

# The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 97, October 2001

E-mail: madisonvalley@juno.com

## President's View

by Gary Emslie

The tragic events of September 11th and the following declaration of war has altered our collective focus. Nightly reminders of family losses and heroic actions grind deep. How do individuals help? How do they support their neighbors? Giving blood was a first response for many of us. Donations of time and or money to the Red Cross helped others. But what of war? Anticipation lingers heavy on the minds of all citizens. What is next? Where?

We are told that many have sought peace and understanding in their neighborhood churches, mosques, and synagogues. We are conditioned to seek immediate solutions and none surface to ease the tension. Neighbors talking to neighbors can help us to avoid the mindless rage often associated with fear of the unknown/unknowable. Our

work as neighbors is even more important today than it was a few weeks ago. There are ways to help. Just one of the many that come to mind: our food banks are never overstocked. Ironically, our neighbors' fruit trees are full. Often the fruit is left to fall and rot. Why not help a neighbor harvest that fruit and take it to the food bank? Your conscious act of support will make a difference.

We must continue to press forward with neighborhood agendas even in the face of terror. I'm told that the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods is on the verge of granting the community council funds to draw up restoration plans for the old fieldhouse at Washington Park, next to the soccer field. If that project progresses as planned, our community council may soon have a home of its own.

Other neighbors are planning the reclamation of the alley way between 30th and 31st. Volunteers will be needed to help cut down brambles and

bag up the trash, with the city likely to haul the trash away. If you can help, please contact Jerry at 325-6308.

Next council meeting will feature aspiring council members and their hopes for the city. And November brings us the 13th annual Spaghetti Dinner held at Martin Luther King Elementary School.

The agenda for our next community council meeting, on Tuesday, October 16 at 7:30 p.m., include a visit from the community policing team in our area. Hope to see you there.▼▼

Like many of us, the Valley View has lately been depressed and preoccupied. Apologies to readers for a later-than-normal publication date this month.

We hope that you join us in seeking ways to carry on and finding comfort in the community around you.

## Spaghetti Dinner Returns Friday, November 9, at 6:30 p.m. at King School

Our annual Spaghetti Dinner comes again November 9, the second Friday of the month.

This is a great and traditional get-together for the neighborhood as we celebrate the fall season and a chance to share a good dinner with good people.

Spaghetti (with both meat sauce and vegetarian sauce), salad, bread, and dessert will be served in the venerable King School lunch room. If we're lucky, this year will again bring entertainment as well!

The cost is a bargain-low \$3.50, and tickets are available in advance or at the door.

This event is not really a fund-raiser, as we typically clear just a bit over cost. However, the Community Council resolved at last meeting to donate all of this year's profits to the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

We hope to see you there.

## Commentary

### What Is to Be Done?

by Jack Irwin

The audacity and deadly success of the attacks on our country have left Americans with a somber sense of loss. We grieve and think uneasily of the clouded future. No wonder we hear calls for patriotism, unity, and resolve. But as the assault was of a new kind, so must be our response. I pray that wisdom and patience will guide our leaders. Military blows will doubtless come, but they must be intelligently aimed. Any action that carries the image of the West assailing Islamic innocents in their homeland will poison our efforts. Terrorists may slaughter innocents wholesale and

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Community Council Minutes

A regular meeting of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council was held on September 19, 2001. Minutes for this meeting and the next (October 16) will appear in the next newsletter.



## Correspondence

### A Reader Questions Aaron Dixon

Dear Editors:

I'm excited that we've got a local newspaper focused on the unique issues of the Madison Valley area. However, I would like to obtain clarification of a couple of points in Mr. Dixon's article about our Endangered Community [Seattle's Endangered Sense of Community, Valley View September, 2001]. Is Mr. Dixon suggesting that the incursion of new white residents into the neighborhood is somehow a potential threat to the cultural life of this community? As a neighbor and concerned community member, I'd like to give Mr. Dixon the benefit of the doubt, but his conclusions seem to suggest that the supposed process of "gentrification" is robbing the Madison Valley area of Black and Asian cultural influences. I would suggest that the value of new residents, no matter their color or economic background, should only be measured by their willingness to be caring and concerned neighbors.

Perhaps the editors of this magazine could request a clarification of Mr. Dixon's position? I'm very concerned that he sees new homeowners as some sort of threat to his historical way of life.

Thank you,  
Morgan Cole

*Aaron Dixon replies:*

In reply to Mr. Cole I would first like to say that caring and concerned neighbors are what this community and all communities need. However, when new people come into a neighborhood with different cultural values, they may be perceived in another way.

I believe gentrification is mostly a product of economics: those who can afford to buy, move in. And those who cannot afford the rising property taxes or rents must move out. When that happens the community begins to lose what it was and resentments sprout. We must find a way to accommodate those seeking to move in and to help those lower income residents who wish to stay. I'd like to see the City act to prevent the so-called free market from dispersing people from their community.

## Commentary, continued from page 1

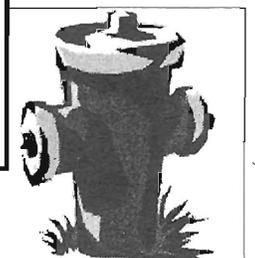
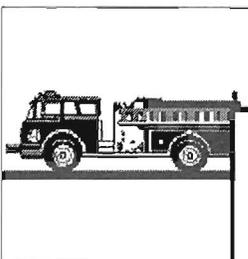
claim martyrdom, but we cannot. Yet we must act against the murderers.

We are the supposed masters of information technology as well as the richest country. Let us use these resources to counter the vile propaganda of terrorism in language that has meaning in the Muslim world. We can find ways to supply food and necessities to suffering Afghanistan. Let us show respect for traditional Islam that does not condone murder, and ourselves forswear any kind of religious crusading. Let us demonstrate that democracy respects all faiths, supports individual conscience, and seeks harmony in the world. Some humility about our great power is in order, too; we don't know everything, but we wish to strive for justice in this terrible time. ▼▼

## An Appreciation

We in Madison Valley and neighboring communities are fortunate to have the Seattle Fire Department's Station 34 in our midst. The station is at 633 32nd Avenue East, just south of Madison, and is home to Engine 34 and a crew of brave firefighters who not only answer fire emergencies but also respond to medical emergencies, inspect and maintain critical equipment, and provide safety education to our children. In Septembers and Novembers, many of us visit Station 34 to cast our election ballots, and we always get a friendly wave from those on duty.

The terrible events of September 11 make us take special note of these brave public servants. It should not take a catastrophe to open our eyes to the critical service offered by these members of our community, but frequently this is what happens. And so, in this time when we have seen the worst and the best of human nature emerge all within a span of several hours, we residents of Madison Valley salute and thank all those associated with Station 34 for your presence in our neighborhood and for the important work you do on our behalf. ▼▼



## Airport Affairs

In past years the Greater Madison Valley Community Council has voted to support certain resolutions put forth by the Seattle Council on Airport Affairs (SCAA). In May of this year the SCAA published a new resolution, reproduced below in its entirety.

At the Greater Madison Valley Community Council's September meeting, participants agreed to review the SCAA's May resolution and during the October meeting to discuss whether to support to the positions.

Note that further information on the SCAA and its positions can be found at its internet web site, at [www.scaa.org](http://www.scaa.org). —Ed.

SCN .099 / scaa

### SCAA Resolution

**Whereas** aircraft noise from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport operations has reached unacceptable levels in many of Seattle's communities;

**Whereas** the FAA has determined that increasing air traffic volumes will require shortening curfew hours (currently 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.), resulting in more flights and aircraft noise during nighttime over residential neighborhoods;

**Whereas** the Port of Seattle is seeking to increase the capacity of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport resulting in flight track changes and increased flights over Seattle's residential areas;

**Whereas** the FAA has concluded that it is not feasible to increase the usage of the established Duwamish/Elliott Bay Noise Abatement Corridor;

**Whereas** the FAA and the Port of Seattle have yet to implement the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) technology for arrivals, as was part of the mitigation agreement for the four-post plan;

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Seattle's elected and appointed public officials request a moratorium on the expansion of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport until the aircraft noise issues affecting Seattle's residential communities are adequately addressed, and a plan for noise reduction has been developed and accepted by affected communities;

That our elected and appointed public officials request an extension of the curfew hours for departures, from the current 10 p.m. - 6 a.m., to 9 p.m. - 7 a.m., to minimize sleep disturbance to residents, especially children;

That our elected and appointed public officials insist there be maximum utilization of the Duwamish/Elliott Bay Noise Abatement Corridor, and that flight tracks for arrivals and departures be reconfigured to accomplish this;

That our elected and appointed public officials advocate for a commission to determine a location for a new regional airport and that there be no further expenditure of money to increase the capacity of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport until such commission has completed its study;

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Seattle City Council, the Mayor of Seattle, the King County Executive, the King County Council, the Port of Seattle Commissioners, the Puget Sound Regional Council, the local State Legislators, and other elected and appointed public officials convey to the Washington State Congressional delegation our serious concern that the FAA has failed to adequately consider the impact of its policies on the residents of Seattle, and request our United States Senators and Representatives to advocate for the above actions.

END

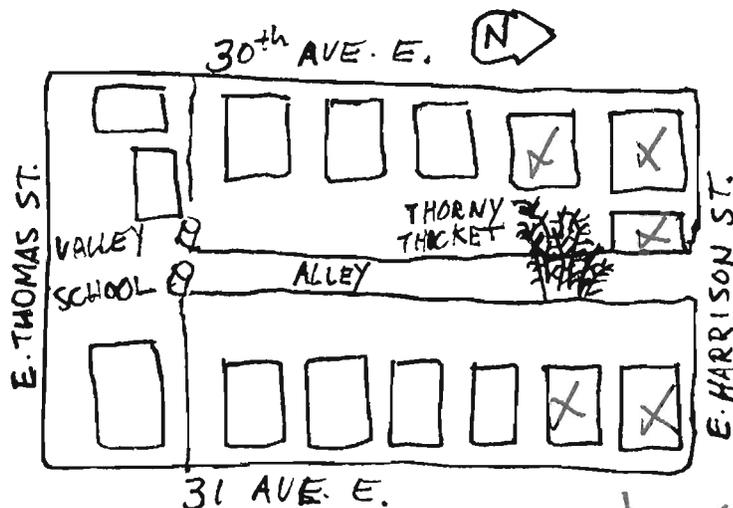
## Project Updates

### Alley Clean-Up

Last month a voter on 31st Avenue East called the Council about a problem in her alley (see map). She and her neighbors had been unable to use their alley because a huge thicket of blackberry and other noxious shrubbery completely blocks the way. Not only that, but the mass of briars hid a heap of bottles and trash. How could the Council help?

We called Ted Divina of the Neighborhood Service Center at 23rd and Jackson. He came and looked. We learn that the City will not help directly because this is an unimproved (unpaved) alley whose upkeep is the neighbors' responsibility. BUT if we citizens take action, the City will give support. We will canvass the people on the block to ensure a majority want their alley cleared. We will notify the Health Department about the likely presence of rats. Then, with the alley people's approval we will call a work party of volunteers to cut down the vines, stow the rubbish in bags, and have it all hauled away. Watch this space for developments.

Map of Plugged-Up Valley Alley



Talk w/ neighbors

### Traffic Circle Installed

After fits and starts and a world of paperwork, the traffic circle at 27th and Denny has finally come to be. Take a drive (slowly!) by the intersection and see what a little perseverance can achieve.

And in other traffic-circle-related news, the Department of Neighborhoods, in collaboration with SeaTran, is sponsoring a special initiative to improve Seattle traffic circles through its Neighborhood Matching Fund. Neighborhood groups consisting of at least four households can apply to the Small and Simple Projects Fund (part of the Matching Fund) for up-front cash awards of up to \$500 per project and then use that money and other resources to landscape existing traffic circles.

If you'd like to spruce up your local traffic circle, call Laurie Ames, Department of Neighborhoods, at (206) 684-0320. She will provide an application, a list of steps involved, a budget template with estimated costs, and a list of recommended drought-tolerant plants. Funds will be provided up front but a final report will be required when the work is completed.

**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**

Cathy Nunneley  
Miriam Roskin  
Eli Stahlhut  
Jerry Sussman

\*\*\*

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

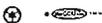
**Vice President** - Charles McDade

**Secretary** - Miranda and Claire  
Levy

**Treasurer** - Sarah Trethewey

**Site Council Rep.** - Adrienne  
Bailey

**E-mail:** madisonvalley@juno.com



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



Greater Madison Valley Neighbors & Supporters  
327 34TH AVE E  
SEATTLE, WA 98112-4917

**Next Community Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 16, 2001, 7:30 p.m.**  
Martin Luther King Elementary School Portables  
3201 E. Republican Street  
(parking available on playfield)

**Editor's Note to all Readers**

Every six months the Post Office requires us to re-certify our mailing list to qualify for our bulk mail permit. We did so in September, but the newly revised list suffered some computer delirium that gave us 2000 addresses instead of our usual 1650 households. The staff pored through the entire list by hand, deleting many strange and distant addresses, but we ended up with mistakes anyway.

**We call on you, dear and valued readers, to help.** If you or your neighbors did not receive the September Valley View, please let us know. If you received more than one copy tell us that, too. Drop a postcard to our Madison St. address, send an e-mail, or leave a message at 325-6308. Thanks.

**LESCHI  
FOOD  
MART**

SPECIALIZING IN  
*QUALITY MEATS*  
*PARTY PLATTERS*  
*HOMEMADE SAUSAGES*  
TEL: 206-322-0700  
103 LAKESIDE AVE  
SEATTLE WA 98122

**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, artwork, or other. My interests are:

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