



# The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 88, October 2000

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## President's View

by Gary Emslie

Autumn is a season of complex contrasts: while the light is suffused and yet warm, the dark of night brings with it a wet reminder that we approach the decline of summer's abundance and anticipate winter. Looking to far forward we might lose sight of the seeds we sow in preparation for the next year's cycle.

Enjoy the moments of warm golden light with family and friends as the fall

moves inexorably on. As the seasons change, so to the rhythm of the neighborhood moves to adjust to the new pace.

Mark your calendars: Adam Kline will speak at the November 21. community council meeting. Come hear your elected representative and share with him your concerns and opinions.

Sarah T. tells me that the p-patch project is moving ahead nicely and looks to plot preparation in the spring after all permits have been secured. Volunteers are still welcome, but you must hurry as plot space is going fast.

Our neighbors on Denny are still concerned about increased traffic up and down Denny and are fund raising for the placement of a traffic circle - see announcement on page 3.

Have heard on the street that neighbors on 37th and Dorffel Dr. are in discussions with the city about turning

this street next to Mud Park into a local access only street. What have you heard?

The twelfth annual Spaghetti Dinner at Martin Luther King Elementary School is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on November 3 (see article below). We again have great community participation, great food and company and again this year an abundance of talented entertainers to add spice to the meal. Hope to see you there,

Hope also to see you at our next Council meeting on October 17, held as always at the Martin Luther King Portables at 7:30 p.m. ▼▼

### IN MEMORIAM

Our neighbor Tyrone Smith passed at home this last weekend (Sept. 30). Condolences to his wife Sheila and his adult children Veronica Tracy Smith-Winston, Lisa R. Smith, and Troy Smith. He was a good neighbor and will be missed.

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## Airport Update and an Open Letter

by Jules Bloomenthal

Here is an update regarding the ongoing noise study, called 'Part 150,' at SeaTac Airport. I was appointed in 1998 to represent King County district 10 by Councilman Larry Gossett (whom I first met at a GMVCC meeting!).

Last year, as the birth of my daughter neared, I left the study and was replaced by Mike Ranta (miker206@pobox.com). During my tenure I advocated, and the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) recommended, the 'Split East Turn.' This recommendation has seen intense debate: although it offers relief for Leschi and Madrona (which can be hit with more than 220 flights daily on days when planes depart northerly from SeaTac), strong opposition was mounted by communities that would be adversely affected by the proposed flight track revision.

In June our State Senator Adam Kline, in his newsletter, stated his opposition to the proposed turn. I felt his opposition had been influenced by several spurious arguments and so last month I

(Continued on page 2)

## Spaghetti Dinner Returns The Day is Friday, November 3, at 6:30 p.m. at King School



Our twelfth annual Spaghetti Dinner comes again November 3, the first Friday of the month. The wheels are already turning: Cathy is bringing out the computer record of Pearl Castle's peerless recipes, Eli is rounding up the experienced kitchen workers, Reliable Charles is testing the 60-gallon steam cooker at King School, we are getting the banners and the tickets ready, and Adrienne is signing up the musicians and performers for this year's entertainment. This traditional dinner is not really a fundraiser, but a community party to renew friendships. (We have not raised our \$3.50 meal ticket price in years. This remains the best bargain in Seattle for a night out on the town.) ▼▼



## Airport Noise, continued

sent him a letter that attempted to explain the CAC's reasoning as to why the Split East Turn was the best option available to the committee.

Please contact me (jules@oz.net) if you would like to see the full text of the letter. Earlier this year the Port of Seattle released the study, failing to adopt the CAC's recommended Split East Turn. ▼▼

## Gardening with Native Plants

### Natives for Wet Areas

As winter approaches, I am reminded of our friends in Madison Valley who must contend with flooding during the rainy season. J. Paul Blake from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) addressed this concern at the September council meeting. As one solution to the problem, SPU recommends incorporating moisture-loving plants into the landscape. These plants can actually eliminate standing water problems in many areas.

**Populus tremuloides** (quaking aspen) is a fast growing tree that grows to 20-60 feet. The trunk and limbs are a soft pale green. The small, round grey-green leaves change to brilliant yellow in the fall and are so delicate that they flutter in the slightest breeze. Hence the name. It is a nice backdrop for native wildflowers and shrubs.

**Cornus sericea** (redtwig dogwood) loves to have wet feet. It is a suckering-type shrub famous for its bright red bark on the new growth. The leaves are a delicate green. Cut it back almost to the ground each spring to encourage the new colorful growth. It will grow 5-8 feet.

**Vancouveria planipetala** (inside-out flower) is closely related to epimedium. It is evergreen in all but the coldest regions. Clusters of white flowers decorate the medium green leaflets in spring.

**Trillium** is a wonderful member of the lily family. The beautiful, long-lasting white flowers rise above a



Trillium undulatum

whorl of three bright green leaves. In wet, woody areas it will gradually increase in number if left alone. It makes a wonderful companion to ferns and azaleas.

For more ideas on natives for wet areas, contact SPU at 684-7560. Also, mark your calendars for "Celebrate Landscaping with Native Plants" Sat, Oct 14, 9AM-4PM Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 S Tyler in Tacoma. Free tours and information plus a plant sale. Call 253-591-6439 for more information. ▼▼

## Synopsis of Letter to Adam Kline

The Citizen Advisory Committee consistently and with near unanimity expressed its belief that it is preferable that a large number of neighborhoods each experience a small amount of noise than for any one neighborhood to experience a tremendous amount of noise.

We also consistently stated our belief that, in addition to dispersing those flights that fly over residential areas, the percentage of flights over non-residential areas should be maximized. The CAC repeatedly asked the Port of Seattle, for more than a year and without success, for the capacity of the Duwamish corridor, the sole noise-abatement SeaTac route.

The Port has never indicated that more than 30 to 40 flights a day could be moved from the present East turn into the Duwamish. This would leave Leschi and Madrona suffering under 180 to 190 flights a (North-flow) day. I repeatedly stated that this number is unacceptable and will only worsen as the number of operations at SeaTac continues to rise.

The present burden, as well as any increased burden, must not all be borne by a single community - principles of fairness and egalitarianism dictate that as the Port expands the airport, communities other than Leschi and Madrona must increasingly share the burden.

No community should be privileged with respect to the impacts of SeaTac, and no community should be turned into a 'noise ghetto.' The Port must not be allowed to pick winners and losers amongst residential neighborhoods. We all have access to the airport - we must all shoulder the burden of its impact.

The Split East Turn would accomplish a sharing of the noise. This can be seen in the contour map prepared by the consultants for the Port. The 10 minute (least annoying) contour changes from one large contour to two smaller ones (the southerly one intersecting central Mercer Island, but the northerly one moving north and relieving northern Mercer Island); the 150, 120, 90, and 60 minute contours are virtually unchanged.

But the 30 minute contour is dramatically reduced. It is this contour that is so adverse to Leschi and Madrona. The Split East Turn would indeed relieve communities presently hard-hit and make only minor increases in noise to communities presently spared. No community would receive the unfair extremes that are presently placed on Beacon Hill, the Central Area, Leschi, Madrona, and Medina.

If residents of Mercer Island, which is physically closer to SeaTac airport than is Leschi or Madrona, refuse to accept 40 or so flights a day, how can they expect residents of Leschi or Madrona to tolerate more than 200? Please, Senator Kline, I appeal to your sense of fairness: communities other than Leschi and Madrona must accept some part of the East turn burden.

Although the split East turn would improve the fairness of present residential noise impact, it by no means reduces that impact to acceptable levels; indeed, present levels will increase as the Port of Seattle continues its relentless drive to expand operations at SeaTac. In your newsletter you claim, "with a united effort by our neighborhood organizations, our voices can be heard," but I'm

(Continued on page 3)

Please join us in welcoming



**Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske**  
to Central Area and Capitol Hill Neighborhoods

**Come with your safety concerns to a meeting of the  
East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition**



**Thursday – October 26, 2000  
7:00 PM**

**Seattle Vocational Institute  
2120 South Jackson - Room #105  
Parking and entry on the north side of the building**

**Please call Mary Williams at 323-9584 if you have any questions.  
Location is accessible and auxiliary aids will be provided,  
upon request, to participants with disabilities.**

c/o Seattle Neighborhood Group  
1806 E. Yesler Way Seattle, WA 98122 • (206)323-9666 • FAX (206)323-2151

# Minutes of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council for September 19, 2000

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Emslie at 7:45 pm. A quorum was present. Guests from the city were introduced.

Our first speaker was James Fearn from Parks for All, formerly known as "Pro-Parks." Mr. Fearn's organization is working towards better maintenance and recreation space expansion in Seattle parks, which includes maintenance on the pathways and landscaping of the Arboretum. Parks for All supports a proposition that will be on the ballot this November; it would provide \$198 million for parks improvement over eight years. For further information on Parks for All, go to [www.parksforall.com](http://www.parksforall.com) or email your questions or comments to [info@parksforall.com](mailto:info@parksforall.com).

Our second guest, along with his assistant Ron Harris-White, was J. Paul Blake from Seattle Public Utilities. Seattle Public Utilities is the city agency that controls all the utilities of our city, aside from electricity. The group's main issues include intertying with Tacoma, which would help preclude water shortages in an emergency, as we could "borrow" from the other city. Also, along with plentiful infrastructure repair, Seattle Public Utilities is trying to promote a 1% conservation program, which includes providing city-dwellers with complimentary low-flow showerheads.

afraid this alone will not mitigate the noise impact. Leadership at the state level is required:

1. the Port's plan to add a third runway and to increase the number of operations should be opposed
2. a revision of the US Congress Airport Noise and Capacity Act could allow the Port to apply reasonable restrictions on the number and hours of operation of high-noise aircraft
3. the legislature should review all expansion plans for SeaTac and King County airports
4. support should be given to the longstanding recommendations by the Puget Sound Regional Council that existing regional airports be better utilized for passenger and cargo service and that additional regional airports be established in the state.

Unless the efforts of the CAC are augmented by efforts from the state legislature, the governor, and concerned others, the status quo will become ever more entrenched and the quality of life in the Puget Sound area ever more degraded.

The public debate concerning the Split East Turn has been contentious and emotional, and the rancor has overshadowed the reasoned deliberations of the CAC. I hope you will give greater weight to the CAC, and reconsider your position.

Yours very truly, Jules Bloomenthal

Sarah Threthewey discussed our anticipated p-patch. Sarah now has 22 people signed up for the program and definitely needs more! She plans to submit an application to the City in November and should hear the results by mid-January, allowing us to get going just in time for planting season. Sarah told us she believes she needs \$6,000 and is trying to find donations of money, plants, and tools. Also, we learned that a fiscal agent for this project could either take 5% of the earnings or donate it back to the p-patch, with that donated amount matched by the City.

Eli Stahlhut reported on the Courtyard sale, which was a great success, including \$800 dollars from books alone. Possible ideas for the next sale is to tie in an art sale, with donated pieces of art work, along with it.

Discussions began about the annual Spaghetti Dinner, which will take place on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Volunteers are greatly in need for this event. Jerry moved to buy a used spaghetti cooker, to be located and bought for under \$150. The motion was seconded and passed.

As a close to the meeting, we were informed that Starbucks has \$10,000 to give for projects involving neighborhood parks. The Council believes that this source, along with others, might be used to convert the Washington Park shelter into a community center or clubhouse. Eli suggested we could collaborate with Madison Park to develop a permanent center.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10. ▼▼

*Minutes prepared by Miranda Levy, Secretary.*

## Your Newsletter Needs Your Help

Writing and editing this paper is a satisfying job, but we need a bigger crew! Our community is rich with stories of life here and we want to share some of that. And we'd like to contact the many businesses on Madison who are seeking new and better ways to reach out to our 1,700 households.

So write stories! Be our business agent! Get your name on the masthead!

Write us at [madisonvalley@juno.com](mailto:madisonvalley@juno.com) or call 325-8126.  
Honors will follow!

## 27th and Denny Traffic Circle

A group of neighbors near 27th and Denny are applying to the City of Seattle's Neighborhood Matching Fund for a traffic circle at this intersection.. At the October 17 meeting of the GMVCC these folks will be discussing the project and applying for a small grant from the Community Council .

## A P-Patch Update



The countdown is on: By the end of October we hope to have all of our information together for the grant application (deadline is mid-November). We are still looking for volunteers and donations so if you can help, or have any questions, please call Sarah at 325-3734.

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 Mail to the address above.  
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**Site Council Rep.** - Adrienne Bailey  
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**Next Community Council Meeting**  
 Tuesday, October 17, 2000, 7:30 p.m.  
 Martin Luther King School  
 in the portables  
 3201 East Republican St. (parking available on playfield)

Advertisements and Announcements

**SUPPORT THE VALLEY VIEW NEWSLETTER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
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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

**RECYCLED TEAK LUMBER FOR SALE**

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**CARVERS, BOAT BUILDERS, FURNITURE MAKERS, LOOK!**

**RECYCLED TEAK PLANKS AND TIMBERS FROM INDONESIA.**



**YOU MAY INSPECT THIS PRIME WOOD, RIGHT HERE, NEAR 34TH AND DENNY.**

**1x8, 1x10, up to 4x4 and 4x6; lengths to 10 feet.**

**Prices are \$7 to \$9 per board foot. Please call Jake at 325-6308.**

**CORRECTION**

One of our most observant readers caught us up short. In the very first line of the September newsletter, we referred to the upcoming solstice. Well, as most everyone (except, evidently, for us) knows, the SOLSTICE occurs in the summer and winter, on the longest and shortest days of the year.



The EQUINOX, in contrast, refers to those days of the year when the daytime and the nighttime are of equal length. That happens once in spring and once in fall. So of course in our September issue, we should have been looking toward the equinox, not the solstice. Unless, of course, we were looking very, very far ahead.