



THE VALLEY VIEW

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 145

madisonvalley.org

April 2007

One of Our Neighbors

A Passion for Education and Literacy

by Chris Page



The Jackson Family

To quote from a 2003 letter of recommendation from Mount Zion Baptist Church's Rev. Dr. Samuel B. McKinney, "Many of today's young adults can credit Mr. Jackson with their introduction, motivation, career guidance and graduation from higher institutions of learning. Thanks to his involvement early on in their lives." William adds the same should be said for his wife, Karen. This only begins to show the positive impact on our community of our long-time neighbors William and Karen Jackson. Some of your children or friends' children have likely benefited from the Jacksons' passion for children, education and literacy.

Karen was born and raised in Kalamazoo, Michigan as the seventh of nine children. William was born in Mobile, Alabama. But "The south was less than inviting to African Americans in those days." A cousin was lynched when William was three—the case never resolved. His family moved at that time to Kalamazoo, though he went back during summers to live with his grandparents and work their cotton fields.

Products of Kalamazoo public schools, including Western Michigan University, they independently developed a love for learning. While they knew each other in school, Williams claims, "I tried to date her in college. However, she knew another girl I also liked, and thus she wouldn't date me until three years later," after he had graduated Bowling Green State University with a Masters in Communications.

Working in Washington, D.C., William says, "I prayed for an angel and God had Karen call me." Karen confirms that she tracked him down: "I was teaching in Kalamazoo and William was starting a new job with IBM. I had our joint niece, Dawn, call her dad and ask where was his brother, William?"

Soon after, when William moved for his new job with IBM in Seattle, Karen came with him. They were married within 6 months, in 1979. They bought a condo in Bellevue, and in 1980 had their first child, Clarence Amos Jackson (CJ). Their daughter Karis was born in 1984.

After they found their spiritual home at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, the pastor's wife, Mrs. McKinney, helped Karen get a

⇒ Please see *Neighbors* on page 7

State Representatives

Hearing from Our Legislators

by John Potter

Speaker of the House Frank Chopp, Senator Ed Murray, and Representative Jamie Pedersen presented the results of the last legislative session to a supportive crowd of about 200 constituents at the First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard Ave. on Saturday afternoon March 17th.

Returning to their district with the fruits of a successful session, the legislators were able to highlight advances in education, health care and job creation. Strong Democratic majorities in both houses, a Democratic governor, and expanding state coffers produced results that were received well by those in attendance.

Highlighting the major accomplishments:

- *Education*—getting a simple majority vote on levies, providing the largest school construction budget in state history, expanded early education funding, and looking ahead to reform and invest in math and science curriculums this year.
- *Health Care*—paid family leave, domestic partner benefits, dental care for children, enhanced medical care for foster children, and a real promise for Universal Child Health Care in the next session.
- *Environment and Transportation*—Puget Sound Partnership to protect and restore its marine eco-system, unprecedented levels of funding for transportation, Clean Car and Carbon reduction initiatives and moving ahead on Viaduct and SR520 solutions that will use multi-modal approaches, in-

⇒ Please see *State Reps* on page 3

Events Calendar

Wed, April 11: **Merchants Association Meeting****

Wed, Apr. 18th : **Community Council Meeting***

Thu, April 26: **Crime Prevention Meeting**

The East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition (EPCPC) and Seattle Neighborhood Group Meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30pm, at 2120 S. Jackson St., second floor, room 212. All are welcome to attend, and this meeting is the best way for all groups to get their issue on the front burner of the East Precinct.

Sat, May 12: **Madison Valley Art Walk**

*Greater Madison Valley Community Council Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm, at the Bush School Commons building (entrance on E. Harrison St. and 34th Ave. E.) All are welcome to attend.

**Merchants Association Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at 8:30am, at Cafe Flora. All are welcome to attend.

GMVCC ID Statement

The Valley View

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**Resident
Parking Zones
coming to Madison
Valley?**
See page 4!



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Spring at *Missi Lu*

Spring Style

By Jennifer Karkar Ritchie

Buds open into flowers, scarves and hats are stored, and spring cleaning begins. Swapping out cold-weather clothing for warm-weather clothing feels like a changing of the guard, and for many, including me, the new season presents an opportunity to freshen things up. (Think: out with the cold and in with the new).

If you find yourself in a conundrum about how to make your wardrobe fresh for spring, visit my April Find—**Missi Lu**. This contemporary women's store is located at 2909 East Madison St. (off the street on the northeast side of the building). Owner Bridgette Johnson opened the store in February 2006 after a career as a flight attendant took her to many countries and she acquired a love for finding and bringing back unique items of clothing and accessories—evident in the collections at Missi Lu.

According to Bridgette, this year's spring trends continue to be romantic and ultra-feminine with ruffles, patterns, and full-leg trousers. Her tips for sprucing up your spring wardrobe include selecting something that is brightly colored, such as a tank top, and picking up a patterned piece, such as a polka dot dress. And for a less expensive update, accessorize with chunky bracelets or chandelier earrings.

Missi Lu's selection is versatile, meeting the needs of customers at any age, and the atmosphere is welcoming, with bottled water at the door and a play corner for children to keep busy while mom's shopping. What better way to free yourself from Seattle's gray than with a little color?

See you next month with another great find.



cluding a change in state transportation law to focus on moving people rather than cars.

After brief remarks by each representative, people streamed to the open microphones to raise their concerns and requests for future action. Unsurprisingly for a Town Hall Meeting on First Hill, over two thirds of the approximately 30 questions related to requests for expanded state support in health care. Requests included adding more slots in the Basic Health Plan, Universal Health Care, support of STD education, expanded caregiver training, accessibility for the disabled, support of the Patient Safety Act promoted by nurses, Family Leave Insurance, a stronger Health Security Trust Fund, and equitable funding for mental health.

In addition to fielding four separate requests to "Impeach Bush," Frank Chopp got the largest round of applause in response to a question for state support for the Sonics arena, when he reminded the questioner that the Initiative preventing state sponsorship of professional sports teams passed by a wide margin.

Who Represents Madison Valley?

Madison Valley is split into two districts. Residents north of E. Madison St are in the 43rd District, represented by Senator Ed Murray, and Representatives Frank Chopp and Jamie Pederson. Residents south of Madison are in the 37th Legislative District, represented by Senator Adam Kline, and Representatives Sharon Tomiko Santos and Eric Pettigrew.

Help Keep Our Streets Clean! Madison Valley resident Andy Goulding, who has been very active in cleaning up litter in our neighborhood, needs help with weekly street cleanup, especially on 28th Avenue East between East Ward Street & Madison.

Bicyclists especially are invited, as this is the Arboretum Bike Bypass! Efforts support the Bicycle Alliance of Washington. Andy regularly cleans up 28th Avenue East north of Ward, but doesn't get south of that often enough.

Call Andy Goulding at (206) 329-6350 for more information about the **Adopt-A-Street Program** of City of Seattle. They provide tools, gloves, bags, and vests.



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Around the Valley

Residential Parking Zone Proposals for the Valley

by Lea Baker

Concerned residents, merchants, employee representatives, and Design Committee Members gathered March 15 to compare notes on the proposed hours for signage on the Residential Parking Zone (RPZ) in Madison Valley. Boundaries of the proposed zone are 27th to 29th Avenues East, and Roy to Harrison Streets.

The majority of residents polled requested the two hour parking designation be from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m., seven days a week. The extended evening hours and weekend days were requested to help reduce the impact of parking by restaurant goers and restaurant employees. Sunday brunches, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Happy Hours, and a wine bar hosting celebrants until 2:30 a.m. are a few examples of atypical business hours in the Valley. Merchants nixed the 10:00 p.m. restriction at their association meeting and proposed 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. It was a stalemate.

When discussing the stalemate between the two factions, one resident commented how he arrives home from work at 6:00 p.m. and cannot find a parking space. Another resident commented how her street, around the dinner hour, fills up with restaurant goers at the same time that residents are coming home from their jobs.

Julie Erickson, of the Seattle Department of Transportation, pointed out to participants that one of the failings of the 6:00 p.m. hour restriction is the ability of business employees or customers to park their cars in the neighborhood at 5:00 p.m., knowing they can legally leave their cars all night, thereby defeating the purpose of the restricted zone's underlying goal of minimizing parking congestion in the restricted parking area.

Also discussed were the various uses of street parking as they see it. With 40 businesses in the three and a half block area, and more on the way (at least three businesses will open in the Madison Lofts building), the zone's popular street parking is used throughout the day and night not only by residents and business employees, but also guests of residents, customers, business vendors, service people, and commercial vehicles. It was noted how at certain times in the day there is definitely a crunch in the compact and popular retail area.

Several of the merchant representatives stressed how they

make sure their employees do not abuse the area parking privileges, and how they have developed parking solutions for visitors and employees to help reduce the number of cars on the immediate street surfaces adjacent to their business. It was agreed the cooperation of residents and businesses is mandatory to avoid confrontation and to further the healthy retail and residential mix currently enjoyed by the populace.

In order to break the stalemate between merchants and residents, Richard Winsler, a leading force in the implementation of the RPZ and a resident of Madison Valley, proposed a "compromise" parking zone restriction of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, except holidays. After the meeting, Larry Levine, president of the Madison Valley Merchants Association, polled the merchants to see if the compromise solution is acceptable to them. The solution was approved 12 to 1, and so the city will move forward with the implementation process of the RPZ.

For further information on Residential Parking Zones, you can visit www.seattle.gov/transportation/parking/parkingrpz.htm.

Show Your Valley Pride!

by Yu-Ya Su

Since moving here a little over four years ago, I often say to myself, "Gosh, I love living here!" Whether it's walking my dogs through the Arboretum, taking my daughter to the kid-friendly coffee shop, or having a wonderful dinner with my husband at one of the local restaurants, I never cease to appreciate my great neighborhood of Madison Valley.

This neighborhood feels self-contained. We have stores and parks for garden enthusiasts, many sources of fabulous, unique gifts, delicious offerings at the local restaurants, and much more. Not only is Madison Valley peppered with one-of-a-kind shops and restaurants, the vibe this neighborhood emits is also conducive to putting a smile on one's face. It is not unusual to stroll down Madison and see parents with small children, and I love the fact that passersby and neighbors actually say "Hi" to one another.

The feeling of community is what makes this neighborhood so livable. One feels comfortable and welcome in Madison Valley. I know I am not the only one who feels this way. Therefore, I suggest that it's time to get our **own neighborhood signs**. Do we really want to be known as "the area between Capitol Hill and Madison Park"? Let's put our neighborhood

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on the map and make it visible to all. So, in the near future, when you head home and pass one of the signs that states, "Welcome to Madison Valley," you can say to yourself, "Yes, I live here and I'm proud of it!"

Each sign costs around \$300 apiece, and we will need 4 signs. We already have some donations, but we still need your help. If you are interested in having signs erected and would like to donate, please send your donation to: **Neighborhood Signs Project, Greater Madison Valley Community Council, P.O. Box 22278, Seattle, WA 98122.**

If you have any inquiries or would like to help in obtaining signs for our neighborhood, you can contact Yu-Ya Su at camilletobepepe@msn.com, or Tom Scearce at tscearce@hq.speakeasy.net.

SPU's Flood Meeting

by Peter Triandafilou

On March 15th, over 40 residents met with city officials with Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and the Claims Department. This was SPU's second meeting to discuss the December 14 flooding, and the first real opportunity for a large number of flood victims to describe their frustration and difficulties, and to ask a lot of questions. (An article and video by KOMO TV News can be viewed at www.komotv.com/news/6529052.html.)

Linda De Boldt, SPU Planning Manager for Surface Water, explained that the problems with the current system exist because it was not completely built as designed—a pipe to Lake

Washington was not built in 1970 due to the cost. The detention pond was installed to temporarily store water when the system is overwhelmed, but it cannot adequately handle the overflow from all storms that could occur. Sewage backed up in many homes on December 14th because a connection between the storm water and sanitary sewer systems had yet to be removed. (It was removed in January.)

SPU's next step is to continue with the study and design phases for a long-term solution. Meanwhile the city is taking steps to mitigate future flooding events, including having crews on standby alert to monitor and better deal with flood conditions.

Flood Victims' Ongoing Struggles - Several flood victims talked about their great frustration, anger, and anguish in dealing with the cleanup of their damaged homes, their lost belongings, the effect on their quality of life and the obstacles they face in getting their homes repaired. One resident is still living in a hotel. Victims also voiced complaints with the claims process, such as delays or failure to get return phone calls and paperwork properly prepared, reviewed and approved.

Dee Quiggle, the city's Claims Manager, stated that 30 claims had been filed against the city so far, and that six or seven of them had been settled. She acknowledged that there were numerous problems in the way the claims were being handled and were progressing. A major snafu arose when one of the city's approved contractors came back with bids that were

⇒ Please see **Flood Meeting** on page 6

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Flood Meeting, *continued from page 5*

25% to 50% higher than the city anticipated, and so were not approved for payment. Many residents were caught in the middle, and now have to start all over finding a contractor.

A demand was made for the city to "step up to the plate" to increase the claims staff, improve the quality of service, and make the process more fair to the claimants and less adversarial. A request was made that the city provide claims adjustment guidelines to assist residents. Quiggle promised to prepare the requested guidelines in one week.

When asked how a homeowner could honestly sell a home to a prospective buyer knowing that flooding could once again occur, De Boldt replied, "I don't have an answer for that." Sylvia Cavazos, SPU's Supervisor of Business Planning, promised to find out whether the city had a policy to pay diminution in value damages (overall loss in property value of due to the flooding problem).

The Long-Term Solution - SPU continues to analyze data and use computer modeling to develop a long-term solution to the flooding problem. While three viable alternatives are currently being studied by the city, SPU admitted that none were guaranteed to prevent future raw sewage backups or surface water flooding incidents in the community.

The first alternative is to replace the existing 1 million gallon detention pond with a 3 to 5 million gallon covered underground storage tank. The second alternative is to construct an underground storage tank under the playing field in Washington Park, with a large connecting pipe to redirect water from the Valley, and possibly keep the current detention pond as well. The third alternative is to install a large pipe tunneled under E. Harrison Street to Lake Washington. The first alternative could be built in about 2 years, costing about \$15 million. The second alternative would take longer to implement, and would cost about \$25 million. The third alternative would take about 5 years, and would cost upwards of \$30 to \$40 million, and involve state and federal agencies concerning endangered species and wastewater treatment.

De Boldt indicated that the city has been more heavily focused on the first alternative because it could be implemented sooner. De Boldt polled the crowd, and the fervent consensus was that the neighborhood wanted the city to further study other alternatives, even if they take longer to be designed and built.

SPU Website - A website has been set up to aid and inform flood victims at: http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/News/Current_Issues/MadisonValleyFlooding/.

Additional Meetings - On February 22, 2007, SPU met with the Madison Valley Engineering Sub-Committee (comprised of Madison Valley residents). The committee supplements input that SPU staff receives at the larger Madison Valley community meetings. All Valley residents are welcome to attend these meetings, which will be held regularly. SPU will also conduct additional community-wide meetings. Meeting dates will be announced on the web site.



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Neighbors, *continued from page 1*

job teaching at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School. They built their home in the Valley in 1985, and have been here for 23 years.

As an ordained deacon of Mt. Zion, Reverend McKinney asked William in 1980 to help with The Mount Zion Ethnic School's computer academic literacy learning initiative, under Mona Lake Jones and the Reverend Laverne C. Hall. IBM provided William the first grant for the project and a Community Service Award. In 1989 William began his own business, providing "educational literacy services to students and families using technology."

"I have been blessed to be able to fund my mission through work." William says. "We believe it is possible to permanently close the academic achievement gap by identifying and remedying skill deficiencies, and facilitating student and family motivation through cultural competence." Through William's business, Literacy in the Community, he and Karen provide "certified supplemental educational services" in both Washington and Michigan under the No Child Left Behind Act. Literacy in the Community has contracts with school districts in Tacoma, Highline, Renton, and Muskegon, Michigan.

William has broadened his educational focus to include migrant workers—those doing work which with low pay and oft dangerous conditions that William calls "modern day slavery." He knows from experience that literacy is a way to the American dream. His new program, "Oases of Literacy," (www.oasesofliteracy.org), works "to provide consistent learning throughout the migrant stream." Literacy in the Community partners with the Washington State Migrant Council, Seattle Vocational Institute, OIC of Washington, community colleges, and others to provide literacy programs to K-12 children and adults. William comments, "As an African-American male, I think it's vital to reach out to others who are suffering through things we, as a people, suffered through." To facilitate this work, he is currently studying Spanish.

Karen has a Masters in Education from Seattle U. She has taught at Leschi Elementary since 1989. Previous to that, she taught for 5 years at MLK in Seattle, and for 5 years in Michigan -- in total, 28 years of teaching the children that she loves. Karen is pursuing an Educational Leadership doctorate and Principal Certification, also at Seattle U. She will do her internship at Leschi. When she finishes it in 2008, she'll qualify to be a Principal Assistant somewhere. Karen's dissertation and future work will center on helping to close the academic achievement gap for African-American males in math. "Prisons and juvenile homes are full of them," William commented. "Literacy and economic opportunities are keys to keeping them off the streets and out of jail."

To visit with the Jacksons is to behold the joy that can be found in service to a higher calling. Our community is richer for their efforts.

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GMVCC

Minutes of the GMVCC for March 21

President Tom Scarce called the meeting to order at 7:30.

Treasurer's Report: The ending balance as of March 20 was \$13,562.92. The printing cost of the Valley View is approximately \$900.00 per issue. Increase of new advertisers has helped reduce the cost.

Green Belt Improvement Project: A motion was passed supporting and signing a letter for the Lake Washington Cottages Greenbelt Committee's efforts to get matching funds from the Seattle Dept. of Neighborhoods. The funds would be used to rehabilitate the Madrona Ravine greenbelt.

Neighborhood signage: Peter Triandafilou noted there may be matching funds available to install signs to identify the "Madison Valley" neighborhood. Based on input from the "Maple Leaf" neighborhood these signs would cost approximately \$300.00 each installed. A City department, contact person, and proper application will need to be investigated. (See "Show Your Valley Pride", p. 4.)

Shopping District Banners: The Merchants Association would like to hang street banners on existing telephone poles to identify the shopping area. The Office of Economic Development grants funds for such projects. The cost of twelve banners including permits and installation would be approximately \$6,500.00. The Merchants Association has committed \$2,000.00 towards this project. A motion was approved to support the application request for City funds to install the banners.

Flood Concerns: A general discussion continued regarding the lack of City response to finalize the repairs necessary for homes affected after the December flood. A firmly written letter from the GMVCC expressing concerns was discussed. No decisions have been made to date.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

Central Area Spring Plant Exchange!

Sat, April 21

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What's Up on Madison

by Ann McCurdy

Those of us with small children are sad to see that **Izilla Toys** (2840 E. Madison) will be closing their doors on May 28th and leaving Madison Valley. But happily, they aren't going too far away—they are moving from their 800 sq. ft. home to a new, 1,700 sq. ft. location on Madison and 12th! Owners Jennifer Schneeweis and Jude Larene will now have room for books and more toys. What will take Izilla's place? No word yet.

As of mid-February, **My Coffeehouse** (2818 E. Madison) is under new ownership. After almost three years of juggling business ownership with raising two young children, Julie Parker is happily gardening and taking her daughter to gymnastics classes. The new owners, husband and wife team Dani Li and Anselm Chong, intend to maintain My Coffeehouse's child-friendly focus and possibly add onto it with more activities "and music" said Dani, a violin player. And fear not, bagel fans: they will still sell H & H Bagels.

After a few months of awkwardly straddling two storefronts, **Swedish Heirlooms** has now consolidated into one location at 2911 E. Madison. In the 2921 location, Heather Scarce has opened **Conscious Body Pilates Studio**, where she offers individual and group Pilates instruction. Just what is Pilates? "It is a complete system of exercise developed by Joseph H. Pilates, developed over 20 years of self-study and apprenticeship in yoga, Zen, and ancient Greek and Roman physical regimens," according to Heather.

On December 17th, the **Fargonian** coffee shop closed its doors at 2328 E. Madison. In its place is now **The BottleNeck Lounge**, with the slogan, "Snug Place, Chill Space". Serving food as well as cocktails (quirkily named after dogs, such as "The Muddy Mutt" or "The Wet Nose"), wine, and beer, The BottleNeck held its grand opening on March 8.

Construction of the **Madison Lofts** project is busily underway, and expected to be completed by November. Madison Lofts (across the street from City People's) will include 20 condos with 24 spaces in the underground parking garage, and three retail spaces. Currently, one retail space is expected to be a chiropractor's office, the second space will be an art gallery, and the third one is still for sale.

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