



The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 135

March 2006

Neighborhood Announcements

Call for Artists!

Spring Art Walk and Sale
Saturday, May 13th, 12 to 3pm
Along East Madison Street

Contact Karrie Baas
karrie@baasgallery.com
206-324-4742

Next Community Council Meeting: Wednesday, March 15th, 7:30 p.m.

Topics: gypsy moth spraying, Friends of Madison Park,
fundraising efforts, neighborhood grants

Martin Luther King Elementary School
Portable Classroom
(the small structure next to the playground)
3201 E. Republican Street

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One of Our Neighbors

Vice President for Life?

By Cathy Nunneley

Charles McDade has been the vice president of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council (GMVCC) for 16 years. That must be some kind of a record for voluntary community service. For Charles, service and kindness to others is the guiding principle of his life..

Charles grew up on a family farm in Winnfield Louisiana during the 1940s. He found life extremely difficult during this period. His family struggled financially, racial tensions were stressful, and corporal punishment was a household norm. He was miserable. Even as a child, Charles frequently contemplated death as a deliverance from what he viewed as a hopeless existence.

Continued, page 7



Our GMVCC Vice President, Charles McDade.

GMVCC Contact Information

Council Affairs: Gary Emslie, President

Email: gary.emslie@bush.edu

Council business, agenda requests, inquiries, concerns

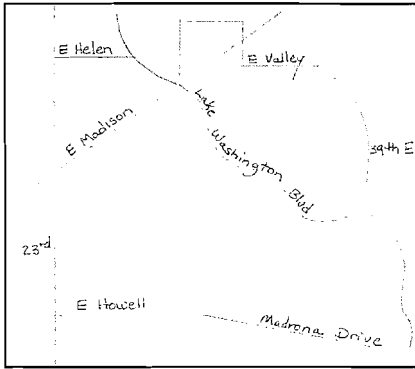
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Valley View Newsletter: Heather Searce

Email: heathers@speakeasy.net or 206-388-2389

Article submissions, suggestions, volunteers

GMVCC P.O. Box 22278 Seattle, Washington 98122



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The Valley View staff cheerfully works countless unpaid volunteer hours to bring you this newsletter. The printing and postage costs are \$1000 per month. We must have financial support from the community to continue the newsletter. **Please** make a contribution or place an ad with us. Everything helps!

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Contact: Cathy Nunneley
329-4083 or cjnunneley@yahoo.com

February 15, 2006

Gary Emslie, president, called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Introductions were made. The minutes of January were accepted as stated.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer was not present to submit a report. Gary Emslie reported that Bush School will start printing next month's newsletter to save on productions costs.

Cathy Nunneley announced that she will be no longer be the editor of the newsletter. She introduced Heather Scearce, who will be the new editor starting in March.

Gypsy moth spraying: Brad White and John Lundberg from WSDA spoke of the plan to spray a portion of the Madison Valley area in order to control the spread of gypsy moths this Spring. The 1/3 square mile area in question is bordered from east to west as MLK to 21st. and north to south as Republican to Harrison. The study has gone on since 2003. The helicopter spraying will be a biological insecticide called BTK, shown to be safe to pets and humans. They plan to spray 3-5 times from March to June. (See related article on page 4.)

The representatives from "No Spray Zone," a group that advocates alternatives to spraying, will speak at next month's council meeting.

Neighbor Andy Goulding wrote the City a letter asking for specifics on neighborhood impact and further consideration of design for the flooding solution at 30th and John.

MLK School is still on hold for approval of consolidation with TT Minor School.

The free Pancake Breakfast for "Neighborhood Appreciation Day" held at the Bush School drew in approximately 80 neighbors.

A reminder that June is the "Neighborhood Garage Sale," the annual fundraiser for the GMVCC. A Chairperson and volunteers are needed along with your generous donations. The committee is also looking for new ideas for fundraisers.

Bush School is planning Construction Site Tours for the neighborhood. The dates are Monday, Feb. 27th, Thursday, March 23rd, and Thursday, April 27th. The tours begin at 4:00 p.m. and pre-registration is necessary. Contact Susan Grayce at susan.grayce@bush.edu to sign up.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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Letter to the Editor

(With permission, this letter has been edited for space.)

To the Editor:

Folks constantly park in the "no parking within 30 feet" zone in front of the Hoa Nail Salon at 29th and Madison. For the past 18 years, since I've been a resident, folks have parked on that corner constantly, making it a hazard to try to turn on to Madison coming southbound on 29th Ave. E. Additionally, now that there is a crosswalk on 29th and Madison, the rude folks who park there are endangering pedestrians who have to walk halfway out in the street to see around the illegally parked cars, and children have nearly been hit doing so. There is nothing more frustrating than seeing a woman step out of her Mercedes wagon after parking illegally, then walk in to Hoa to get her nails done. Vanity = death to pedestrians and children trying to cross. These people wouldn't likely tolerate an unsafe situation like this on their own blocks, and shouldn't inflict it upon their neighbors. It's infuriating, and residents on my block are starting a phone tree so that the police get not 1, but 10 complaint calls each time we witness this, complete with license plate numbers.

Also, those of us living on 29th Ave E. just north of Madison are constantly waving at drivers to slow down! These drivers, many with cars full of kids and often on their cell phones, come FLYING up our street trying to circumvent the intersection at MLK and Madison and the light there, honking at my neighbors and I if we're not fast enough pulling out of our driveways. There is a daycare on the other side of the block, and two yellow bus pick up stops within 1 block. There are MANY children on 29th Avenue East north of Madison and the surrounding blocks in the mornings. Slow down!

Thanks for your time.

Jennifer Goodwin



Crosswalk at 29th and E. Madison.



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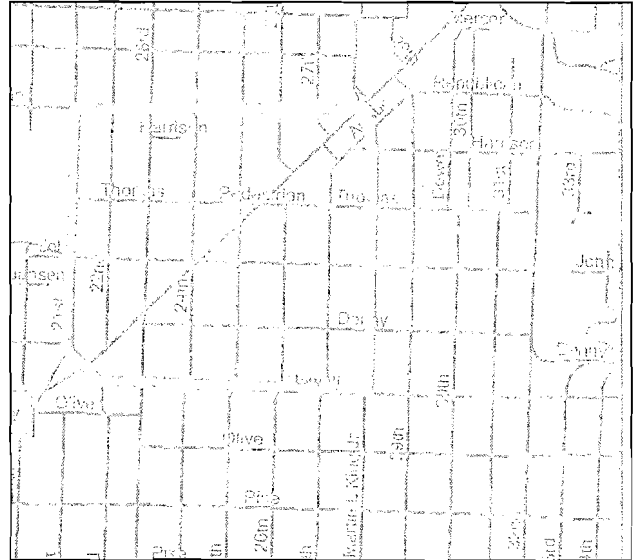
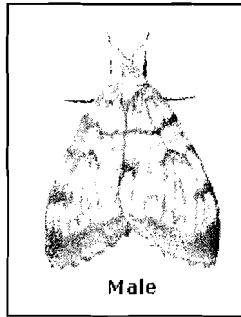
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Gypsy Moth Spraying

Valley Scheduled for Gypsy Moth Spraying

Madison Valley is scheduled to be sprayed this spring as an effort to control an infestation of gypsy moths. Studies of the moth's movements have indicated that the valley is an area at risk. Gypsy moths cause significant damage to plant life in the north-west.



Boundaries of spray area for gypsy moths.

The spray used is called BTK and has a health safety record with the Environmental Protection Agency. It is the herbicide of choice for organic gardeners in that it is a biological agent and not one compounded from chemicals.

The 100-acre target area has the following boundaries: To the north is E. Republican, to the South is E Howell, to the West is 21st Avenue E., and to the East is Martin Luther King Way. The spraying will be accomplished by helicopter in three separate applications at one week intervals. The spraying is scheduled for the end of April and the beginning of May, although the exact dates are yet to be determined by the biologists on the project.

The project team held a meeting at Meany Middle School on February 9th to address questions and concerns of the community. They are available to attend community meetings to further educate the citizens.

For further information, you may visit the Department of Health at the state or city level. For the state agency: www.doh.wa.gov and for the city: www.metrokc.gov. Questions and concerns may also be addressed by calling John Lumberg at 360-586-8459.

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Friends of Street Ends Update

E. Mercer Street End Update

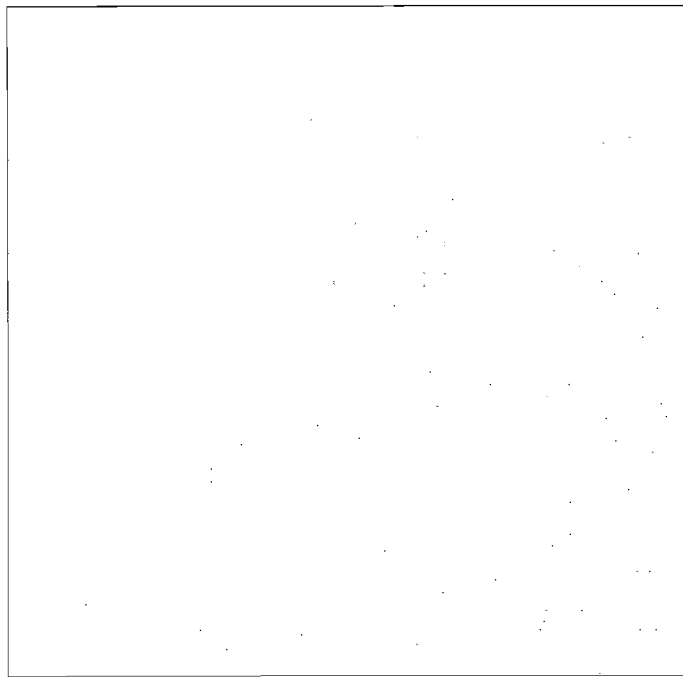
By Anita Rowe

Seattle is blessed with over 148 shoreline street ends. Some are open for public access which are improved or unimproved, and some are used exclusively by the private property owners on either side of the street end. In 2000, the city began charging a fee to the private property owners for their exclusive usage. A group called "Friends of Street Ends" has been working on opening these shoreline street ends for over 10 years. Their mission is to open all shoreline street ends for public access.


Three years ago, an effort began to open the shoreline street end located at Mercer Street and 39th Ave. E. The Mercer Street end was originally a public space. People used to take their children there to enjoy the lake in the summer. The two, two-car garages across the street were once a staircase which led down to the lake shore. Rumor has it that a Mrs. Blanchett, who resided in the house just north of the Mercer Street end, installed a sprinkler system and would turn it on whenever anyone tried to use the public space. Finally, the public stopped going there. (I have had three people who experienced this tell me.) The general public (as represented by the Community Councils of Leschi, Madrona, Montlake, Capitol Hill, Central Area, and Madison Valley) is in favor of opening up this wonderful access to

120 feet of Lake Washington waterfront. Our effort is also endorsed by the Federation of Community Councils and Friends of Seattle Ohlmsted Parks. However, the surrounding neighbors of this street end are opposed. They say that the Harrison shoreline street end is used for unruly behavior (that is, drugs, alcohol use, and prostitution); and feel the Mercer Street end would just be a meeting place for more abusers of public property. The city passed an ordinance which gives SDOT the power to close shoreline street ends at night and indeed, a sign is posted at Harrison Street end closing it from 9 PM to 6AM. However, this sign is ignored by the unruly people and the city has failed to enforce the ordinance. At this time, the city is pondering whether to install motion sensor lights at Harrison and the neighbors are considering hiring a security guard for the summer months. Meanwhile, the city has put the application for the street permit to open Mercer Street end to the public on hold. It is likely that they will want the whole summer to evaluate the behavior at the Harrison Street end prior to looking at the application to open Mercer Street end.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Feel free to contact me at: rowenw@cbccomputer.com



View of the E. Mercer Street End from Lake Washington.



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Valley Gems

Valley Gems By Jennifer Karkar Ritchie

The winter has just begun to take a toll on me and more importantly, on my feet! Sheltered in the comfort of my shoes and socks for four months now, it was time to give them some attention. A pre-spring pedicure was in order and luckily one of the best spots in Seattle is located right in our backyard. Located at 2900 E. Madison, next to the Monart Drawing School and across from Plum, (a darling shoe store for children), **Hoa Salon** is my March find.

The nail salon delivers upscale service at 'chop-shop' prices. For a one-hour pedicure that includes a massage chair, leg rub with Tiger Balm, and a great polish finish that is going strong at nearly one-month, Hoa is a steal! The cost at a mere \$28 is extremely competitive, and the level of service and attention paid to one's feet makes the overall experience far exceed expectations. The staff is kind and attentive, and the atmosphere is a nice blend of professional and relaxing. Whether you are treating yourself, a friend, or family member, Hoa is the perfect spot to relax and refresh your tired, winter feet. This Mother's Day, I've already decided to give an 'experience' gift, and a Hoa gift certificate, at under \$30 bucks, fits the bill.



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Food Drive a Success



Tracie Hiemstra, owner of Bella Rose, and Stephanie Bowman, of the Rainer Valley Food Bank, loaded up the donations from this year's food drive. Stephanie was delighted with the generosity of donors.



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April 2, 4-6 p.m. free antioxidant testing

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Then one day, Charles had an experience that changed his life.

At the age of 11, Charles had a vision of a great tree falling and crushing him into the ground. Over the next two years, he had this exact vision on multiple occasions. He began to think that perhaps this was the death and release for which he had yearned.

When Charles was 13, he helped his brother chop down a tree on their property. Suddenly, the tree snapped prematurely and came crashing down towards him. He recognized it as his vision and felt the weight of his whole life, both past and future. Instead of embracing the death he had sought, Charles leapt from harm and saved himself. He describes this experience as an epiphany. In that instant in which he chose life, Charles matured and felt in control of his destiny. "I decided then to start living. I had a realization that if I led a life of kindness towards others that everything would go well for me."

At the age of 18, Charles moved with his family to Portland, Oregon, and then on to Seattle a couple months later. He began work collecting garbage for a Seattle disposal company and quickly became a favorite among the customers. One couple offered him a job with their advertising company. His facility with people enabled him to

assist the company as a worldwide representative. He traveled not only for business but was able to visit many countries for pleasure. These experiences served to confirm his belief that we are all one people and deserve only kindness from each other.

After other employment and retirement, Charles sought community service in his neighborhood as a means to practice his beliefs in kindness. He boldly confronted prostitutes, violent gang members, and drug dealers, asking them to take their business out of the neighborhood. He has offered assistance to the elderly and has helped organize block parties. His calm presence has often been requested at the bedside of a dying neighbor. He is well loved and appreciated by all who know him.

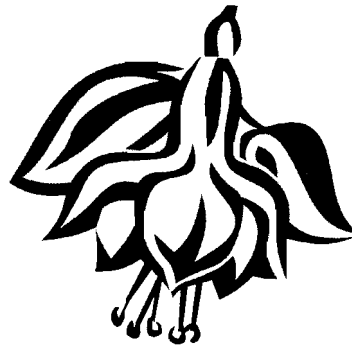
As our community council vice president, Charles serves as a voice for all volunteers. He reminds members that service as a volunteer does not mean overextending yourself or stressing about projects. Our responsibility is to serve as a forum for neighbors to come together and to create interest groups in order to accomplish goals together.

After 16 years, will Charles be our vice president for life? We certainly hope so!

Peter A. Triandafilou Phone: (206) 720-0488
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