

The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 103, May 2002

E-mail: gmvcc@hotmail.com

President's View

by Gary Emslie

Finally, the long lost sun has returned. Seen the P-Patch lately? It's growing and with this growth comes a variety of perspectives. The patch sports a new lettuce, patchy produce to be donated to the local food banks, and the children's garden (M. L. King and Bush students have pledged their interest and effort). The patch needs your help: more volunteers are needed to help maintain the patch. Can you help?

Neighbors work to remove tons of trash: remember the snowfall in April? Hearty neighbors whose property adjoins the alley way between 30th and 31st on Harrison were out in the snow working. To everyone's amazement they found the volume of garbage

beneath the brambles staggering. Together, the city and the community provided funding to provide dumpsters and a frontloader (backhoe). Workers removed over 40 tons of garbage. There is still more work to be completed and neighbors have yet to find consensus around issues of vehicle access to the alley way. Many thanks to the families who contributed to this effort to clean up this neighborhood eyesore.

Mark your calendars: the annual courtyard sale is scheduled for July 13th from 10-4 p.m. in the Bush Urban Courtyard. If you have donations contact Eli Stahlhut, Jerry Sussman, or Gary Emslie via our e-mail address at gmvcc@hotmail.com. Some pick ups can be arranged.

Traffic issues continue to trouble the neighborhood. A group of concerned neighbors have begun an investigation

into how to improve the intersection at Madison and East John. Eastbound and westbound traffic have a hard time seeing one another coming, primarily because the hill is so steep. Share your thoughts with Lonnie Lusardo at 325-4595 who is coordinating this conversation.

It was proposed at the last council meeting that we initiate a Good Neighbor Award. What do you think about the idea? Do you have a neighbor who because of their efforts deserves special recognition? Let us hear from you.

And finally, what would you like to see added to this newsletter? Bring or send your ideas to the next council meeting at the portable on the M. L. King playfield on May 21st. at 7:30 p.m. See you there. ▼▼

Community Council Business

May Meeting Attendees Will Nominate and Elect 2002-2003 Officers

Each May, the Greater Madison Valley Community Council elects officers for the coming year. Officers serve from June of one year to May of the following. The officer positions and their primary responsibilities comprise:

- ◆ President: ultimately responsible for the smooth operations of the Council; sets agenda and runs monthly Council meetings, contributes a monthly overview of neighborhood issues for publication in this newsletter;
- ◆ Vice President: supports the President in all job responsibilities and sets agendas and runs Council meetings in the President's absence;
- ◆ Secretary: takes minutes at each Council meetings and submits them for inclusion in this newsletter;
- ◆ Treasurer: maintains Council's books, prepares invoices, accepts payments, and reports regularly on the

Council's financial health;

- ◆ Site Council Representative: represents the Council at M. L. King School and the City Neighborhood Council.

The slate of nominees for the 2002-2003 term include:

- ◆ President: Gary Emslie
- ◆ Vice-President: Charles McDade
- ◆ Secretary: Claire and Miranda Levy (as co-secretaries)
- ◆ Treasurer: Nominations Sought
- ◆ Site Council Representative: Adrienne Bailey.

Additional nominations will be sought at the upcoming Council meeting on May 21 in the M. L. King portables. A vote to select officers for the 2002-2003 term will follow.

All neighbors are encouraged to attend this meeting. ▼▼



Upcoming Events

May – June Community Activities

✓ **SATURDAY, MAY 11: ANNUAL KIDS BIKE SWAP.** Trade and/or buy. Why not trade in an outgrown kids' bike (24" wheels or smaller) and take home a previously owned kids' bike that fits. Even if you don't have a bike to trade in, come on down, because bikes are also for sale at bargain prices. This event even coincides with this year's first Bicycle Saturday, on Lake Washington Boulevard at the same time. **LOCATION:** Genesee Playfield, S. Genesee Street and 43rd Ave. S. **TIME:** 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

✓ **MONDAY, MAY 13 THRU SATURDAY, MAY 18: SEATTLE CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL.** Be a part of the largest performing arts festival for families in North America! The annual six-day extravaganza in Seattle features professional performers from around the world – Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia, and the Americas. **LOCATION:** Seattle Center. **FOR MORE INFORMATION:** www.seattleinternational.org.

✓ **SATURDAY, MAY 18: FRIENDS OF SEWARD PARK PLANT AND BAKE SALE.** Perennial plants donated by Friends of Seward Park, local nurseries, and two estate gardeners are available. The sale also includes some heirloom tomatoes and native plants. The bake sale will feature everything from maple walnut cupcakes, sweet potato pies, and the best Chex mix ever. **LOCATION:** 5900 Lake Washington Blvd. **TIME:** 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY EVENTS

✓ **EARTHQUAKE RETROFIT YOUR HOUSE:** May 14, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Find out how to evaluate your house for earthquake safety and examine retrofit methods, tools, and code requirements.

✓ **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:** MAY 23, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Learn how you and your neighbors can reduce and even prevent the potentially devastating effects of an earthquake or other disaster in this event led by the program manager of the Seattle Disaster Aid & Response Teams.

✓ **INVEST IN YOURSELF AND YOUR FUTURE:** JUNE 11, 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. It's never too late to begin a savings plan! Find out how to start saving and planning for retirement no matter your income level.

✓ **BOOK GROUP:** The book for May 28 is Lydia Minatoya's Talking to High Monks in the Snow.

All Neighborhood Academy 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! ▼▼

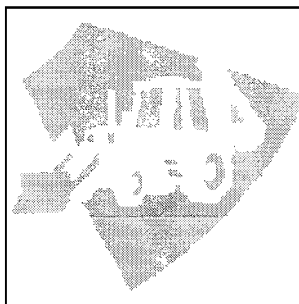
Community Activity roster compiled by newsletter staff. If you would like your event listed, contact us at gmrvcc@hotmail.com.



Valley Notes

Light at the End of the Alley

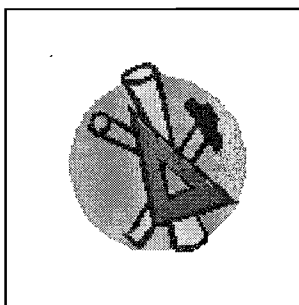
As you see in the April meeting minutes, the alley cleanup (or digging out?) off Harrison Street proved to be a Herculean task. It was Hercules, the mighty man of ancient



Greece, who was ordered by the oracle to perform ten daunting labors. One of these was the cleaning out of the Augean stables where the droppings of huge herds of animals had piled up for eons. Hercules diverted two rivers, ran them through the impacted barns and washed them clear in less than a day. Unfortunately our Harrison family, who faced a similar massive blockage, had no

Hercules to call upon. At last the Health Department and the illegal dumping people came through by providing a large dumpster, but the family had to bear the substantial cost of renting a backhoe and paying the operator to dig it all up. The City hauled away over forty tons of garbage and contaminated soil. Neighbors in the council expressed sympathy for the family and tried to think of sources of monetary help. The City did leave a No Dumping sign, and the neighbors promised to keep a sharp eye out for the first miscreant to drop even a bottle anywhere in the vicinity.

Washington Park Fieldhouse Project



The council's design work for renovation of the Parks Department fieldhouse is almost complete. We met many times with the Parks people and heard opinions of dozens of valley residents. The plan that is emerging calls for a reopened facility with new kitchen and

(Continued on page 3)

Community Council Minutes

Minutes for GMVCC Meeting of April 16, 2002

Gary called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There was a quorum.

Sarah gave the treasurer's report. The Council has about \$5,000 in savings. We are looking for businesses to place ads in the newsletter to help defray the costs of printing and postage. Potential advertisers should contact newsletter staff at gmvc@hotmail.com.

The next event coming up is the courtyard sale, scheduled for July 13th from 10:00 am to 4:00 p.m. The storage area will be ready by June 10th, so start collecting! Volunteers will be need for prep, pricing, and cleanup.

Neighbors who did most of the organizing of the alley-clean up told us about the progress that was made. Forty tons of garbage was removed from the site — and there is still work to be done! A big thank you to all who led and were involved in this important project.

Adam Kline will be visiting at one of our upcoming meetings to inform us of his plans for the future. More details on the date of this meeting to come.

Sarah reported that the P-patch is doing great. There are two new additions: a children's plot, being used by the kids from MLK and Bush, and a lettuce link, with extra produce to be donated to the food bank. Thank you Sarah for all your hard work! The p-patchers are considering an Earth Day cleanup; call Sarah at 325-3734 for more details.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. ▼▼

Minutes prepared by Claire Levy, Secretary.

Valley Notes, continued

toilet, heating system, insulated walls and modern utilities. There will be two large meeting spaces (one with a fireplace) that can be used by all community organizations, theater or musical groups, and students from local schools who visit the Arboretum. The Japanese Garden Society and athletic teams would likely use the building regularly. The Arboretum Foundation, whose Master Plan includes activities at the south end of the Arboretum, expressed support for our initiative. We hope to present the detailed drawings of the reconstruction with cost estimates in May. We expect to play a part in finding the money to accomplish the work.

Honor to a Teacher in Our Midst

The Washington State Council for the Social Studies gave their Teacher of the Year award to Libby Sinclair, who has

Paid Advertisement

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.

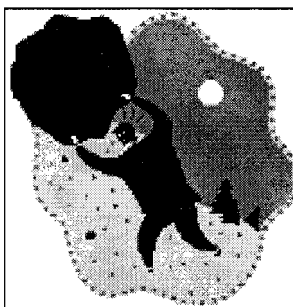
All are grown on Whidbey Island and picked the day before delivery. With your subscription to Penn Cove Organics, you also get a weekly newsletter full of recipes and stories from the farm.

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.

raised her children here and been our good neighbor over twenty years. Ms. Sinclair teaches in Seattle Public Schools



Alternative Elementary #2 (82 for short), near Nathan Eckstein. She tells us her class has been studying the labor movement in the early 1900's when workers struggled for the eight-hour day, better wages and safety on the job. The students will present the fruit of their work in a vaudeville like show at school, and will also

perform it in several nursing homes in the city. ▼▼

Valley Notes compiled by newsletter staff. If you have a "news tip," please contact the Valley View at gmvc@hotmail.com

THE VALLEY VIEW
 2802 East Madison St., Box 184
 Seattle, WA 98112
 Greater Madison Valley
 Community Council
 Member of the Seattle
 Community Council Federation
Newsletter Staff
 Miriam Roskin, Editor
 Jerry Sussman
 Cathy Nunneley
 Eli Stahlhut

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
 Seattle, WA
 Permit No. 6873

The Valley View is published 10 times each year.
Deadline: First of each month.
 Your submissions are appreciated!
 Mail to the address above.
2001-2002 Officers
President - Gary Emslie
Vice President - Charles McDade
Secretary - Miranda and Claire Levy
Treasurer - Sarah Trethewey
Site Council Rep. - Adrienne Bailey
E-mail: gmvcc@hotmail.com

Next Community Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 21, 2002, 7:30 p.m.
 Martin Luther King Elementary School Portables
 3201 E. Republican Street
 (parking available on playfield) ☺ ☞

Paid Advertisement



Community Day School Association

summer camp now enrolling
 at the following locations:

- Bush** (Call 326-7759)
Serving incoming grades K – 5, starting June 17
- Hawthorne** (Call 725-2252)
Serving incoming grades 4 – 6, starting July 1
- Leschi** (Call 323-9465)
Serving grades preschool – 3, starting July 1
- Montlake** (Call 323-8299)
Serving incoming grades K – 6, starting July 1

- ✓ Minimum three-week enrollment
- ✓ \$140 per week
- ✓ Subsidized funding is welcome

Community Day School has provided non-profit before and after school and summer camp enrichment programs for 25 years.

**CONTACT THE VALLEY VIEW
 ANY TIME YOU WANT!**

The Greater Madison Valley Community Council has a
NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS.
 You can reach us at:
gmvcc@hotmail.com

SUPPORT THE VALLEY VIEW NEWSLETTER

Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Address: _____

Donation Amount: _____ I don't receive the Valley View; please add me to the mailing list.

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

GMVCC ▼ 2802 E. Madison Street, #184 ▼ Seattle, WA 98112