



The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 113, June 2003

E-mail: gmvcc@hotmail.com

Current Events

Citizens Prepare to Repossess Lakeshore City Property

By Anita Rowe

The Mercer Street End Committee is in the process of petitioning the Seattle Transportation Department to convert the Mercer Street End back to public use as it was originally intended. This process includes receiving feedback from the community.

The shoreline street end is located at Mercer and 39th Avenue East, approximate six houses south of the Seattle Tennis Club. A bank of high laurel hedges obscures a large publicly owned area that includes 120 feet of waterfront property. Presently, private property owners lease the land from the City for about \$50,000/year. Reportedly, these families have had this

arrangement with the City for several decades. They have enclosed the area, added structures, and made it inaccessible to citizens.

The Seattle Department of Transportation manages street ends. In contrast to properties managed by the Parks Department, the City does not fund maintenance work at any properties managed by Transportation. Therefore, the Committee will be responsible for the property's maintenance. This approach would be similar to that used for the publicly accessible "String of Pearls" street ends throughout the Leschi neighborhood.

The Leschi committee has much experience dealing with private property owners who are reluctant to relinquish their borrowed land. Already, attorneys have been involved with this effort. It is the hope of this committee and others that all street ends are open and accessible to the

public so that all of us can enjoy our shoreline.

The property owners cite concerns about late night partying, drug and alcohol use, and parking issues. As part of its efforts the Committee is asking the City Council to pass an ordinance to close shoreline street ends at 11 p.m. to curtail late-night rowdiness.

The Mercer Street End Committee is meeting with area community councils to rally support and explain its position. A member will be present at the next meeting of GMVCC in June.

Please relay your support and/or concerns to Anita Rowe at 322-7562.▼▼

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Café Flora, Gitano, Leschi Mart, Loving Hands Infant Massage, Madison Park Tree, Penn Cove Organics, Rover's, and Santosha Yoga.

Good Neighbors

PhonicsQ and Phyllis Herzog: A Path to Reading Success

By Cathy Nunneley

Phyllis Herzog is the type of teacher that many of us as parents can only dream about. She has the caring, individualized approach that many of our best teachers possess. However, Phyllis has taken that approach to the next level. Years of teaching experience and observation has enabled her to develop a special reading program that really works. PhonicsQ is both the name of the program and the cottage industry company that Phyllis runs from her home here in the Valley.

Phyllis has always focused her own learning on special education—in college and beyond. She specializes in children's learning disorders. As language and learning difficulties became more understood and accepted in the last 50 years, Phyllis and other teachers like her were able to benefit from the increase in methods and strategies developed to help struggling students. Most of these strategies (based on the works of Samuel Orton and Anna Gilliam) were phonics-based. Even when classroom and reading teachers became enamored of the whole language/sight word approach to reading, Phyllis and her colleagues used a systematic phonics

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Neighborhood Events

Upcoming Events at the Neighborhood Academy

by Miriam Roskin

Here are a few of the Neighborhood Academy's June offerings that you may want to sample. The classes are held at Safeco's Neighborhood Academy, located at 23rd and Jackson. The classes run from 7 to 9 p.m., and all are free.

June 12: Who You Gonna Call? Come learn what two modern-day ghost hunters have found. See their videos and pictures for yourself. Then decide whether that weird noise in the attic is just the wind, did you really misplace your keys, or is that backroom just naturally cold? Is there more going on than meets the eye??

June 19: The Point of Acupuncture. It's been around for 3,500 years, but just what is acupuncture and how does it work?

Acupuncture and medicinal herbs have been used for millennia in the Orient, but these healing systems are relatively new in the U.S. Here's your chance to learn what Oriental medicine can do for you.

June 21: Women and Money. In this special full-day session, Safeco's very popular Women & Money program provides the tools women need to plan for financial health now and in the future. Topics include goal setting, budgeting, managing credit, risk assessment and diversification, insurance, and retirement and estate planning. Each participant will receive a Financial Planning Guide.

AND DON'T FORGET THE JUNE 24 BOOK GROUP!

On June 24 join the Neighborhood Academy book group to discuss *A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League*, by Ron Suskind.

At Ballou High, a crime-infested school in Washington DC, honor students keep their heads down. But Cedric Jennings studies and strives. Cedric had hoped to find a place to fit in at college, but he discovers otherwise. Having traveled too far to turn back, Cedric must rely on his faith, intelligence, and determination to keep alive his hope for the future of acceptance and reward that he struggles to envision.

Classes meet at the Neighborhood Academy, located in Safeco's Jackson Street Center, 306 23rd Avenue South, Suite 200, in Seattle.

All sessions are free, but please pre-register by calling 206/521-1100 or emailing hocr@safeco.com.

Fun Times

Things To Do This Summer

By Miranda Levy

It's summertime and the livin' is easy...and what could be easier than to walk down one street and find everything you could possibly need for a fun day in the sun? For teenagers and grown-ups alike, Madison Park has tons to offer.

Snacks and Lunch Food – Don't eat too much before swimming!

Bing's: Certainly not your average burger joint! Available to suit almost anyone, Bing's boasts everything from gourmet burgers to hummus. It's a supercute, cool, and casual eatery and sitting outside in the sun plops you right in the heart of the neighborhood, right across from the park.

Mad Pizza: Of course, we all know that Mad has locations throughout the city, but this branch has the bonus of having almost all employees coming from local high schools as well as being right next to:

Scoop Du Jour: The best ice cream place ever in the world. Perfect for an ice cream filler-upper any time of the day, till ten o'clock, and *the* place to be for anyone from tots to teens to...older people. Absolutely guaranteed by the GMVCC or else contact Miranda Levy. [Editor's Note. *I've been here. Miranda's not kidding. Plus, the burgers are charbroily delicious.*]

Madison Park Bakery: Nestled next to Choppers and Yankee Peddler, the bakery not only houses your favorite usual treats in glass cases and hot coffee, but also bursts with the coziness that is Madison Park!

Food for Later – Get dressy and settle in for a more formal dinner.

Sorella's: Down at the end of the main Madison drag, this little restaurant offers all of your favorite Italian dishes and certainly has the makings for a romantic dining or simply a resting place after an exhausting summer day!

Café Flora: Closer to our own Madison Valley, Café Flora's meatless breakfasts, lunches, and dinners are delectable throughout the day, all in the elegant main dining area or in the jungle-like atrium.

Things to Do

The Beach: Here are seven reasons why the beach is the place to be.

- There is a sand plot for little kids as well as an expansive lawn for sunbathing.
- There is a reasonably clean bathroom close at hand.
- There are at least three ice cream trucks up on the street at a time.
- When really big speed boats go by farther back in the lake, *real waves* (pretty much) splash up to the shore!
- There is a raft with *two* diving boards if you pass the swimming test.
- The swimming test is easy.
- It is directly across the street from:

The Park: At the true center of the neighborhood, the Madison park hosts a playground, a huge grass field for playing catch or for picnicking, statues to climb, and swings! FYI: You are *never* to old to swing!

Santosha Yoga: A slightly less conventional place to spend a summer day, Santosha is located just across the street from Café Flora. Whether you're a member or dropping in, this is the place for wonderful relaxation, quiet and serene when one must escape from the madness of the beach.

Frenchy's: What better away to relax than to get a manicure or pedicure? Plus, Frenchy's is of course *tres chic*. Aaahhh.

So there are some Madison Park highlights in a nutshell – plus both a Starbucks *and* Tully's to keep you chipper throughout the day! ▼▼

ANNUAL COURTYARD SALE

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 10 am – 3 pm

BUSH SCHOOL COURTYARD

East Harrison between 32nd Ave E and 37th Ave E

**All usable items may be delivered directly to the school
courtyard starting on JUNE 9**

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

TO ARRANGE PICKUPS OF DONATIONS CALL:

JERRY SUSSMAN 325-8785

PLEASE: No computer components or non-working electronics

(Valley View readers please see page 7 for another solution for old computers)

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

- Pricing and organizing: evenings/weekends

TO VOLUNTEER CALL:

- Set-up, day of sale: June 28, 8 am to 10 am

School News

News from Garfield

Everyone is excited by the front page news of the jazz band winning the Mostly Ellington competition in New York City. The band competed with jazz bands from all over America.

The orchestra, winner of the Northwest Orchestra Festival, will perform a send-off concert at Meany Hall on June 16 before heading off to Japan. Don't miss it!

Ms. Durse, the principal, unveiled a five-point plan for improvement of the school's services. Included are increased collaboration, improved math and literacy, personalized learning, elimination of disproportionality, and increased community and parent involvement.

The design team for the new school has begun to meet.

An increase in incidents of violence around the school has prompted enhanced police presence. The Crime Prevention Coalition is working on a plan to reduce these episodes.

Four hundred students will graduate this June! Celebrations begin with Awards Night on May 29. ▼▼

News from Meany

Meany Middle School is proud to announce the opening of the Meany Family Enrichment Center located at the school. Funded in part by the YMCA and the Gates Foundation, the center will offer a wonderful selection of activities such as:

- Classes and workshops on such subjects as parenting, computer and job skills, and health care;
- School support for homework help and conferences; and
- Family events such as cultural, technology, and science nights. ▼▼

Special Feature: Martin Luther King Elementary

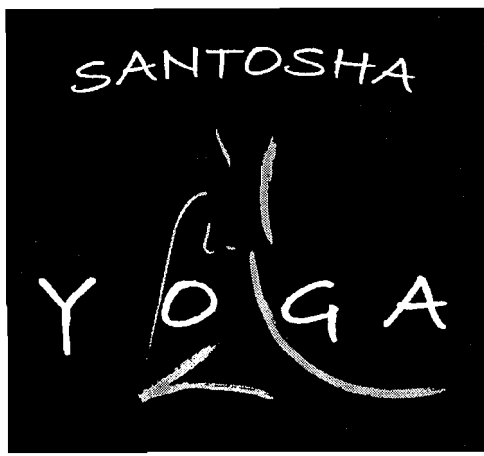
By Andrew Egleston

During the May GMVCC meeting, principal Barry Dorsey announced that next year MLK plans to add an exciting new Enrichment program to broaden the school's academic offerings. Students will be able to choose from a variety of activities, including gymnastics, foreign language, choir, science club, drill team, construction club, and a drama program – all to be offered during school hours each week. Principal Dorsey hopes these efforts – along with a new specialized curriculum (perhaps with an arts-based or multicultural focus) – will help distinguish the school. Community members with an interest in participating in these programs are encouraged to contact Barry at 252-2900 or e-mail bdorsey@seattleschools.org.

Principal Dorsey reiterated that the school is making great strides in academic progress and looks forward to WASL testing results in August. He was also pleased to announce that because of some district budget wrangling, MLK's talented and energetic new kindergarten teacher survived this year's budget cuts and will be returning again next year.

Coming up, MLK will host an open house for prospective new students and parents in early June, as well as a student carnival on June 14 packed with games, food, and all sorts of fun activities. On June 6, a group of volunteers from Deloitte Consulting will help plant seedlings and spruce up the school grounds.

With these sorts of small steps (and occasional larger leaps) MLK is making progress – with much more to come. ▼▼



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Valley Business Highlight

Tropical Pleasures at Gitano

by Cathy Nunneley

A taste of the tropics has arrived in Madison Valley. Gitano has joined the ranks of our other excellent restaurants to enhance our neighborhood's reputation as a dining destination. Gitano offers some of the only authentic Latin cuisine available in Seattle and aficionados throughout the city are applauding.

Gitano is Spanish for "gypsy" – an appropriate name since the restaurant reincarnates the previous establishment of that name. The owners decided to refocus the menu and ambiance to reflect their heritage and reopen with the Spanish name.

The staff is representative of countries such as Columbia, Uruguay, and Puerto Rico and therefore knowledgeable of appropriate food and atmosphere. The warmly painted walls capped with a sky blue ceiling set the relaxing mood immediately. The soft music lends an air of quiet excitement. The eclectic menu and list of tropical cocktails begins the adventure. Could we be on a vacation?

Chef Maritza Texeira has created a menu that may best be described as "Nuevo Latino." She offers traditional Latin fare with a Northwest flair. The bocaditos, or "little bites" range from Puerto Rican Pasteles to Wild Prawn Ceviche. Salads of fresh local produce are enhanced with tropical fruits or such exotics as smoked avocado, palm hearts, or roasted pepitas. Maritza dishes out bowls of her mom's

Good News

At Last: A Happy Transportation Story

The May issue of The Valley View printed an open letter penned by one of our neighbors, Thomas Hubbard. The letter noted shoddy repairs on the 400 block of 27th Avenue East and pleaded for Mayor Nickels to pay closer attention to the workmanship coming out of the Seattle Department of Transportation. Here's the latest word from Mr. Hubbard:

"Thank you for printing my letter regarding the paving on the 400 block of 27th Ave. E. A few weeks ago city crews showed up and they did a very professional job of replacing the sagging asphalt with a concrete patch and new curbs. It looks great!" ▼▼

favorite rice and seafood soup in addition to the Sopa del Dia. No "Latinized" salmon, so common among many menus, is to be found among the entrees. Instead, the seafood is a crispy whole trout. Chicken, duck, pork, and steak complete the meat choices. Two vegetarian entrees – griddled coconut cake with sautéed baby bananas and black rice with white beans – guarantee everyone will be satisfied. Maritza understands the cravings for a dish made "just like at home" and will customize her cooking for her homesick clientele.

Perhaps one of the most comforting pleasures of Gitano is the warm welcome from the staff. Manager Amber Berman-Ortiz aims to please, creating a unique dining experience that meshes with the quality restaurant scene of the Madison Valley. The full bar, with its list of exotic cocktails

among the usual drinks, is a big draw in the evenings. On Thursdays, diners are treated to the live gypsy guitar music of Andre Feriante. In response to the growing lunch crowd, she and Maritza have introduced a midday menu of hot sandwiches, salads, and soups.

A tangy slice of the tropics awaits all of us just down the street. Give Gitano a try the next time you want a culinary



20 Weeks of Fresh Produce from Penn Cove Organics...

From June through October you will receive a box full of certified organic seasonal produce — a wide variety of greens, peas, beets, broccoli, cauliflower, Walla Walla sweets, beans, cucumbers, corn, summer and winter squashes, leeks, and winter greens as we go through the season.

All are grown on Whidbey Island and picked the day before delivery. You also get a weekly newsletter full of recipes and stories from the farm.

We offer full shares (for 4 or more people) for around \$25 per week; half shares are also available.

Become part of a family farm, run by two generations of Hilborns (the seniors are residents of Madison Valley) and eat better and healthier than ever before.

For further information or to sign up,
call Wendi (360/240-8125),
or email at hilborn@whidbey.net.

Community Council Minutes

GMVCC Meeting of May 20, 2003

Charles McDade, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm. A quorum was not present, so approval of the April 15 meeting's minutes was held until next meeting.

The treasurer was not present. Jerry Sussman estimates the treasury at about \$4,500. We received \$110 in donations this month. The money will stay in the present bank accounts.

The Arboretum Fieldhouse Project is on hold until next year due to budget cuts in the City.

The Bob Cummings painting at the ML King School has been revitalized and signed by the artist. It is estimated to be worth about \$20,000. A contract was made designating ML King School owner of the painting. If the school should close, the painting would become the property of the Community Council. Jerry will check on insurance for it.

Anita Rowe of the Mercer Street End Committee presented a plan to create public access to the shoreline at the end of Mercer Street, near 39th Ave E. (See related article, page 1.) Adjacent private property owners are currently leasing the site from the City for their own private use. The lease runs year to year and can be terminated. The property owners have engaged lawyers to fight the proposal. Maintenance of the public street end would be done by committee members. Anita seeks support from area community councils and will send a member to our next meeting so we can vote.

A vote for new Council officers will also take place at the next meeting.

The Courtyard sale is in motion and committee members have met to begin planning.

Barry Dorsey, principal of ML King, reported on new programs for the fall. Gymnastics, foreign language, drama, and choir will be among the new offerings. He is optimistic about test scores. A breakfast social for prospective kindergarten parents is planned for June 9 with a carnival on June 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.▼▼

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Fieldhouse Bummer

Fieldhouse Project Runs Aground (Temporarily) by Jerry Sussman

Madison Valley's ambitious plan to re-open the fieldhouse in the Arboretum is stalled. City budget woes knocked us out of competition for a matching fund grant. The renovation would have given the whole community a prime meeting place, classroom, and picnic center with a fine kitchen. Many Parks programs were to be re-established there. The analysts figured the fieldhouse would take \$18,000 per year to operate, and the money wasn't there. Our design is a beauty: the Parks Department loved it, but we don't have priority. We are rolling up the drawings, hoping that wars and recession topple off the stage by next year so we can try again.▼▼

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Thanks to readers who made generous voluntary subscriptions to the Valley View in April. We received \$110 in donations, or half of our new monthly target of \$200. An average 6-page newsletter costs about \$700 to print and mail!

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Madrona Ravine Revisited

Birds, Bats, and Butterflies – Oh My!

By Linda Hanson

Friends of the Ravine in Madrona (FORM), with wonderful support from students, teachers, and parents from Bush School, celebrated Earth Day in a big way this year.

Students from the classes of Kristin Gimelli Hemme and Ren Dietel did a great job pulling invasive weeds, removing a strange assortment of garbage, and planting native plants to attract butterflies to the ravine; students from the home room of Tom Wise built wonderful cedar bird and bat houses and installed them in the ravine.

The Earth Day events were followed by great work by the students from Ben Reiber's and Barb Renfrow-Baker's classes. The Second Grade Students, who are raising "Painted Ladies" butterflies in their classrooms, will return to the ravine soon to release their butterflies. The students came to the ravine on May 9 to clear an area; at the end of the month, they can plant native perennials that will provide food and attract more butterflies.

"The plants and houses will welcome more creatures into the ravine and will help improve this important open space. We were thrilled to have to have the wonderful help of the Bush School students," said Linda Hanson, the FORM project coordinator.

FORM held a very successful celebration/first work party on May 3, and made good progress removing invasive plants in the "heart" of the ravine, next to the bridge. Please join your friends and neighbors at the next work party, **Saturday, June 7, 9:00 a.m. to noon.** Volunteers will meet at the bus stop on Madrona Drive next to the Pine Street

Phyllis and Phonics, continued

approach to reading and spelling. However, Phyllis still found these specialized materials lacking. They continued to rely too heavily on text-based clues to help students read challenging words. She realized that students often learned the sounds of the alphabet through looking at pictures. Why not do the same thing with all of the letter combinations – especially those pesky vowel combinations that make English seem crazy?

With the assistance of an art teacher, Phyllis helped the students choose pictures that best connected the sounds to letters. These 116 picture cues were printed on individual wall cards, portable student cueing sheets, and posters. She later created an audio tape for pronunciation – no matter what the students' age and country of origin. "The most exciting and important part of the process was that the students became independent learners," enthuses Phyllis.

After her children had grown and family responsibilities lessened, Phyllis decided to create her own business and now works more than full time on PhonicsQ. She exhibits at educational fairs, workshops, and seminars and has sold her program all over the world. Constant evaluation and feedback has enabled her to fine-tune the system. She has recently returned from Jamaica and will soon travel to Micronesia to instruct teachers on the use of PhonicsQ.

Phyllis has worked hard for over five years and still sees little monetary profit. "The travel and exhibit costs are very high," she explained. However, she feels that helping others become successful readers is well worth the long hours and dedication. She supplements her income with private tutoring – using PhonicsQ, of course.

Laughing, Phyllis says, "I never thought I had it in me to be a business person. If you had told me ten years ago that I would be doing this, I wouldn't have believed you." The many students and families helped by PhonicsQ are only grateful that she had the courage to pursue her dream.

To contact Phyllis Herzog for information about PhonicsQ or tutoring, you can email her at info@PhonicsQ.com or look up www.PhonicsQ.com. Happy reading!▼▼

Extra computer in the basement?

WANTED:

COMPUTERS (working or not)

for students at Garfield to take to Russia at the end of June. The students refurbish them. To donate, contact Kyell Rye, technology teacher at Garfield, via email at kjrye@seattleschools.org.

THE VALLEY VIEW
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Next Community Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 17, 2003, 7:30 p.m.
 Martin Luther King Elementary School Portables
 3201 E. Republican Street
 (parking available on playfield)



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Happy Summer Wishes



It is time for the Valley View's annual summer vacation. Please join the Valley View in kicking back and taking it easy for the next couple of months.

We'll see you in September. Until then, have a wonderful and safe summer!