



The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 132

November 2005

Neighborhood Announcements

Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, Nov 4th

Doors open at 6PM

MLK Elementary School

Great food, entertainment and most of all: YOUR neighbors

Still time to volunteer!

Call Gary Emslie:

324-7139 or 326-7749

Next GMVCC Meeting

Wednesday, November 16th 7:30 PM

Agenda: Crime in the neighborhood

Speaker: Developer Mike McClure to discuss parking along Madison Street

Wanted: New Editor

Please consider this fun community service project as your contribution to your neighborhood.

Contact: Cathy Nunneley

329-4083 cjnunneley@yahoo.com



One of Our Neighbors

Andy Loves Bicycles

Andy Goulding wasn't always passionate about bicycles. It was the love of a good woman that led him down this path. Andy met Barbara Culp in an aerobics class. He admired the bike shirt she was wearing and invited her on a ride. Well, you guessed it. She left him in the dust. him. One thing led to another and Barbara and Andy were married in 1995. Barbara is currently the executive director of the Bicycle Alliance of Washington (bicyclealliance.org) and Andy heads the Safe Routes to School Program in our neighborhood. They are the dynamic duo of Madison Valley cycling.

The Bicycle Alliance is a statewide non-profit organization, which advocates for bicyclists and a bicycle-friendly Washington. Twenty-five hundred members work to improve the cycling experience. For example, they have a full time person monitoring the hundreds of bike trails in our state. The Alliance helped pass a state law to protect *continued on page 7*



Andy and three of his friends during a bike workshop at the school.

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GMVCC Contact Information

Council Affairs: Gary Emslie, President

Email: gary.emslie@bush.edu

Council business, agenda requests, inquiries, concerns

*

Valley View Newsletter: Cathy Nunneley

Email: cjnunneley@yahoo.com or 329-4083

Article submission, advertising, suggestions, volunteers

GMVCC P.O. Box 22278 Seattle, Washington 98122

The Illustrated GMVCC

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PLEASE support our generous advertisers from the Madison Valley business community. Without their support, it would not be possible to bring you *The Valley View*. Thanks a bunch!

Support *The Valley View*

The Valley View staff cheerfully works countless unpaid volunteer hours to bring you this newsletter. The printing and postage costs are over \$700 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! **Thank you so much!**

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We have a circulation of 2500.
 Approximately 2 X 3 inch ads or announcements:
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Contact the editor: Cathy Nunneley
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Community Council Minutes

GMVCC Meeting October 19, 2005

Charles McDade, vice-president, called the meeting to order at 7:15. A quorum was present. Introductions made.

Treasurer's Report: We are \$625.46 in the black.

Brian Walsh, WSDOT spoke about traffic calming techniques. There was some discussion about the new crosswalk being unhelpful and dangerous as cars whizzing by are not heeding the pedestrians. An interest group was formed to discuss the problems and report to the council.

Brad Shin, from the Monorail Project presented a revised plan to reduce costs by \$33 million and asked citizens to read the voters handbook carefully and vote.

Jane Fellner, MD, School Board Candidate spoke to the difficulties of maintaining small schools and providing services like music and art. There are the same number of school buildings in the district but only 50% of the students we had 30 years ago. She wants to look at new revenue sources. The uncertainty of job stability has many teachers uneasy as junior teachers are fired each spring and who then wait anxiously for a possible rehire in the summer. She wants to retain and hire more teachers for small classes.

Spaghetti Dinner still needs volunteers.

Crime Spree: Many neighbors reported a crime wave in the last month involving a group of very young kids. They are casing houses by asking for work then returning to rob the houses. One woman was robbed at 7:30 AM as she slept upstairs. The police seem unable to help as the perpetrators are underage and their response time to calls is too delayed to catch them anyway. It was decided to enhance neighborhood block watch effectiveness by forming email groups (see page 6 for more info), encourage police calls at all incidents, and inviting a police representative to the meeting to assist us. We want more police presence but are concerned that they may not have the manpower to help us. An email letter will be drafted and put on the email website for us to send to the City Council. Individual neighborhood groups will put out flyers to nearby houses inviting people to join in the effort to control the crime. Small groups of neighbors are forming new block watch groups.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.



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Letter to the Editor

To The Editor:

I live near the corner of 29th Avenue East, and Roy Street. The parking is unbearable, and only getting worse! It is not at all the patrons who request the **over 50** services offered in a mere 2 block radius on Madison Street, but rather the employees of all the shops who make it impossible to park in front of our own houses. It is the employees who leave their cars all day (8 hours or more), every day in front of our houses. When friends and family come over to visit, they have to park 2 blocks away. All the property owners N of Madison Street are fed up with this problem!!! We have (for the last year), asked very nicely for these folks to park somewhere else (along the Arboretum side of 29th is perfect), but to no avail. The owners of these businesses are doing a horrible job of being respectful and considerate of our neighborhood. Please help!!!!

Richard Winsler

Editor's Response:

The parking problem is a source of extreme concern to the community residents. I believe that with the new construction across from City Peoples, we will have even more difficulties.

I have forwarded your letter to the president of the Merchant Association, Susan Garner. She promised that they would discuss it at their October meeting. Additionally, we hosted speaker Brian Walsh from SDOT at our October meeting to help us strategize.

Concerned neighbors formed a committee during the meeting to address this issue. The GMVCC can help direct energy to the City Council to get some assistance. To join the effort, contact Andy Goulding at ARGoulding@aol.com. Thanks a bunch for becoming involved in your community.

New Editor for *The Valley View*

Dear Neighbors, the time has come to pass on the privilege of editing *The Valley View* newsletter. This work is a wonderful opportunity to become involved in the neighborhood.

The only requirements are computer access and some type of publishing program. The format of the newsletter and its contents are under the discretion of the editor. It's fun and creative.

Please do consider volunteering for this community service. You will receive lots of support. Thanks a bunch!


Cathy Nunneley 329-4083
cjunneley@yahoo.com

The News from ML King Jr. Elementary


The School raffle begins November 1st with the proceeds going to fund MLK student attendance at Islandwood for three days in May. Islandwood is an outdoor learning center which focuses on environmental and community stewardship. The contest ends on December 15th with the drawing at the Winterfest Program. You need not be present to win. There will be 15 winners. The first prize winners will receive a portable DVD player or I-Pod. Community participation is greatly appreciated as a show of support to the school's PTSA. To purchase tickets, stop by the school during school hours or contact Joanie Robertson at jrobertson@path.org.

Any vendor who would like to donate a tax-deductible item to the school for the raffle please call Principal Barry Dorsey at 252-2900.

Next PTSA meeting is Monday, November 14th at 6 PM.



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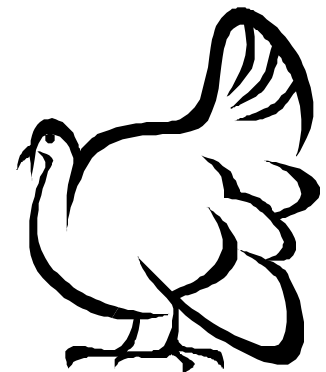
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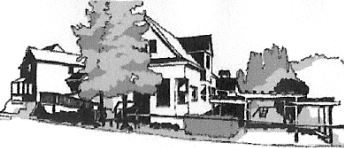


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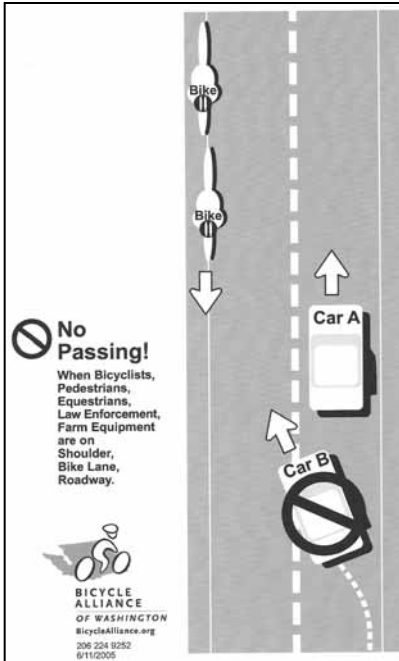
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New Bike Safety Law



Thanks to the efforts of the **Bicycle Alliance of Washington**, we have a new important safety law. It is now **illegal** to pass a moving car while bicyclists are in an oncoming lane. This law was initiated after a woman in Walla Walla was killed on her bike by a passing motorist. Please drive carefully and share the road with bicycles.

The new crosswalk at 29th Ave East and East Madison. Use carefully until motorists become used to the new crossing.

Our New Crosswalk is Here!

Two years of campaigning has finally yielded results. We now have our crosswalk at 29th Avenue East and East Madison. The City of Seattle lived up to promises to spare two trees and minimize the impact upon parking.

Although the new crosswalk is being well used, several pedestrians have reported near misses as speeding motorists did not note the new markings on the street. It also is important to obey parking restrictions around the crosswalk. No parking within 30 feet of the crosswalk to allow for motorists and pedestrians to see each other. The areas are clearly marked with signage.



Our very own resident Great Blue Heron at the Denny-Blaine Park Pond casts a wary eye upon his admirers this fall.

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Around the Neighborhood

The Madison Valley Flood Victims: Barbara Lynn reports that progress has been made this summer. There are three proposals on the table for a long term “fix” to the flooding. The solutions center around the four lot space at 29th Avenue East and East Denny that was most affected by the flood.

1. Build a three million gallon holding tank at the site.
2. Build a pipe system that would divert water to the Arboretum system.
3. Build a holding tank at the site and additionally build a pipe that connects to the Arboretum system.

The first proposal is the easiest in terms of the least disruption to the neighborhood and the least amount of time to construct. There is also concern that permit application for the pipe to the Arboretum system may delay the process.

The construction is estimated to take about nine months and should be completed by the year 2008-2009.

For the short term, the houses on the affected lots will be demolished in the coming year of 2006. After many community meetings, the neighbors have agreed that the empty space be converted into a multipurpose park.

Friends of Street Ends: Anita Rowe reports that the SDOT has used broad municipal powers to close the East Mercer Street End for “safety reasons”. The committee is questioning SDOT about the exact concerns.

Madison Lofts Construction: Neighbor Holly Marklyn has contacted developer Mike McClure regarding the lack of parking for the new building across from **City Peoples Garden Store**. There will be spaces for residents of the building but none allotted for the businesses at the street level. McClure is interested in working with the community to look at a parking solution. **He will attend the November GMVCC meeting.**



The “Bush School Serpent” pictured above gives testimony to the “big dig” which happened over the summer during the school remodeling.. Thus far, the construction has gone well. The Neighbors of Bush report that they were pleased with the school’s efforts to minimize impact upon the neighborhood. Also, the “No School Parking” signs along 37th Avenue East are most appreciated. **Thank you Bush School!**



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Community Forms Email Group

Neighbors have formed two email groups to enhance communication in the community. One is specifically for crime related issues, the second for other information. Joining is easy.

For Crime issues: madvalleywatch@yahooogroups.com

For other information: greatermadisonvalley
community@yahooogroups.com

2. Send email to Joanie Robertson for an official invite or for assistance: **andyjoan@hotmail.com**

Knowing and communicating with your neighbors is the single most effective way to ensure your safety.

More Good News!

The City of Seattle has been good to us this month! Not only did we get our new crosswalk, but the Parks Department has begun work on a pedestrian path along a section of the Bicycle Bypass which runs from the MOHAI to East Madison Street. The curvy section of the road depicted below is between East Helen and East Prospect where 28th Avenue becomes 26th Avenue.



The sidewalk disappears at one point and leaves pedestrians at risk from the traffic. At the urging of **Andy Goulding**, the Arboretum folks have begun the construction of a meandering gravel path. Andy has requested that the path be named Woody Lane after his golden retriever. Andy and Woody frequently walk along this byway.

Thanks go to **Jon Martin and Jeanie Taylor** at the Parks Department Maintenance yard and to **Rory Denovan**, Head Gardener at the Arboretum. Thanks also to Andy for another wonderful neighborhood enhancement project.

Valley School Hurricane Relief Effort

The Valley School held a read-a-thon on September 22 that has raised \$12,365.96 to date. Valley's 98 students read individually, to each other and in groups as well as listening to guest readers. The students gathered pledges for minutes of reading. The money will be used to aid a small public school in Biloxi Mississippi, the St. Martin North Elementary School.

Valley School has a special connection with St Martins. Valley's fourth grade teacher Daria Blom has a cousin who teaches at the school. The principal of St Martin was moved to tears upon learning about the donation from Seattle. "We are hoping to bring joy back to the lives of the children," she said.

Thank you Valley School!



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bicyclists from unsafe passing (see accompanying article, page 4).

Andy's involvement with the Safe Routes to School Program has led to an increase of his involvement at ML King Jr. Elementary School. He has been a volunteer and tutor at the school for over five years. Walking and biking from his home to the school he noticed how difficult it was to navigate some streets and sidewalks. In some cases the sidewalks were overgrown with vegetation and in others obstacles and disrepair made the passage difficult or impossible.

The Safe Routes to Schools is a statewide traffic safety program. There is grant money provided to schools that apply for and are accepted into the program. Andy sees the program as twofold.

One part of the program is the teaching of bicycle safety. Working with the gym teacher, Andy provided bikes and helmets to increase student skills and enthusiasm. Secondly, the bike routes to the schools need to be upgraded.

To accomplish the second task, Andy organized the Sidewalks of Madison Valley Program. Working with stalwart volunteers, Andy helped clear vegetation from

the sidewalks adjacent to the school. Recently, he engineered the removal of utility poles on 32nd Avenue East that impede the sidewalk.

"It's an exciting time for biking," Andy explained. "With an ever increasing emphasis on exercise for health, combined with soaring gas prices, biking is looking pretty attractive. Seattle and Madison Valley is an especially great place for biking with so many designated routes. We are truly lucky to live here."

Andy and Barbara toured Scotland on their bicycles this summer. Without an itinerary, and completely unsupported, they carried all their own gear and camped along the way. The weather was Scottish (tailwinds & occasional rain, like Seattle). They had a wonderful time.

What's ahead? Andy feels that biking and walking will promote more awareness of neighbors and the community as we get out of our cars. He works tirelessly to protect ML King Jr., our small neighborhood school. Barbara is in line to be the chair of a national alliance of bicycle advocates. This valuable work is truly a gift to us all. Thank you Andy and Barbara!

Andy's Song

To the Tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Think, oh Think Outside the Car!
Your bicycle will get you far.

Out beyond your postal zone
Like your mobile cellular phone.

Think, oh Think Outside the Car!
Your bicycle will get your far.




Please let us know about your interesting neighbors! With their permission we will feature them in an upcoming issue of *The Valley View*! We all benefit from learning about our community.

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Your submissions are appreciated!
Mail to the address above.

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