conversion of 5 schools (including MLK) for community use. The following proposals were approved:

1. GMVCC supports the efforts of CCC@MLK to fund and create a community-oriented facility at the former Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School. GMVCC will actively participate and monitor the Department of Neighborhoods School Use Advisory Committee process for MLK and will work with the involved parties to facilitate community meetings and input.
2. GMVCC will act as fiscal agent for donations, grants or other payments to CCC@MLK and will make these funds available to CCC@MLK as requested. The GMVCC treasurer will track and report these funds, and they may not be used for projects other than those approved by CCC@MLK.
3. GMVCC approves a grant to CCC@MLK in the amount of \$1,000 to help promote and create a community center at MLK. These funds would be used for: the annual Madison Valley BBQ; creating and printing brochures, flyers or other promotional materials for CCC@MLK; a website and email hosting; and partial cost of a banner promoting a community center at MLK. CCC@MLK will report to GMVCC on where and how the funds were spent.

Elections: The following people were elected:

President: Peter Triandafilou

Vice President: Charles McDade

Treasurer: None. Will be temporarily held by Peter Triandafilou

Secretary: Lindy Wishard

Two individuals had sent e-mail asking how they could participate in the council even though they were unable to attend the meeting. Ann McCurdy will contact them and approach them about the open treasurer position, and other ways they can contribute.

We thank our former officers--President Wallis Bolz, Treasurer Jennifer Janzen, and Secretaries Heather Searce and Ann McCurdy—for serving our community last year.



Help Wanted

I'm always looking for new writers, help with finding ads, and of course, a new editor. If you have been thinking of maybe perhaps just a little possibly looking into helping out, please e-mail editor@madisonvalley.org or call 568-7372. I promise just talking to me won't commit you to anything. And I promise that working on the *Valley View* is rewarding!

And if you can't donate your time, please consider writing a check! Advertising doesn't quite cover the \$1,200/month printing, addressing, and mailing costs. Please make out your check to "GMVCC" and mail your donation to:

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Seattle, WA 98122

Living Green

by Jennifer Karkar Ritchie



The "Alley House"

In the nearly ten years that I've lived in Seattle, the city has continued to become what I call a beige, faux-craftsman townhome sprawl. I've lived and visited other parts of the country where dense residential housing has added to the quality of life—both visibly and practically in the form of tight communities and great transit.

My husband, a native, shuddered as new townhomes went up around us. Fortunately, he's a person of action, quitting his job to become an ecologically urban, green developer of residential homes.

His most recent project, a single family home literally in our backyard, is among the very first homes in Seattle certified Platinum by the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, using 50-60% less energy than a standard home. His company's, Cascade Built (www.cascadebuilt.com), mission is to build homes that will stand as long as the real craftsman homes we've come to love – both because they are built with a level of craftsmanship that will keep them standing and because they will remain aesthetically appealing for years to come.



The "Alley House," as it has been named given its location, allows the owner to benefit from new technologies like structurally insulated panels (SIPS) which keep it cool in the summer and warm in the winter. It features radiant heat (so you can say goodbye to dry skin and dusty air), uses recycled materials like 100% recycled Medex floors, and boasts an exceptional reduction in energy used for lighting and appliances. And it was built in such a way as to prevent dumpsters of waste wood from left over framing.

Best of all, it's absolutely stunning and unique as a single family home located on block that will presumably have many more townhomes in the near future. It's a mixed neighborhood like this that keeps diversity alive while bringing together individuals that share an interest in inner-city living, maybe shedding a car or two, and walking to favorite spots—one of the very reasons we live here. Check it out: 222 26th Avenue East.



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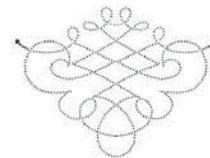
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Public Input on the Future of MLK School

by Andy Engelson

The efforts to create a community arts, meeting and learning center at the former Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School continue to move forward. This summer, Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods (DoN) held the first two public meetings of the School Use Advisory Committee (SUAC). This committee is tasked with examining future use of the now-closed school at 32nd and Harrison, which the Seattle School District will make available for lease or sale.

The meetings touched on potential future uses, and the process that the DoN and the Seattle School District will go through to convert the school. The SUAC is composed of a representative from the school district, Department of Neighborhoods, Department of Land Use & Planning, and members of the community. At the first meeting, Ron English from the Seattle School District explained the process: After receiving input from the SUAC and its own public process, the district will consider proposals for lease or sale. Proposals with at least 50 percent of their mission to serve children in the community will be given first priority.

Through a series of public meetings, the SUAC will gather public input and recommend what zoning changes would be appropriate. Its recommendations will be advisory, and basically a statement of what the neighborhood would approve of at MLK. What will actually happen will depend on what proposals are formally submitted, how those proposals are funded, and what the school board ultimately decides. Meetings are open to the public, and it is crucial that community members attend to speak up for what they favor (or don't favor) at MLK.

Citizens for a Community Center at MLK (CCC@MLK), a local community group with support of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council, has been actively participating in the SUAC process. In addition, CCC@MLK conducted an online survey of over 130 neighbors, and found that over 90 percent favor the idea of a community center, and that popular potential amenities included a playground, public meeting rooms, performance stage, lifelong learning classrooms and day care. CCC@MLK is talking with potential partners and tenants to explore how we might provide and fund these sorts of services at MLK.

Our steering committee has been touring existing community centers in former schools throughout the city, as well as meeting with legislators and city officials to explore funding and partnership options. We have several architects involved to advise us on the feasibility of community use of the former school. We've also talked with state officials about a fund that was passed in the last legislative session that would provide a total of \$4.5 million to six surplused Seattle schools, including MLK.

We're making good progress, but much work needs to be done as part of our grassroots effort. We have volunteer opportunities available, including assistance with technology and web design, outreach events and other tasks. Contact Andy Engelson (aengelson@speakeasy.net, 484-9823) on how you can help.

You can help just by attending public SUAC meetings and speaking up for true community use of MLK. The next meeting is Thursday, September 11, 7 p.m. at Madrona K-8 School at 1121 33rd Ave. (Union & 33rd). Please join us.



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— Joseph Hubertus Pilates, in 1965, age 86

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Central Area Neighborhood Plan: Back to School, Back to Work, Back to Planning

by Kathryn Keller

Planning? You might be wondering what planning has to do with our neighborhood and quality of life. You may be wondering what it has to do with you. Isn't it just something those folks 'downtown' just decide for us?

Just look around at developments, or the lack of them, in our community. The City of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan sets the citywide vision for growth, density and development. It includes the goals, policies and implementation plan of our 1999 Central Area Neighborhood Plan (CANP). The CANP Stewardship oversees the plan and manages its implementation.

Seattle government is now tackling projects that will shape our community. These include Neighborhood Plan Update Process, Incentive Zoning, Multifamily Zone Update, Comprehensive Plan Update, and many others that will affect our quality of life.

I helped to launch a CANP Stewardship subcommittee last year to focus on updating sections of the Neighborhood Plan related to Land Use, Open Space and Housing. This committee includes people throughout the Central Area who are sharing perspectives on the building environment of our respective communities.

Our Stewardship is launching subcommittees to update the rest of the Neighborhood Plan components, including: Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Transportation. A strong Neighborhood Plan, created by the community, will help preserve and shape the character of our housing, businesses and services.

I love my Madison Valley community, I want to enjoy walking to Madison or Union to visit with neighbors and run errands, and I'm passionate about preserving the sense of community that we have. In this work, I am meeting people from throughout the Central Area who, while their specific neighborhood may be more 'urban' or more 'institutional' or (fill in the blank), have the same concerns and same passions as I do.

The CANP Stewardship meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM at Garfield Community Center (2323 E Cherry St.). To receive meeting announcements e-mail Kismet_2000@yahoo.com and put "CANP Stewardship" in the Subject.

The CANP Stewardship Land Use, Open Space and Housing Committee meets the third Monday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Madrona Shelterhouse (inside the Madrona Playfield at 34th and Spring). Contact Kathryn Keller ktkeller@earthlink.net to be added to the email list.

Seattle's Comprehensive Plan is located at: [http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Seattle's Comprehensive Plan/ComprehensivePlan/default.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Seattle's%20Comprehensive%20Plan/ComprehensivePlan/default.asp)

The Central Area Neighborhood Plan can be found at: [http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Neighborhood Planning/Overview/](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Neighborhood%20Planning/Overview/)



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Flooding Solution? SPU Plods Along

by Ann McCurdy



On July 31, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) presented their “public involvement plan” to a polite but cautious audience gathered at Miller Community Center. Basically, a public involvement plan is not focused on *how* SPU will solve the flooding, but how they will let the public know—and respond to—the long-term flooding solutions they come up with. While having a meeting to talk about meetings sounds like a “Dilbert” comic strip, the audience appeared appreciative, reminding SPU of past instances of poor communication, such as when they learned of SPU’s plans for our area only by reading articles in *The Seattle Times*.

SPU’s long-term solution includes two phases. There will be opportunity for public input throughout the process, with meetings planned approximately during pre-design, 30% design, 60% design, and preconstruction of each phase. Phase 1 is the expansion of the Stormwater Facility at 30th Ave. E and

Please see Flooding on page 3

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DON'T MISS THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Open to the public! All are welcome!

Agenda includes:

- “Multi-Family Zoning Update” presented by CORA NW
- Latest on SPU’s flooding proposals
- What will happen to MLK school?

Bush School (Entrance on E. Harrison St. and 34th Ave. E.)



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Friday Lunch 12:00PM - 1:30PM:

A La Carte Options from \$8 - \$24 & 3-Course Menus

Tue - Thu Evenings From 6:00PM,

Fri - Sat Evenings From 5:30PM:

A La Carte Options from \$9 - \$24 & Price-Fixed Menus



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Garden Store: 324-0737
 Landscape: 324-0963