



# The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 107, November 2002

circulation #5?

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## President's View

Thanks to the many volunteers who helped to make the annual spaghetti dinner a neighborhood success. Also, thanks to the student performers/ unicyclists and musicians alike. Good food shared with great neighbors.

I hope that you notice the new ads in the past two newsletters. Volunteers have been trying to contact neighborhood business, new and old, in order to share their many talents with our readers. A special welcome is due our new neighbor, the restaurant Gitano. You will find them three doors east of Martin Luther King on Madison. Stop in and say hello.

Last year at this time, I was reminded of those in our neighborhood who are in need. With the events of the last 12 months, our economy and employment figures have dramatically changed. As a result, we have many more families in need. My contacts at the food banks suggest that their shelf stock

is lower than it has been at any other time in the last 18 months. We can help. Please think about donating food to the Providence Regina House Food Bank (206-322-2107) or Northwest Harvest (1-800-722-6924). All food donations are welcome. Support your neighbors.

Recent council meetings have been open forums for political candidates and November ballot issues. We hope these sessions were informative and helped to inform your vote on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

The council still seeks volunteers to help with the newsletter and with the Arb Fieldhouse renovation project. The council seeks new ideas and serves as the neighborhood's podium on local, regional, state, national, and international issues. Get involved.

The next council meeting is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in the portable at Martin Luther King Elementary school. I hope to see you

## Neighborhood News

### The Bush School

Whether you are looking for something to do, or if you would like to get to know The Bush School a little better, the following events may be a perfect opportunity. Come and hear a great guest speaker, see a play, do some holiday shopping, or, if you like, drop in and experience what The Bush School has to offer. It's a great way to get to know us, and we always enjoy it when we can meet our neighbors. Please join us!

The Bush School Parent's Association presents Jennifer Wyatt, a UW Professor of English who has recently co-authored, *The Launching Years - Strategies for Parenting from Senior to College Life* (Three Rivers Press, 2002). What does it take to be a successful parent as your child prepares to enter adult life? Is there life after high school for you and your kids?

Continued on page 2

## School News

### Martin Luther King School Alert

by Jack Irwin, Staff Writer

King School's status and even its future existence may be up on the firing line again. A chain reaction flowing from the district's scandal of miscounted millions is rumbling down our valley. We learn from Seattle Times columnist Nicole Brodeur (Local News, November 5) that the Seattle School District is considering closure of the TOPS alternative school on north Capitol Hill to save money. TOPS has a program that involves racial and high-low income groups in a promising academic setting. The school's goal is to provide black families and others the assurance that their children are performing at their top potential. Because of its financial woes the administration wants to limit or disperse the TOPS program and send its students back to their local schools. They would return to places like King School which would be re-made as a purely neighborhood school as it was up through the 1960's. There's the rub: King School's academic record has been among the lowest in the region. Of course the parents at TOPS are protesting this plan. The school board will discuss the matter at their meeting November 6 when we will be going to press. We'll report to you in our December

issue.

Brodeur delivers sobering information: last year less than three percent of fourth graders at King School met the state standards in math. Reading scores are also very low. She tells us that not one family picked King as a first choice for their child's placement. As the community paper pledged to the support of this public school how can we account for this? How can we reverse the situation? Surely this is not a unique problem. Consider that forty years ago Seattle's public schools served 100,000 students; today that figure is below 50,000.

Our Madison Valley council grew out of MLK's PTA in the 1950's. It was then called Harrison School. The council now reaches up to 23rd, down Madison to both sides of the Arboretum, and eastward to Denny Blaine and the lake. We reach out to most households between Madison Park and Madrona. Our concerns are broad, for we take in the public school's constituency and that of the more affluent Bush School area. The position of the council is that we must attend to and represent all interests in this wider community. To provide fuller information to our readers we urge council president Gary Emslie and our representative at King School, Adrienne Bailey, to invite speakers from the administration and the school to appear at our next community meeting. It is Tuesday, November 19, at 7:30. Please come.

## Neighborhood News Continued

Jenny will specifically address these and related issues. Her books will be available to purchase at the event. The lecture takes place on November 5, at 7:00 p.m. in Benaroya Theater. Admission is free and open to the public.

Spend an evening in the drawing room of a household that has been turned (hilariously) upside down when you come to see The Bush Upper School Fall Play: Moliere's *The Learned Ladies*. Centered around three domestic calamities wrought by a pretentious matriarch, this sophisticated satire sparkles with wit, ridicules hypocrisy, and reveals that human folly has not diminished in the more than three hundred years since Moliere penned it. Marriages are being hideously arranged, a pretentious poet is being courted as a celebrity, and the "help" is being fired for using incorrect grammar. It's all so wrong! Performances are Wednesday, November 6 through Saturday, November 9 @ 7 p.m. and on Sunday, November 10 @ 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00, call Terry at 206-322-7978 for reservations.

If you would like to learn about The Bush School, there will be an Admission's open house for the Middle School on November 13, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and for the Upper School on November 14, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Please call Catherine at 206-326-7736 if you have any questions.

In *Vivian and the Blue Dragon* — the 6th grade play written and directed by Joanne Keegan — you will meet Vivian the almost sorceress, the enchanting Lady of the Lake, the gallant Green Knight, the fearsome Blue Dragon, and many more exciting characters in this irreverent look at the world of King Arthur and his court. Performance dates: November 20, 21, and 22 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00, call Terry at 206-322-7978 for reservations.

Come do your holiday shopping at the Bush Book Fair. The Secret Garden Bookstore provides us with a great selection of quality books. The event is held in the Bush School Library for 2 days only: Wednesday, December 4 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and Thursday, December 5 from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Twenty five percent of the sales go to the Bush School Library.

## Professional Development Possibilities Explored at Meany Middle School

One of the greatest challenges for many principals today, is to provide staff members with relevant opportunities where teachers can grow professionally that fit overarching school goals. As result of limited time for professional development and external pressures, professional development opportunities often do not fit the everyday needs of teachers and fit other agendas. Just recently the staff at Meany had the opportunity to participate in meaningful site-specific professional development that was popular among teachers. What made this particular professional development opportunity so meaningful?

\* The professional development was tailored in ways that met

the specific needs of the teachers at Meany Middle School. Example: Meany has just recently switched the daily schedule from 55-minute periods to 1:45 minute blocks. Many teachers were challenged with developing meaningful strategies that would keep students engaged throughout the long period.

\* To meet this need leaders led Meany's staff through a variety of stations that modeled desired teaching practices. The topics of the stations directly related to Meany's two major focuses; Literacy and Race. As a result of the stations teachers were left with numerous teaching strategies that they could in their classrooms use within the same week.

\* On site professional development matched perfectly with the major focus of Meany's Academic Achievement Plan (Literacy/Race).

\* Directly related to how to teach within the new hour and forty-five minute block schedule.

\* Teacher Leaders modeled best practices reinforcing the types of teaching practices desired by Meany's administration.

Meany has invested in a .6 on site staff developer, whose task among others, is to plan Professional Development.

## GARFIELD SCHOOL NEWS

### Announcements:

Garfield Jazz Band holds its free kickoff concert at 7PM Thursday Nov 14th at the Mt Baker Community Club. Refreshments!! For info: 633-5528 For upcoming concerts check out the Bulldog Jazz website: <http://klik.to/garfieldjazz>

Post 84, Garfield's outdoor education program sponsors Fall Survival Nov 15-17. Call Ms Jenni at 252-2343 for info.

Garfield's Book Club welcomes everyone to discuss great books. Next meeting: Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 6PM in the LRC. For info: [sataylor@seattleschools.org](mailto:sataylor@seattleschools.org)

Subscriptions to the Messenger, the student paper are available for \$35. Make check to Garfield and send to Messenger, GHS, 400 32nd Ave 98122. Your contributions greatly support these budding journalists while informing you of Garfield's campus life.

### News:

The senior class party has been deemed a liability by the school district. This late decision has left parents scrambling to make plans for their graduating students. The announcement came too late for many private celebratory venues. Parents are meeting to discuss options.

Garfield PTSA has adopted an anti-war resolution. This highly unusual political stance was deemed necessary given the current world situation and risks a war would represent to our children as well as the financial commitment that would detract from education funds.

## Neighborhood News Continued

## Advertising Opportunities

### ML KING SCHOOL NEWS

#### Announcements:

Parent-teacher conferences are set for 11/18-11/26. Students will be dismissed at 1:15 during the conference period.

The PTSA will host a raffle to raise funds on 1/16. First prize will be a 13" color TV. They are actively looking for other sponsors for prizes. There will be a winter festival 12/11 with student performances.

ML King will participate in the Box Tops for Education Program, another fundraiser. Students will collect General Mills box tops. The class with the most tops will be treated to a pizza party.

### Current Issues in the Council

1. Traffic volume on Dorffel, 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Lake Washington Blvd
2. Speeding on the neighborhood streets
3. Renovation of the Arboretum field house to be used as a shared meeting space for our Council as well as Madison Park and several organizations
4. Support of local schools (see page 1 alert)
5. Maintenance of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue greenbelt
6. Support neighborhood clean-up efforts

Please feel free to bring us your concerns. We may be able to help!!

### Community Council Minutes

#### GMVCC Meeting, October 15, 2002

The meeting was called to order by Charles McDade at 7:30 pm. A quorum was present. The minutes were approved, after a short discussion on the pea patch concerns.

New treasurer Candace Poncedeleon reported that the check account is solvent with a balance above \$5000. Several other accounts dating from projects of past years give confusing information and are hard to interpret. B. Baillargeon offered to call an accountant neighbor who will come to help Candace straighten out the record. Motion made and passed to wait till next meeting for fuller treasurer's report. Candace pleased to have this help. Cost of spaghetti dinner next time too.

Kevin Shively represented his non-profit organization to protest R-51. The organization's concerns included gas prices, taxing, and how the money will actually be put into effect.

Jay Saucedo spoke as a volunteer from Seattle Districts Now. The movement asks that representatives at City Hall be elected by district, rather than as a whole for the entire city of Seattle.

Sue Partride spoke for Citizens Against the Monorail. While she stresses that her group is in favor of mass transit, they feel that this particular design of monorail transportation is

Attention all Neighborhood businesses!

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The Valley View. Over 1600 residents and businesses in the area receive our newsletter.

You will receive the excellent benefits of promotional advertising while supporting the Council's work in the neighborhood.

For information and an application, please call or email

Cathy Nunneley

206-329-4083

[jnunneley@yahoo.com](mailto:jnunneley@yahoo.com).

unacceptable. It was reported that Viretta Park will soon have a rehabilitated path, connecting parks and increased maintenance.

Bill spoke about recent events concerning the traffic situation. This particularly involved discussion on the recent signs put up, warning drivers to slow down on the small streets. Committees that were formed regarding this issue are encouraged to continue working as progress is indeed being made.

A proposal was made, saying that the CC will not approve any action combating the traffic unless it will benefit all the streets equally. While the committee works on this, there will be applications to public officials to get legal signs. The proposal was tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

**Next Community Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 19,**  
**2002 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Martin Luther King Elementary**  
**School Portables**  
**3201 E. Republican Street**  
**(parking available on playfield)**

**THE VALLEY VIEW**  
 184 33rd Avenue East (temporary)  
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 Greater Madison Valley Community Council  
 Member of the Seattle  
 Community Council Federation  
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 Seattle, WA  
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The Valley View is published 10 times each year.  
 Deadline: First of each month. Your submissions are appreciated! Mail to the address above.

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