



# The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 124 October 2004

E-mail: [gmvcc@hotmail.com](mailto:gmvcc@hotmail.com)

## Neighborhood Announcements

### Save this Date!!

#### The Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, November 5, 2004, 6:30 PM

ML King Elementary School

See page 5 for volunteer opportunities.

*Be a part of this year's fun!*

#### ML King Elementary Open House

Thursday, October 7th 6 PM

Principal Barry Dorsey addresses program development and the plans to initiate a

Montessori Program. Visit classrooms for teacher presentations of the curriculum.

*Everyone is welcome!*

#### The Sidewalks of Madison Valley

Neighborhood clean-up of sidewalks so children can walk or bike in safety

Saturday, November 6, 9 AM

meet at ML King School on E. Harrison

Contact: Andy Goulding at [ARGoulding@aol.com](mailto:ARGoulding@aol.com) or 329-6360

See page 2 for more info in GMVCC minutes and article

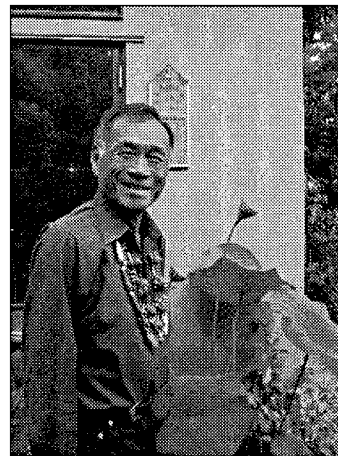
## Good Neighbors

### Artist Ron Ho Receives Prestigious Award

On October 2, Ron Ho will receive Pacific Lutheran University's Distinguished Alumnus Award. This new award, one of many earned by Ron during his career, is especially notable in that he is the first artist so honored by PLU.

Ron is not only being honored for his amazing creative necklaces but also for his outstanding teaching career. He is an elementary education specialist in the arts and provides workshops for people of all ages.

Ron Ho attended PLU on the advice of his older sister. After receiving his B.A., he continued at U.W. for a master's in Art Education. Although he began his art career as a painter, he soon changed to creating necklaces after meeting his lifelong mentor, Ramona Solberg. Ramona inspired him to create tiny sculptures that represented themes he cherishes. These sculptures are suspended from cords and are worn as necklaces.



Ron is attracted to crafts of indigenous peoples around the world and has traveled extensively to discover the creative talents of others.

*continued on page 6*

Ron, at home near his lotus plant, wearing some of his silver necklaces from India.



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## GMVCC Contact Information

Council Affairs: Gary Emslie, President

Email: [gary.emslie@bush.edu](mailto:gary.emslie@bush.edu)

Council business, agenda requests, inquiries, concerns

Valley View Newsletter: Cathy Nunneley

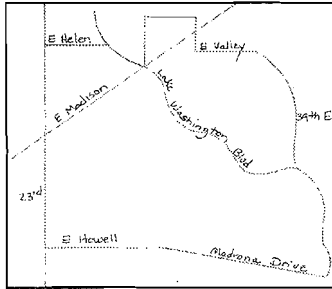
Email: [cjnunneley@yahoo.com](mailto:cjnunneley@yahoo.com) or 329-4083

Article submission, advertising, suggestions, volunteers

GMVCC P.O. Box 22278 Seattle, Washington 98122

# The Illustrated GMVCC

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PLEASE support our generous advertisers from the Madison Valley business community. Without their support, it would not be possible to bring you *The Valley View*. Thanks a bunch!

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*The Valley View* staff cheerfully works countless unpaid volunteer hours to bring you this newsletter. The printing and postage costs are over \$700 per month. We must have financial support from the community to continue the newsletter. **Please** make a contribution or place an ad with us. Everything helps! **Thank you so much!**

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Please contact me to write for *The Valley View*

Mail to: GMVCC: P.O. Box 22278 Seattle, WA 98112

## Safe Routes to School Project Needs You

On Saturday, November 6th, volunteers are needed to help clear sidewalks of debris and greenery. This clean-up will promote access for children walking and biking to school as well as for strollers and wheelchairs.

The American with Disabilities Act requires that access routes be maintained. In Seattle, sidewalks are city property but the maintenance of them is *the responsibility of the homeowners*.

The City's ordinance requires that vertical clearance (from overhanging trees and bushes) be at least 8 feet. Additionally, the sidewalk needs to be clear at least 2 feet back from the property line. Cars are NOT to be parked on sidewalks.

Volunteers will approach homeowners to ask permission to remove encroaching greenery before requesting assistance from city officials to enforce the ordinance.

PLEASE cooperate with this admirable project and volunteer your time to keep our walkways safe.

Sponsored by the GMVCC, ML King School and the Bicycle Alliance of Washington (see page 1 for contact info).

# Community Council Minutes

September 15, 2004

The meeting was called to order by president, Gary Emslie. A quorum was not present. The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Income of \$1345 from donations and ads for the newsletter. Debits: \$876.39 from newsletter costs and council fees.

**Newsletter Report:** Looking into newsprint as an option for lowering costs. Half of costs are paid with ads.

**Spaghetti Dinner:** Need volunteers. Community businesses have offered to become involved with donations for the door prizes and food for the dinner.

**Flooding** along 30th Ave E between E Denny and E Thomas is in the process of resolution.

**Safe Routes to School** project leader, Andy Golding reported that the group obtained a \$3000 grant for MLK school. There will be 3 projects.

1. To promote bikes and walking to school there will be activities and parties at the school.
2. To ID necessary curb ramps students will canvass the neighborhood with cameras. The city will build the ramps and students will decorate them as art projects.
3. To promote safety, neighbors will be encouraged to remove shrubbery along sidewalks. Teams of volunteers will have work parties to remove greenery with home— owners permission. Sidewalk problems such as cracks and upheavals of stones will be addressed. Look for an announcement of work party dates in *this issue*. Bring your own tools.

**Community Bulletin Board:** Cathy Nunneley will investigate the possibility of a board near MLK and Madison.

**Tot Lot:** Parents are interested in a small play structure at the William Grose Park (see Sept issue of *The Valley View*).

**Julie Parker of My Coffeeshouse** is leading the effort. Contact her at ellaparker@aol.com if you are interested.

**Traffic:** Continuing problems. Abi and Mike Manion are organizing private funding for a traffic circle at E Thomas and 29th E. The City has no more money in the budget for this type of project.

**Drug Dealing Activity:** An increase in drug trafficking near the Awash Grocery was described by several attendees. Efforts to assist the store owner have been unsuccessful. The property is rented and the owner is in California. It was suggested that **City Councilman Conlin** be asked to come to a Council meeting to address these concerns. Gary will investigate this possibility.

**ML King Elementary:** Joanie Robertson reported that if the proposal to the school board is approved, a **Montessori** program will begin during the 05-06 school year. It will be initiated as a preschool and kindergarten. Funding will be the primary difficulty as in other models, the special program requires fees that some families will find unaffordable.

**East Mercer St End** efforts continue to obtain this space for use by the public as a waterfront park. The group has filed the petition and is awaiting the decision from the City. Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

## The Classified Valley

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## The Valley Views the Past

### William Grose: Pioneer, Entrepreneur and Community Builder

By Miriam Roskin

In 1860, when he was just 25 years old, William Grose and his wife Sarah arrived in Seattle. One of Washington State's earliest Black pioneers, Mr. Grose had already lived a lifetime of travel and activism. With the Navy, he saw Japan and the Arctic. As an activist, he worked with the underground railway, helping southern slaves make their way north to freedom. He also traveled to Panama, where he challenged officials whose existing practice was to send escaped slaves back to the South.

Once in Seattle, Mr. Grose paid Henry Yesler \$1,000 in gold for 12 acres of land between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Avenues and between Howell and Olive. The hilly land was suited to ranching and by 1889 Mr. Grose and his son, George Grose, were raising livestock and selling produce as truck farmers. Before long, the Groses began subdividing the land and selling portions to buyers of all colors, but especially to other Black Seattleites. These homebuyers had difficulty securing property in the segregated neighborhoods elsewhere in town. Within a decade or two, the neighborhood now known as "East Madison" had the highest concentration of Black homeowners in all of Seattle.

In addition to his work in the military, as an activist,

rancher, and real estate developer, Mr. Grose was a social magnet for many Seattleites. Before settling in the Madison area, William Grose bought a hotel on Yesler Way, in what was then the heart of downtown Seattle. Called "Our House," it was a popular destination for people of all colors, but also one of the few places where Black visitors could find a hotel room for the night. Mr. Grose sold the hotel in the 1880s. Following the Great Fire of 1889, Mr. Grose reportedly looked up the man who'd bought the destroyed hotel and reimbursed him for the full purchase price of \$5,000.

Seattle continued to benefit from Mr. Grose's hospitality and social graces long after he sold Our House. His home at 1733 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue became an important gathering spot for Black Seattle throughout the 1890s. By the time of his death in 1898, William Grose had become a Seattle institution. He is buried in Lakeview Cemetery on Capitol Hill. His funeral was held at the Central District's First African Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he was a trustee. The funeral procession reportedly numbered 16 carriages.

While Mr. Grose did not live to see the 20<sup>th</sup> century, his vision of strong neighborhoods and community institutions are a part of his legacy. Today, more than 100 years after his death, that legacy still inspires us.

Esther Mumford's *Seattle's Black Victorians* and *Calahash: A Guide to the History, Culture and Art of African Americans in Seattle and King County, Washington*, as well as Mary Henry's *Tribute: Seattle Public Places Named for Black People* are indispensable resources for anyone interested in learning more about Seattle's African-American history. This story is based largely on material drawn from these books.



William Grose, in an illustration reproduced from Esther Mumford's *Seattle's Black Victorians*. Mr. Grose is said to have been a tall man, standing 6'4", and a big man too, weighing about 400 lbs. Big in physique, he was big in spirit, heart, and drive, as well.



William Grose Park looking East from 30th Ave East was named for this icon from our community's past. Neighborhood moms are asking for a small play structure for toddlers and preschoolers to be built in the park. Contact: Julie Parker at [ellaparker@aol.com](mailto:ellaparker@aol.com)

## Be a Part of the Spaghetti Dinner!!

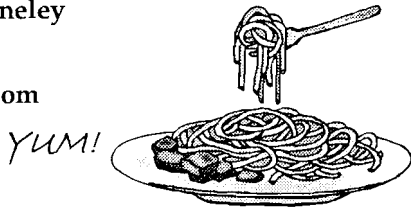
Support this Fun Annual Community Event

*Exciting Opportunities Await you!!*

- \* Bake goodies for dessert (get rave reviews!!)
- \* Coordinate entertainment (meet local celebrities!!)
- \* Help set up and decorate (show off artistic talents!!)
- \* Coordinate door prizes (be thrilled with suspense!!)
- \* Clean-up during and after the dinner (win our UNDYING gratitude!!!!)

**NO worries!!!** We have contacts and people to help guide you!

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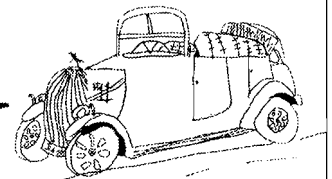
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## The Flooded Valley

On a terrible evening a few weeks ago, following the heavy rain, residents of 30th Avenue East found themselves underwater once more. Homes were flooded with up to 8 feet of water contaminated with sewage. Everything in contact with this liquid was destroyed. Additionally, the pressure of the water's surge was so great it blew out doors and windows. One car was completely submerged in the backyard.

The city's slow response was uniformly criticized by the media and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) has been most apologetic.

One important difficulty is finding ways to help property owners replace all their belongings. The city is obligated to assist citizens but can only help with depreciated costs. For example, it would be impossible to replace a computer which was a few years old. Computers devalue so quickly that the depreciated cost would not come near replacement costs. Also, some people are not able to afford the clean-up costs up front while awaiting the city's reimbursement check. SPU is trying to think of creative ways to cope with this dilemma.

The flooding along 30th Avenue East is not a new problem. The street was constructed over an existing stream that is fed by multiple underground springs. In the 1960s,

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## Traffic Concerns for a Safe School Year

### School's In! Pick a Route for Safety

By  
Joy Canova, Block Watch Captain

Busy families are once again making their way through our city streets to drop off precious cargos for school. As we do, it is important to remember the other children making their way on foot. For their sakes, let us consider our driving habits for their safe passage. The best approach for vehicles is to plan a route on arterial streets that are equipped with signals and crosswalks for pedestrians.

The residents of East Roy Street would like to make a request to parents bound for St. Joseph's and Holy Names Academy from Madison Valley: please consider staying on the Madison Street arterial for your school commuting. The increased traffic volume (and sometimes, driving speed) on Roy Street makes it less safe for our children on foot. We wish you all a safe and happy school year!

### Reckless Speeding Continues along Dorffel Drive

The speeding and reckless driving along Dorffel Drive has continued in spite of signage from neighbors pleading for cooperation. It is commonplace to find one's car with yet another broken side view mirror. Pedestrians and pets experience near misses from speeding drivers on a daily basis. **PLEASE**, let us all try to **SLOW DOWN** just a little bit in an united effort to bring some peace into these peoples' lives? It doesn't seem like too much to ask .

*flooding in the valley, continued from page 5*

the city redirected this water and sewage to Discovery Park for treatment and then into Puget Sound. A large holding tank was built to contain overflow. The valve on this tank failed during this latest disaster.

The City of Seattle has plans to study the problem and develop a plan that will prevent future flooding. The costs are estimated to be in the millions and take at least 8 months.

One difficulty considered by GMVCC is the proliferation of apartment buildings in the neighborhood. The West side of the valley has been rezoned for multiple family housing. The influx of new residents can only stress any system. We await the city's action and hope the solution is one that works! 🙌

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## MLK School Parents Light the Fire

There is a little extra spark of parent energy and involvement this year at Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary. Motivated partly by the flurry of attention last spring as the possibility emerged of introducing a Montessori program at King, a group of MLK parents have come together over the summer and have been meeting regularly ever since.

Setting aside the Montessori question, which is being managed by a specific taskforce, this parent group is discussing other changes at King Elementary that would positively impact current students, families, and the Madison Valley and Central District communities the school serves. Their goals include reinstating educational enhancement programs, establishing strong family networks, increasing resources and teacher support, and promoting cultural understanding. The group is striving to ensure that the school continues to serve the community and is to welcome all people without discrimination. The parents hosted a "Welcome Back to School Breakfast" on September 8th to bring together students, families, staff, supporters, and interested community members to celebrate the beginning of the new academic year.

If you are interested in further information about the parent group, or would like to be notified of future activities, please contact Eba Hilario at (206)280-8989 or Julia Holland at (206) 728-4836.

*Ron Ho continued from page 1*

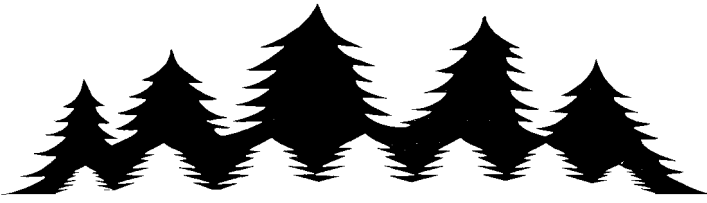
Initially, Ron thought that "jewelry" was always created from precious metals and stones. However, with his newfound inspiration, he turned to found objects and themes that were meaningful to his life, the prospective owners personality and most recently, his Chinese heritage.

As an example, one of his tiny sculptures is of a silver Chinese chair holding a wok and steamer with dim sum. Entitled, *Dim Sum at the On-On Tearoom*, it commemorates one of Ron's favorite meals. There are many silver chair pieces depicting everyday occurrences in a traditional Chinese life.

Ron's life has been one of exotic fulfillment. His home is filled with folk art treasures from his journeys throughout Asia. He continues to travel to small villages and locales where time-honored crafts are still practiced. He explained that crafts are becoming increasingly difficult to find as modern culture replaces traditional activities. This January he will be leading a group of 18 to explore South East Asia in search of new inspiration.

Ron Ho's work may be seen at Pacific Lutheran University during the month of October. Two of his works are in the permanent collection of the Tacoma Art Museum.

Ron is a treasure to our community. 🙌



## Madrona Neighbors Create Community Eden

Madrona Ravine is a Wild Place!

by

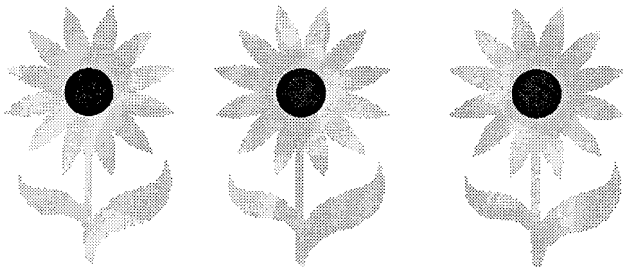
Linda Hansen

Special thanks to the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Grant Program, "Wild Places in City Spaces" for their support of this year's stewardship and restoration of the ravine adjacent to Madrona Drive. **Friends of the Ravine in Madrona (FORM)** members have had several successful work parties this summer, and with the grant assistance, were able to bring in a crew from **EarthCorps** to work on the steep slopes.

If you have crossed the wooden pedestrian bridge on Madrona Drive recently, you may have noticed we have more work to do. Specifically, we need to spread mulch on the cardboard sheets in the center of the ravine. Please join us for our next events. We could really use your help!

Saturday, September 25: spread the wood mulch and control returning invasives; and Saturday, October 16: plant newly cleared areas with native plants.

Both work parties will be 9:00 a.m. to noon, meeting at the Pine Street Pedestrian Bridge on Madrona Drive. Please bring your own gloves and favorite tools. Call Jenny Cummins at 324-7825 or me, Linda Hansen, at 324-5554 if you have any questions. 🙌



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