



The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

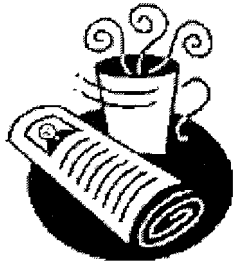
Issue 104, June 2002

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Guest View

The South Seattle Star Lands on Our Valley

The Star is a new community newspaper that aims to cover our little spot of earth and all points south. Other areas like Capitol Hill and Madison Park have long had their local journals that make their mark with detailed reporting and commercial know-how. The upstart enters the lists in the same territory as The Facts and The Medium. Right out of the gate this new paper gets a rise out of me. In its issue number 2 their political writer bounced our Madison Valley plumb out of the Central District into no-man's-land. The issue, of course, is gentrification.



Who can deny that a sea-change has swept up and down Madison and throughout the valley? Once a line of shabby buildings, empty lots and failed businesses littered the street. In fifteen years stylish restaurants, antique shops, clothing boutiques and luxury pet emporiums made it all new. Rows of small houses down the valley from Union Street, put up originally to house workers between the two world wars, were the most modest in the city. Today they are remodeled and sell for \$200,000 and up. To make her point the Star reporter takes aim at the little Madison Valley Mart opposite Café Flora. It reopened after a fire. Presto! No more bars on the windows, no fried takeout, beer or cigarettes. Now we got upscale brands and everything costs more. This groundshift in housing and places to

shop drives low income clientele away and the black families of the neighborhood must move on. Median income rises steeply and whites move in. Ipso facto we are gentrified and we are no longer in the Central District.

Last year in these columns we ran an article by Aaron Dixon that asserted that black and Asian communities were being displaced from their long time homes by the operation of the white-controlled economy. He also lamented the damage inflicted by the spread of deadly drugs. The topic quickly moves people to anger and frustration. All the issues of re-segregation, affirmative action, and the gaps in academic achievement surge in on us. To his many respondents Dixon answered that the City should act to ensure that families not be forced out of established communities by rising prices.

The story in the Star was probably by its publisher, Wallis Bolz, who is an astute writer. We remember her as one of the organizers of opposition to the University of Washington's grandiose plan to change the Arboretum. She is new here, so she didn't know that we had raised a protest during Mayor Rice's term when his central community development project published a map showing the CD terminating on the north at Union Street. We cried, "How and why did you cut out our area with its virtually all-black student population at Martin Luther King Elementary and its century-old black family connections?" The City promptly revised its map to show us in the Central Area right up to Madison and the fringes of the Arboretum.

If the number of black families is declining and people are being pushed from their homes, we can do something about it. The market is without conscience, so we voters must act. To its credit the Star recognizes that a neighborhood should belong to its residents. The paper supports a levy that will encourage lower cost rentals and assistance to moderate income homebuyers. They are following the tug of war on the issue between the mayor and the City Council. Watch for the Star; it's coming to a stand near you.▼▼

Nearby News

Help Save Our Trees!

by Linda Hanson

FORM (Friends of the Ravine on Madrona) is seeking your help to save the trees in the ravine next to Madrona Drive. The ravine is a wonderful resource for all of us who value the open space and tree tops from the pedestrian bridge, appreciate the birds that nest and feed there, or simply enjoy the healthful benefits of clean, fresh air that the trees help produce.

FORM has held two very productive work parties in April and May. You can see our progress from the bridge. Our third work party was held on June 8 at 10:00 a.m. The work parties are a great way to meet your neighbors and get good work done. Please join us at future events!

Congratulations to landscape architect, Page Crutcher with Barker Landscape Architects, hired by FORM to develop the long range vegetation management plan for the ravine. The

(Continued on page 2)

Madrona's Trees, continued

public is invited to two meetings scheduled at 7:00 p.m. at the **Madrona Shelterhouse** to assist in the plan development:

- **June 13** to review an early plan draft
- **July 11** to discuss the final plan

We will welcome your thoughts for the development of this plan.

For additional information about work parties, meetings or to give your support for this effort, call Linda Hanson at 206-324-5554. ▼▼



P-Patch Notes

Time for Spring Cleaning

by Sarah Trethewey

Thanks to some of the neighbors and some of the p-patchers, the p-patch is looking a lot better than it did a month ago. P-patch folks are hoping that the community is able to use some items that are not needed:

- Firewood — some of the pieces are very large.
- Broken concrete — all sizes and shapes; can be used to fill in holes and build walkways and walls.
- Leaf mold — good as a mulch in established gardens.
- Old stop sign posts — 4 in x 4 in, with cheerily painted red and white stripes; different lengths.

If you can use any of these things, please feel free to collect them from the site (immediately south of Madison on 30th Ave East, at the bottom of the bluff right below City People's Nursery). Please do so ASAP, because if the materials are not removed by the end of June, neighbors will have to start hauling whatever is left to the dump. ▼▼

The Mad-P's Place in the World

by Larry Grant

We like to talk about the Mad P-Patch as a one-of-a-kind; however, it is but one of 46 p-patches located through many neighborhoods across Seattle. In fact, our own neighborhood also boasts the cozy Ida Mia garden p-patch near Lake Washington Blvd and Madison. I tried to find it three times and was successful only when given the hint to walk down the alley by the video store and look for the Buffalo wood cut-out under the assault of blackberries.

Around Seattle there are 1,600 family/individual garden

[continued from previous column]

plots that directly serve 4,500 urban gardeners. Special programs serve refugees as well as low-income, disabled, and youth gardeners. The "Lettuce Link" project coordinates the delivery of literally tons of fresh donated produce to food banks every year.

At the Mad-P we are reframing our beds and gardeners are encouraged to grow an extra row for the food bank. The third graders from MLK elementary school have graciously dedicated all the food they grow to the food bank. We will use the CAMP Food Bank at 722 18th Avenue East.

June is the month where vegetable and flower gardeners discover that they do not have enough soil space to plant all the seeds and transplants in their garden dreams. With the sun out and no more snow to fall, here are some good herbs and vegetables to get going on: cilantro, dill, garlic, chives, green onions, amaranth, greens, quinoa, lettuce, and beans (three kinds!: snap, bush, and pole), cucumbers, and summer squash. Some of the many flowers to sow include borage, butterfly flower, calendula, lace flower, nasturtium (the third graders are growing the tall variety amid their climbing peas on a bamboo teepee), slipper flowers, sunflowers, and zinnia. And so many more! Why not check out the wonderful local guide to growing plants in the "Maritime Seattle Tilth Guide." It not only offers lists of plants, but also tells you the best varietal types to grow here. It's chockful of insight and information and will only set you back about a tenspot. You can get it all over town, including our own neighborhood's City People's Nursery.

If you're out and about on Saturday, July 6, come join us at the p-patch at 10:00 a.m. for a work party. Or just come by any time — we'd love to see you. The p-patch is located at 30th Avenue East and East Madison. For more information call Larry at 329-1159. Also, you can reach the City of Seattle's P-Patch Office at 684-0264. ▼▼

Neighborhood News

Washington Park Fieldhouse

by Jerry Sussman

The Council's grant project to renovate the fieldhouse at the Madison end of the Arboretum is at its fruiting time. Our architect, Kent Johnson, has completed his preliminary design, submitted the plans to the citizens in the Council, and twice with revisions to the Parks Department. With removal of inside partitions and addition of new meeting space, a kitchen, toilet and storage areas, the proposal sets out an enlarged and eminently useful building. We have a professional estimate of the construction cost and some suggestions about securing the money to build it. Our project committee meets with Parks officials and the Department of Neighborhoods June 17 to show these plans and to urge the project ahead. ▼▼

Community Council Minutes

Minutes for GMVCC Meeting of May 21, 2002

Vice President Charles McDade called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

There was a correction to last month's minutes. During the discussion of the P-patch Charlene Strong and Kate Fleming expressed their concerns related to the extension of the patch. It was also noted that the lettuce link and planting for the food bank had not yet begun. They urged that p-patchers and community members join them in cleaning up debris.

In a related item, it was reported that at a recent p-patcher meeting there was discussion about the limits and extension of the patch. Some neighbors are reluctant to plant in their patches because of unresolved issues with other neighbors and p-patchers.

Sarah, the Council's treasurer, informed the council that without fundraising, we would be out of money in eight to ten months. Charles suggested that the non-working accounts in the name of the council should be looked into.

Next, nominees for the officers' election were nominated. The only new nominee was Candace Poncedeleon for treasurer. There was a motion for a full vote of the nominees and it was seconded and passed by vote of the Council.

The officers are now:

- **President, Gary Emslie**
- **Vice President, Charles McDade**
- **Treasurer, Candace Poncedeleon**
- **Secretary, Miranda and Claire Levy.**

Dana Warren and Frank Magusin from the Bush school spoke about the remodeling of the school. Construction will begin in June of 2003 at the earliest. It will take about fourteen months to complete. After the rebuilding there will be no change in the student population. An underground parking garage will be built underneath the playfield. The school is currently in the process of acquiring a variance for 2% more lot coverage so the parking lot can be completed. Dana Warren can be contacted if there any concerns at (206) 749-9484. In addition, Robin Bentley from the Bush school can be reached at (206) 326-7771. There was a motion to add this topic to the next meeting agenda. It was seconded and passed with no objections.

July 13th is the date of the annual courtyard sale. The profits from the sale will bring in four to five months of newsletters. A statement for tax deductions is available for those who donate. Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean up. Call Eli Stalhut for more information at 322-7196.

The final design of the field house at Washington Park is

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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.

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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.

now ready. A cost estimator will help to determine how much money will be needed to complete the project. The next phase of the project involves working with the people from the Arboretum and the Seattle Parks Department to get the job done.

Next, there was a presentation by a neighbor concerning the parks of the Denny Blaine area. Viretta Park, among others, is in need of restoration. The Seattle Parks Department wrote a letter saying they would begin the restoration soon, but it was pointed out that they had previously made this statement and have not followed up on their promises. There was also concern about the City-sponsored "Adopt a Street" signs that appear throughout the neighborhood serving principally as free advertising.

Neighbor Wallis Bolz has recently published two issues of the new newspaper, The South Seattle Star. It highlights neighborhood events and information about places in the South Seattle area. ▼▼

Minutes prepared by Claire Levy, Secretary.

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2001-2002 Officers

President - Gary Emslie
Vice President - Charles McDade
Secretary - Miranda and Claire Levy
Treasurer - Poncedeleon
Site Council Rep. - Adrienne Bailey
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Next Community Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 18, 2002, 7:30 p.m.
 Martin Luther King Elementary School Portables
 3201 E. Republican Street
 (parking available on playfield) ☉

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Community Day School Association

summer camp now enrolling
 at the following locations:

- Bush** (Call 326-7759)
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- 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.

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 ANY TIME YOU WANT!**

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