

# The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 116 November 2003

E-mail: gmvcc@hotmail.com

## Neighborhood News

**ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER**  
FRIDAY, November 7<sup>th</sup>  
ML King school cafeteria  
Doors open 6 PM

The annual spaghetti dinner is happening! The food is purchased, desserts are being prepared by talented cooks, decorations are being unpacked and the entertainment line-up is confirmed.

This year's entertainment is highlighted with the return of the popular performances of last year. The award winning jazz ensemble from Garfield leads the way beginning as the doors open, setting the tone for the fun evening. Unicyclers from Bush School will demonstrate new tricks and skills. The finale will be the Garfield jazz singers who will send us home with gladness in our hearts. This year's mistress of ceremonies will be Rebekkah of Santosha Yoga to guide us through the evening's fun. Neighborhood teens will be offering face painting.

Come out to meet new neighbors and share a delectable meal. It's not too late to lend a hand. Just come on into the dinner and offer or call Cathy Nunneley 329-4083 or [cjnunneley@yahoo.com](mailto:cjnunneley@yahoo.com). See you there! ☺☺

## Good Neighbors

**FIRE SAFETY**  
BY KOLL ANDERSEN  
SEATTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
STATION 34

When the weather grows colder and the days get shorter, we begin to spend more time inside our homes. The windows stay closed, the heat is on and we enjoy the beauty of a candle from time to time.

As the holiday season approaches, we begin a season marked with family gatherings, formal meals and lots of festivities. So, as we enter this season, it is a great time to get prepared for anything and everything: decorations, parties, holiday festivities and emergencies. Emergency preparations include medical problems, injuries and

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Letter to Superintendent

**ML KING SCHOOL TROUBLES**

This original letter was written by the ML King staff to the superintendent:

We just learned that MLK is facing a \$100,000 + budget reduction due to decreased enrollment. This is catastrophic for a school of our size and makeup, and simply cannot happen! While we realize that other schools face similar cuts, in our view the situation at King is more dire and qualifies for special consideration: namely a waiver to keep our staff as is and the school itself viable.

MLK has been through drastically fluctuating student numbers in the

*(Continued on page 3)*

In This Issue	
Fire Safety .....	1
Spaghetti Dinner.....	1
MLK Crisis.....	1
Community Council Minutes .....	2
Awash Grocery .....	4
Izilla Toys .....	5



Firefighters at our neighborhood station 34. Left to Right: Chris Brown, Walter Pedferri, Lt. Larry Jensen, Koll Anderson.

## FIRE SAFETY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

accidents or fires.

Here are some suggestions to keep your holidays safe:

1. **Put a sticker by each telephone in your house with 9-1-1 on it, also include your address and phone number.** It is easy to forget these things in an emergency.
2. **Make sure your safety equipment is ready for action.**

**Smoke Detectors:** Change the battery once each year. Check the detector to make sure it works. There is a button to push that should beep. Make sure you have detectors on each level of the house especially near sleeping areas.

**Fire Extinguishers:** Check the gauge--it should point to the green section. Shake dry chemical extinguishers every 6 months. Have it serviced or replaced every couple years. Review directions on use and practice without actually spraying the extinguisher.

**Emergency Escape Plan:** Make a plan and have everyone read and practice it. Choose a meeting place outside the house. Send one person to call 9-1-1 at a neighbor's house. Make

sure no one goes back into the house. Tell the firefighters where missing persons may be trapped in the house.

3. **Do not leave anything that produces heat without constant supervision.** This includes stoves, candles, portable heaters and other electric appliances. Give space heaters--space: 18-24 inches from other objects.
4. **Take care with holiday decorations.** Be sure trees stay watered. Turn off electric decorations like tree lights when sleeping or away from home.
5. **Keep prescription medications filled in case of a power outage or a snow storm.**
6. **Keep a friendly eye on elderly, sick or lonely neighbors.**

Finally, if you have questions, please feel free to stop by the neighborhood fire station located on 32nd Avenue East just south of Madison. We have lots of materials on safety and health and would be glad to talk with you. You may also call the Seattle Fire Department Public Education Section at (206) 386-1337. ☺☺

## October Community Council

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by President Gary Emslie.

Last month's minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Received \$150 for an ad from The Star.

Spaghetti dinner plans in motion. We appear to be organized.

Mercer Street End: Committee is working behind the scenes to discover what the City can offer in terms of lighting, curfew and maintenance. Bush School students have volunteered to pick up at the Harrison Street End.

Alliance for Education: Adrienne Bailey had flyers to announce meeting 11/18 at MLK 7:30.

Neighborhood planning: Dept of Neighborhoods may be in jeopardy due to City budget process.

Bus Service specifically the #8 and #11 has been cut back inconveniencing neighbors.

Proposal for a crosswalk at 29<sup>th</sup> across Madison was mentioned. The traffic is very heavy and speedy with only one crosswalk available at MLK.

ML King School problems were discussed by principal Barry Dorsey and Ty Kramer. (See related articles). We will "pass the hat" at the spaghetti dinner to augment fundraising efforts.

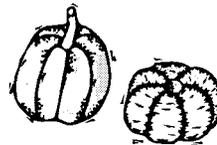
Meeting was adjourned at 8:45. ☺☺

### GMVCC Contacts

**Council Affairs:** For Council business, including agenda requests for upcoming council meetings, please email Gary Emslie, president of the Council, at [gemsie@helen.bush.edu](mailto:gemsie@helen.bush.edu).

**Newsletter:** For newsletter submissions and letters to the editor, please call Miriam Roskin at 325-8126 (email: [mroskin@seanet.com](mailto:mroskin@seanet.com)).

**Advertising:** To advertise in the Valley View, please call Cathy Nunneley at 329-4083 (email: [cjnunneley@yahoo.com](mailto:cjnunneley@yahoo.com)) to request pricing



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## MLK WOES, CONTINUED

past two decades—over four hundred children as an early childhood education center to under one hundred after converting to a K-5. It has also seen five principals in fifteen years, and is presently under the leadership of Barry Dorsey.

Upon arrival two years ago, Mr. Dorsey inherited a situation that needed to change. The staff was fragmented, discipline was not enforced, test scores needed to improve and the public perception of MLK was poor.

Adding to the problem were several unfavorable newspaper articles that made unfortunate comparisons with TOPS and Montlake without telling the whole story. Many parents pulled their children from MLK to place them in the newly constructed Madrona School. The final blow came this year when the YMCA announced that they would be terminating their on-site enrichment day care as of January 1. This was particularly devastating as parents of children in the daycare were counting on stability for their children. Some immediately began looking at other schools, but most attempted to solve the funding program by starting fundraisers. They want their children at King, and will do what they can to keep the daycare program and school open.

Last year over 500 students entered and exited the building with a constant of approximately 200. Many of these transient students were homeless or on waiting lists for other schools. Yet our test scores went up! This spoke to the level of instruction that the children are getting.

Mr. Dorsey and the entire staff are committed to returning MLK to its former status as a destination school. This year students proudly wear uniforms. A special enrichment program has been instituted so that all students can take such classes as Spanish, music, dance, construction, science, math, journalism and geog-

raphy. A strong discipline code has been instituted and the environment is conducive to every child being able to learn.

Now it is time for YOU to support this growth, not send a death knell. We need your support in keeping the school alive. We need your support in helping it grow. We need your support in publicizing the good things that are happening so that neighborhood families are enrolling their children here rather than sending them to private and other public schools. The name MARTIN LUTHER KING deserves no less. ☺ ☺

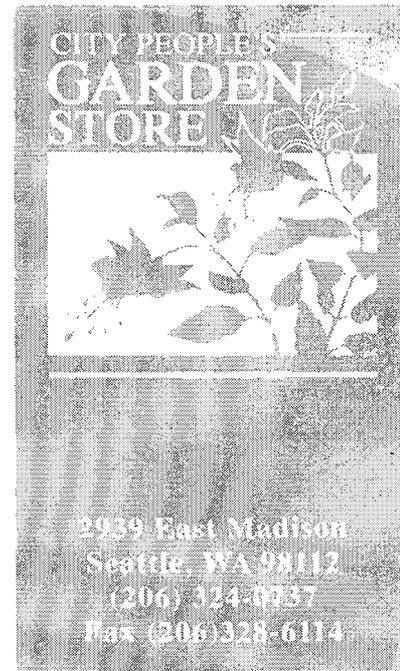


### ML King Elementary School Needs Your Help!

By Joanie Robertson

Late in September the YMCA announced that the Early Childhood Development Center at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School would be closed at the end of the semester. Twenty children are currently enrolled in this before-and-after-school program. Proof of the strength of this program is cited in Nicole Brodeur's Seattle Times article about the closure—a study that compared the testing scores of MLK students in the fall with those in the spring found that students who spent a year in the YMCA program stood out "like daisies on asphalt". (The full article can be found in the Seattle Times web archives.)

A small number of parents and teachers at ML King have now taken on the daunting task of trying to raise \$25,000 in the community—which they will then seek to match with corpo-



rate sponsorship. The city of Seattle has initiated a bidding process so that daycare providers can submit proposals for a new program to start with the winter semester. The timeline is tight, with less than two months to get everything in place. The Martin Luther King School Dream Foundation has graciously agreed to collect donations on behalf of the fundraising efforts, and all donations will be tax deductible.

Though the total fundraising goal is great, every small donation is important. If you would like to contribute, checks can be made out to "Dream Foundation c/o King Enrichment" and sent to:

705 Spruce St.  
Edmonds, WA 98020

(Including "King Enrichment" on your check is important, as this earmarks the funds for this particular program.) For more information, visit Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary's website: <http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/mlking/ecdc/index.htm> ☺ ☺

## VALLEY BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

### AWASH GROCERY

What would a neighborhood be without the "corner store"? A store where moms in the middle of cooking can send a child out for a missing ingredient or milk. A place where children can expect to find their favorite treats like sodas, candy, gum and chips. Grownups can pop in for some wine or beer to make that dinner something special. Awash fulfills this service well and with a smile.

Shimeles Edeghilign and his family have owned and managed this neighborhood icon for the past 13 years. Originally from Ethiopia, the family has been in America for 20 years. The family lives above the store and includes a daughter, 22 years old, and a son who is 15 and attends Garfield High School. They are very attached to their Ethiopian friends and culture and enjoy the neighborhood.

Those of us who have lived here



Awash Grocery owner: Shimeles Edeghilign.

longer may recall the "corner store" as a hub of illegal activity. Drug dealers and prostitutes frequented the corners at 29<sup>th</sup> and John and driving by was not a pleasant experience. Many neighbors stayed away from the store in those days. Shimeles says neighborhood cooperation and patience paid off and after two long and difficult years, the undesirable activity ceased. Nowadays only friendly neighbors come to shop.

"Awash" is named for a big river in central Ethiopia near the family's origins. The river is very important to industry and trade and its water sends power to the capital. Awash is a symbol of success in Ethiopia and Shimeles hopes the name will bring success to his store. We wish him the best of luck! Awash is open from 8:30AM to 8PM every day and up until 10PM in the summer. ☺

# SANTOSHA



Intro Series begins  
October 29<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm  
November 3<sup>rd</sup> 5:45 pm

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### THE VALLEY VIEW

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Your submissions are appreciated!

Mail to the address above.

2002-2003 Officers

President - Gary Emslie

Vice President - Charles McDade

Secretary - Miranda and Claire

Levy

Treasurer - Eli Stahlhut

MLK School Rep. - Joanie

Robertson and Andrew Engelson

E-mail: gmvc@hotmail.com

## THE VALLEY WELCOMES IZILLA TOYS

By Cathy Nunneley

The new toy store at 28<sup>th</sup> and Madison is appropriately housed in an original valley cottage set back from the street. It has the feeling of a well-stocked playroom. Young customers are greeted on the front porch by an irresistible train set sparking the imaginations of budding engineers.

Isaiah, the engaging four-year-old salesman is the heart of the family business. The name, *Izilla Toys*, was inspired by Isaiah's nickname. His parents, Jude LaRene and Jennifer Schneeweis help out with the more mundane business details while Isaiah enthusiastically demonstrates the inner workings of his favorite toys. The family encourages play within the store.

Isaiah and his family live within our community and strive to take an active part in neighborhood life. In addition to the toys themselves, they have begun a calendar of events at the store with weekly story times, face painting, and holiday festivities. They plan to begin creative movement classes soon. Izilla encourages the recycling of extra toys and will coordinate donations to charities while giving discounts on new toys at their store. Global awareness inspires them to donate a portion of their profits to social justice groups working for fair labor practices.

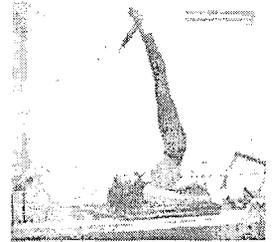
Come on in, take a look and meet the irrepressible Isaiah. He is sure to help you find the perfect plaything for someone special (or maybe even you)! ☺☺



Isaiah (a.k.a Izilla) demonstrating toys at the store.

## Pilates in the Park

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Open Houses are at 7pm on these evenings:

Middle School (6th-8th grade): November 12

Upper School (9th-12th grade): November 13

Please contact Nekesa Straker in the admissions office for further information:  
nekesa.straker@bush.edu or 206-326-7736.

EXPERIENCE EDUCATION

### SUPPORT THE VALLEY VIEW NEWSLETTER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

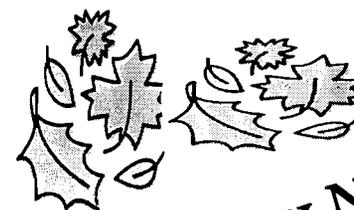
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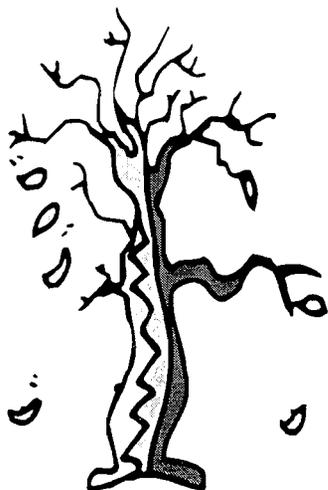
Please contact me for mailing parties, writing, reporting, artwork, or other. My interests are:

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# Valley View Newsletter

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**Next Community Council Meeting**

Tuesday, November 18, 2003, 7:30 p.m.  
Martin Luther King Elementary School Portables  
3201 E. Republican Street

**ROVER'S**  
*the art of cooking*

*Celebrating 15 Years in  
Madison Valley!*

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
with Bailey-Boushay**

Bailey-Boushay House is recruiting volunteers to provide transportation, companionship and meal service to clients of the Adult Day Health and Residential Care programs.

This is an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people who are living with HIV/AIDS and other life threatening illnesses. Individuals with a reliable vehicle, a current driver's license, insurance, and who are available during the day should call David Pavlick at (206)720-2260 and request a volunteer application.

*Supporting the journey of grief, illness and loss*

FOUR SEASONS OASIS		Books	Individual & group counseling
		Sympathy & encouragement cards	Bodywork
		Hospital gift baskets	Arrangement & referral services
		Comforting gifts	Workshops
	Pet loss	The Madisonian Building 2909B East Madison St. Telephone 206.726.0500	



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