



# The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 101, March 2002

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## Guest View

Council President Gary Emslie is on a brief newsletter leave. Newsletter stalwart Jerry Sussman contributes this guest view. — Ed.

### Zooming Down the Freeway

by Jerry Sussman

My usual beat for this paper is some local issue like sewer problems or tree planting, but this is a road story. We have just returned from a one-week visit to the offspring and grandkids in California. Our machine is a big 1992 Chevrolet sedan. It is kind of embarrassing to drive such a boat to the grocery here in the city, but it did a respectable 25 miles to the gallon on the road. We learned a lot about freeway culture and met some interesting people and that is what I can share with you.

As you go up the ramp on to I-5 you quickly recognize that the 18-wheel semi-trailer trucks are the arbiters of the road. You adjust to their speed or try to pass them. You learn manners and safe practice in their presence. If a truck ahead

is doing 65 on level ground and the way fore and aft is clear, you can pass him. Signaling your intent is imperative. With a rising incline ahead, you can pass only if you have the power to go 75mph. My car won't do that on a rise, so you wait for a better opportunity. Some drivers seem to love risk; they press closely behind, change lanes unexpectedly and tear forward hoping for an unlikely opening ahead. It is smart to remain calm and to give such people a lot of room.

Surely the interstate roads facilitate long range travel, but they have damaged communities and weakened small town life. Long stretches of highway are lined with franchised fast food places, outlet stores and motels with garish signs like carnival midways. This is a road-induced milieu that is entirely commercial and is standardizing all over the country. We avoided motels by reserving rooms at hostels on the sea coast: one on the way south and the other on the return leg. There we could cook meals and meet fellow travelers. The hostels are usually in old houses or historic buildings, in beautiful settings, and are low in cost. The people who manage them are often married couples or university students

taking a year off. They have essential local knowledge of wildlife, town history, and road conditions. At the California hostel in the Redwoods National Park we cooked meals with a UW Ph.D climatologist and several other pilgrims from up north. She had a strong Italian accent, and in fact had her parents from the old country with her, escorting them through the western wilderness. Our rooms overlooked the smashing Pacific surf and there was no other human habitation for miles about.

To get where you are going in quick time you have to make your way back to the main artery of I-5. In some places the road map deceives you. Going west from Sacramento for instance, the map shows connecting roads but they traverse the complex geologic faults notorious in California. These roads are veritable corkscrews, rising and dropping ceaselessly, studded with thickets of caution signs saying rock slide, no shoulder, narrow lanes, no passing, no turnouts for 8 miles, test lights and brakes here, steep grade, rough road, elk and deer crossing, construction ahead. They are not really for going anywhere, in the

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Commentary

### Lest We Forget

by Jack Irwin

The Bush administration makes it clear that it favors oil and mineral extraction over conservation and fuel efficiency policies. They do not blush when critics point out that petroleum and mining interests are the immediate beneficiaries of such a program. We need the energy to fight terrorism, our leaders say.

How many Republicans today recall that it was their party almost a hundred years ago that challenged the country to conserve resources? Theodore Roosevelt was the man, and he was Republican to the core. Certainly he wanted the nation's

energy needs to be met, but he scorned the "malefactors of great wealth" whose greed would despoil the land's beauty and legacy. Roosevelt appointed the first official forester of the United States, Gifford Pinchot. (The Pinchot National Forest in the southern Cascades is named for him.) Pinchot's byword was Conservation with a capital C. His policy in the new Forest Service had two aspects: first, the efficient use of renewable and nonrenewable resources with a keen eye to our posterity, and second, a reining in of the power of Concentrated Wealth which puts profit before patriotism. (His words! See Pinchot's life story, "Breaking New Ground", published by University of Washington Press.)

Ah, how the political world has turned. Today so-called conservatives attack environmentalists as extremists, even unpatriotic. What would old T.R. make of this remarkable shift in his party's outlook? ▼▼

## Upcoming Events

### March Activities at the Neighborhood Academy

This newsletter is a big fan of Safeco's Neighborhood Academy at 23rd Avenue and Jackson – it offers some great classes and discussion groups and provides a super focal point for bringing the wider Central Area community together.

Here's what's doing in March:

- ✓ Thursday, March 14, 7:00 - 9:00 pm: **Yoga for Everyone.** Led by Rebekkah Dinaburg, of Santosha Yoga right here in Madison Valley, this session will let you explore the physical and spiritual aspects of yoga, teach you about the various forms of the practice, and help you choose which is best for you.
- ✓ Saturday, March 16, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm: **Women and Money.** The Women and Money program covers goal-setting, budgeting, managing credit, risk assessment and diversification, insurance, retirement, and estate planning.
- ✓ Saturday, March 23, 10:00 am to Noon: **Home Remodeling Consultations.** Staff of the City's Department of Design, Construction, and Land Use teach you how to navigate the permitting process. Bring your plans and your questions, and reviews will offer one-on-one consultations to help answer questions about everything from electrical work to land use requirements.
- ✓ Thursday, March 28, 7:00 - 9:00 pm: **Trees in the City.** Liz Ellis, a certified arborist, will explain city requirements for planting trees on right-of-ways, how to adopt a traffic circled, and take advantage of the Neighborhood Tree Project. Find out what to grow and how to make it grow as well!
- ✓ And the monthly **book discussion** for March will focus on House of Sand and Fog by Andre Dubus. Come discuss this suspenseful novel about a struggling immigrant willing to bet everything he has to restore his family's dignity, a troubled young woman whose house is all she has left, and a married man obsessed with helping her. These three fragile but determined people all converge in an explosive collision course. The book group will meet on Thursday, March 28, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

All sessions are free of charge and held at the Neighborhood Academy, located above the Walgreens/Starbucks shopping plaza directly atop Hollywood Video. The parking lot entrance is between 23rd and 24th on South Main Street – one block north of Jackson. Call 521-1100 to register for any or all classes!

## Community Council Minutes

No minutes this time – please see next issue for minutes from the February and March meetings.

## P-Patch Update

### What's New at the P-Patch?

by Kerri Lauman

It may still be cold and wet outside, but the gardeners at the Madison Valley P Patch ("Mad P") are laughing at the weather and growing the garden. We're also building a wonderful new children's garden!

Since November 2001 we have cleared a 33 foot by 8 foot section of blackberries and trash, rototilled the soil, added composted manure and begun to build the perimeter fence and raised beds for the kids' plot. Wire cages are waiting for leaves, already stockpiled, and newly improved and relocated compost bins are ready as well. The apple trees have been pruned, and the communal flower and herb beds sport new borders.

Shauna Oswald's 3rd grade class at Martin Luther King Elementary is starting pea plants in the classroom to be moved to a pea teepee at the garden in early March, and plans are in the works for additional planting once weather permits. The class will be using a Natural Science Foundation curriculum on plants and science, and gardening at Mad P will fit right in. We're looking for two or more community volunteers to work with the kids in the garden 1 hour per week. Interested? Call Larry Grant (329-1159) or Kerri Lauman (323-3451).

Monthly Mad P work parties are planned for every first Saturday of the month from 10 am till noon – rain or shine -- and you are most welcome to join in the fun! Just show up at the garden (30th and East Mercer) ready to hammer, dig, weed, shovel or whatever. No experience necessary. ▼▼

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## Treasurer's Message

### Thanks to our Donors

By Sarah Trethewey

A huge thanks to all readers who generously donated a combined total of \$200 during the month of February. These contributions definitely move the newsletter's finances in the right direction!

Others can still help. For as little as \$5.00 annually per household (tax deductible!), we'd have enough revenue to ensure that the newsletter and expenses would be covered year-round. For your convenience, a donation form appears on page 4.

Warmest thanks to all who've already helped out. Your support makes all the difference! ▼▼

*Sarah Trethewey is Treasurer of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council.*

## Potential New Park Site at 24th and Howell

by Miriam Roskin

The Pro Parks Levy, approved by Seattle voters in November, 2000, provided funds to purchase property for a new Central Area Neighborhood Park. The targeted area was south of Denny on 23rd Avenue, located in the Madison-Miller Urban Village.

The site originally targeted for purchase has been partially developed with townhouses. Also, an adjacent development has obscured the view of the Cascade Mountains from the site.

Staff of the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation have identified a potential replacement site nearby. The vacant lot is on the southeast corner of 24th Avenue and East Howell. The site occupies a sunny one-quarter acre and offers a view of the Cascade Mountains. Kitty-corner to the south is the Meredith Mathews YMCA. And the Central Area's oldest continuously occupied house, the Grose House, is across the street.

While Plum Tree Park is one and a half blocks down the hill on 26th Avenue East, it is not as easily accessible to people living in apartments, nor very visible. Partnership with the community relating to the area's history could evolve in the site planning process. Pedestrian access to 23rd Avenue East could be enhanced via several routes.

The Department is eager to hear your comments on the proposed acquisition at 24th Avenue and East Howell. You can contact Catherine Anstett, Seattle Parks and Recreation, 206/615-0386 (catherine.anstett@ci.seattle.wa.us) to offer your ideas and comments. Further information about the Pro Parks Levy is available on the web at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/pro Parks/>. ▼▼



### Road Trip, continued from page 1

same way that telephone messaging, voice mail, menu, press 1, etc. are not for communicating. We said a prayer of thanks when we got out of those hills.

The family visit was very pleasant. We attended a high school pep-rally with skits, loud music and dancing. Our grandchildren are going to be fine. We parted good friends with their gift of ripe lemons from the tree in the backyard and sandwiches for the journey. Fruit, produce, and wine around Santa Rosa are good quality and cheaper than at home. [Cheapest gas was \$1.09 in southern Oregon and highest in N. California at \$1.79.] On the return trip we saw herds of elk grazing at the roadside, and numerous black vultures hovering

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

More people than ever are turning to Community Supported Agriculture as a direct link to the best and freshest organic vegetables and an opportunity to support a vanishing institution: the family farm. Penn Cove Organics offers you an opportunity to do the same — and with a convenient pick-up point right here in Madison Valley.

From June through October you will receive a box full of certified organic seasonal produce — a wide variety of greens as well as 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. With your subscription to Penn Cove Organics, 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](mailto:hilborn@whidbey.net).

over treetops as they migrate slowly north. We crossed wild rivers and ran in the shadow of rust-colored cliffs and ancient mountains of green and red rock. The redwood trees are magnificent, even the young ones only two hundred years old. Oregon's coast road is another wonder with miles of beach and dunes preserved for public use. Unlike Washington, they discourage driving vehicles on the sand.

The ride back was beset by heavy rain that obliterated the lane markers and killed visibility. One could run in the wake of a big truck and follow his lights in the dark. It was a mistake to try for home in one long dash into the night. Twice we got off the road to wait out the rain. What were these hundreds of cars doing out at 9:30 on a Sunday night? Why are they going full blast when they obviously can't see? After 1,800 miles on the odometer we found Cherry Street and crept home. No dents on the car, no blownout tire. I think next time we take the train. ▼▼

Note: For information about *Hostelling International* and hostels all over USA and Canada, call Seattle hostel at 381-9926, or [www.hiayh.org](http://www.hiayh.org). They are at 84 Union Street just below the Public Market.

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 Mail to the address above.

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**Secretary** - Miranda and Claire Levy  
**Treasurer** - Sarah Trethewey  
**Site Council Rep.** - Adrienne Bailey  
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**Next Community Council Meeting**

Tuesday, March 19, 2002, 7:30 p.m.  
 Martin Luther King Elementary School Portables  
 3201 E. Republican Street  
 (parking available on playfield) ☉ ☞

**Special Opportunity**

**Your Chance to Shine!**

Would you like to join the Board of Trustees at **Madison Market**, the natural foods cooperative on Capitol Hill in Seattle? We are currently recruiting for Board members for 2002-2003. Here's an opportunity to shine by volunteering in our community by sharing and honing your skills in the following areas:

- Financial/Accounting
- Legal
- Marketing/Advertising
- Negotiations/Problem-solving
- Nutrition/Health
- Retail

Madison Market is a member-owned cooperative in business to provide our community with a great, service-oriented natural foods store. The Board's role is to provide direction for the store on behalf of the membership.

**NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS**

The Greater Madison Valley Community Council has a **NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS**.  
 From now on, you can reach us at:  
**gmfcc@hotmail.com**

We love to hear from you; please write early and often!

**SUPPORT THE VALLEY VIEW NEWSLETTER**

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