

The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 161

madisonvalley.org

February 2009

100+ Volunteers Clean Neighborhood at MLK, Jr. Day Event

By Andy Engelson



Over one hundred hardy volunteers showed up on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to participate in cleanup efforts throughout our community.

This year, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day took on special significance as Barack Obama called for a national day of service to help renew our communities. Residents of Madison Valley answered the call by turning out in huge numbers for the Madison Valley Cleanup on Monday, January 19.

More than one hundred people pitched in to cleanup and weed the grounds at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, the Madison Valley P-Patch, the 32nd Avenue greenbelt, and other locations throughout our neighborhood. Thanks to all who attended – you did an amazing amount of work! The vacant MLK, Jr. elementary school now looks much better, and both the greenbelt and P-Patch were completely rejuvenated! Volunteers also collected about a dozen bags of food, which were donated to the St. Mary's Food Bank at 20th and Jackson. A special thank you to Seattle School Board member, Mary Bass, for stopping by and supporting our cleanup efforts.

The cleanup was organized by *Citizens for a Community Center* at MLK (CCC@MLK), a newly formed neighborhood group working to convert the closed MLK, Jr. school into a self-sustaining community center. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center will focus on lifelong learning, youth activities, and the arts, providing affordable services for people of all backgrounds. Our plan calls for nonprofit offices, a dance studio, performing arts stage, affordable preschool, community computer center,

President's View By Peter Triandafilou

Happy New Year. In this cold winter season, we are experiencing a time that is both exciting and difficult. The challenges are many, from the worsening economic climate, to the weather itself and the recent December snow storms. On a national level, we have a new President and administration that we trust will use thoughtful leadership to get us to prosperity and peace.



President Obama's Inaugural Address was inspirational. I was

Community members showed up on January 31st with plenty of good eats and good spirits at the recent community potluck. A special thanks to the Valley School, who has agreed to host this recurring event throughout 2009!

particularly moved by his words that we are in a "new era of responsibility" where Americans have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world, and by his urging that we be "giving our all." To thrive, we need to step

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😼 Events Calendar

Mon, February 2 - Groundhog Day. Annual celebration in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. The groundhog Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow and predicts 6 more weeks of winter.

Tues, February 3 - **Madison Valley Merchants Association Meeting**. Meets First Tuesday of the month at Cafe Flora at 8:30 am. Next meeting is Tuesday March 3.

Sun, February 15, 1pm to 2pm - Guided Weekend Walks. Tour the Arboretum's Witt Winter Garden on first and third Sundays at 1 p.m. Meet at the Graham Visitors Center; no advanced registration. Donations appreciated.

Wed, February 18, 10am to 5pm - Japanese Garden Opens for the 2009 Season. First Viewing is Sunday, February 15, 11 am - 3 pm.

Wed, January 16, 7:30 pm - GMVCC Meeting at Bush School (entrance on E. Harrison St. and 34th Ave. E.).

GMVCC ID Statement

The Valley View

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2007-2008 GMVCC Officers

President: Peter Triandafilou • president@madisonvalley.org • 720-0488 Vice President: Charles McDade Secretary: Lindy Wishard Treasurer: Peter Triandafilou (temporary)

Newsletter Staff

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\$35 (approx. 2" x 3.5") \$80 (1/4 page) \$150 (1/2 page) preferential placement for extra fee (if available) *Circulation 2,200 / Yearly discounts available contact* advertising@madisonvalley.org 568-7372

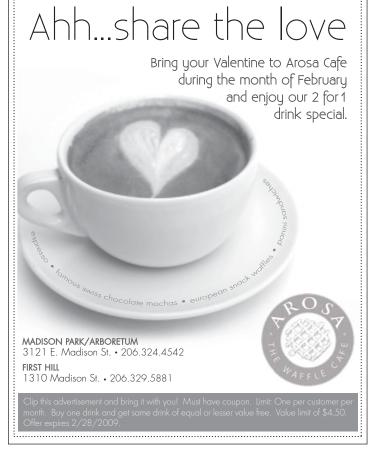


CLASSES AND CAMPS FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES K-12

The Bush School's Summer Learning Programs offer something for everyone—challenging academics, experiential learning, arts, and athletics.

SAMPLE OFFERINGS: Summer Experience (grades 1-5); Hip Hop Dance (grades1-5); Songwriting (grades 6-8); Mathematics and Essay Writing (grades 7-12); and more!

LEARN MORE: www.bush.edu/summerlearning CONTACT: Todd Lengacher at todd.lengacher@bush.edu or 206-322-7978 x 7673



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up to support each other and our community.

Our neighborhood certainly understands and embraces this. Over the past 15 years that I have lived in Madison Valley, our residents and businesses, with the support of the Community Council, have contributed a huge number of hours working on projects and addressing issues to make our community the great place it is today. Here in the valley, there was an incredible turnout of people (including many children) on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, who did landscape cleanup at three neighborhood sites.

I encourage everyone in our neighborhood to be actively involved in whatever way you can in the coming year. It can be a lot of fun and rewarding as well. Share some good times and good food with your neighbors at our social events coming up in 2009. Please join us at the next council-sponsored Potluck Party on April 25th. Many of your neighbors are energized by the project to turn the former MLK, Jr. school site into a community center and are devoting their efforts to make it happen. More volunteer help is always needed. So, if you have not done so already, I urge you to ask yourself what you can do for your community, and then take steps to fulfill a commitment to support the local community. We'll all be better off for it.

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Meet the New Valley View Team!

By Ann McCurdy

In 2007, the Valley View's previous editor, Lindsay Zaccara, asked if I could take over editing after the birth of her child "for a month or two." Now, almost two years later, I'm happy to announce that I'm moving on, and not only do we have a brand new editor, but a whole new team.

Madison Valley resident Nori Hawkins saw my request for help last summer and volunteered to step in. After welcoming a beautiful baby daughter into her life in August, she is taking a break from the working grind to enjoy motherhood and become our new editor! You can often see Nori pushing a stroller and walking her shepard throughout the neighborhood. Don't hesitate to say hello and give her updates on valley happenings and community events!

Nori is joined by a new layout person, and a new copy editor. Our previous layout person, Frank Lawler, volunteered because he is the wonderful man who happens to be my husband. But, Madison Valley resident Elena Johnson (formerly Elena Abee, before her recent marriage) quietly and efficiently took over the job last May. Not only does she do a great job on layout, but she's wonderful with graphics and has designed many ads in last month's issue. Check out her work at <u>www.anisegraphics.com.</u>

Finally, we also have a new copy editor. Our previous copy editor, Shawna McGarry, proofread every article until she got married and moved away from Madison Valley. Her replacement, Serin Ngai, has been cleaning up typos and misspellings since November.

Serin is a family law attorney at Olympic Law Group, PLLP on Capitol Hill and also a playwright whose plays have been seen on local Seattle stages as well as in Vancouver, B.C.

All of these wonderful people are unpaid volunteers who live in and care for Madison Valley. If you appreciate what they do, let them know! Or better yet, help them out. I will likely continue to support the Valley View with finding ads (they pay for what you're reading right now!). However, we are still seeking a few extra people to assist with the very important task of advertisements, and as always, contributing writers.

Thank you Frank and Shawna, and welcome Nori, Elena, and Serin!

The Department of Neighborhoods' P-Patch Program, in conjunction with the not-for-profit P-Patch Trust, provides organic community garden space for residents of 70 Seattle neighborhoods. The program supports two gardens here in Madison Valley: Ida Mia (Madison & Lake Washington Blvd, in the alley behind Island Video) and Mad-P (30th Ave E. & E. Mercer, down in the valley proper). Garden plots in our community gardens are rented on an annual basis, where you can grow vegetables, small fruits, flowers or herbs.

How do you apply? You can call the p-patch office at 684-0264 or sign up at our website <u>http://www.se-attle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch</u>. Both places allow you to put your name on the waitlist for any public gardens in Seattle. The start of a new calendar year is a good time to apply!

The P-Patch Program allows organic gardening only and since all our gardens are maintained by community members, we have an 8 hour annual volunteer requirement in our allotment gardens. Call today to get involved and farm public land in your own community!

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Condemned cottage demolished to create garden. The adjacent property owner on 30th Avenue East has purchased the lot where the little green house stood empty for two years following the tragic death of Kate Fleming in the December flood of 2006. The house was razed in January and the empty lot will be converted into a large garden.

Join a Valley P-Patch!

Change in the Central Area

By Adrienne Bailey

Although the Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee (NPAC) has not yet met again since the initial meeting held on December 2, 2008, a great deal of activity regarding neighborhood planning has been taking place that will greatly affect the quality of your life.

First, a new Chair has been appointed for the Central Area Neighborhood Plan Stewardship. Unfortunately for our community, the new Chair has never attended a Stewardship meeting and is not familiar with our Neighborhood Plan. This makes our community interests potentially vulnerable and overlooked, and slows the momentum the Stewardship was gathering. This also means our neighborhood may lose out on the possibility of getting any kind of amendment for the new timeline proposed on the amendment and updating process for neighborhood plans.

The most threatening piece of legislation to our neighborhood is one that will amend the County Comprehensive Plan, which will in turn affect our City Comprehensive Plan and ultimately have an adverse affect on our neighborhood plans. This bill, HB 1490–2009–10, will force neighborhoods with "transit stations" to accommodate massive increases in density. The Link II plan, which places a stop at Rainier and I-5, means that much of Jackson Place, (located half a mile from this proposed stop) will be eligible for the up-zone. This increase in density requirements will have an adverse affect on other Central Area neighborhoods towards the south. It is highly probable that the single family home character of the Central Area will be lost as a result of this substantial increase in density.

There is a great deal of history behind our community's desire for a light rail and/or trolley in the Central Area, but the resulting increase in density is a cost too high to pay. Yes, I know some of you are saying, "Why should I be concerned with what happens at the south end of the Central Area"? The reason is this: an increase in the density of our neighborhoods, or any other kind of measure that will adversely affect the quality or character of our community, can easily be placed upon any part of Central Area, thereby thwarting our own Neighborhood Plan. We must support one another to protect our quality of life and neighborhoods. For more information on this bill, visit the Washington State's website at: http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=1490

By the time this article is published, a public hearing in the House Committee on Local Government & Housing will unfortunately already have taken place. But you

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What's Up on Madison

By Ann McCurdy

Times are tough now, and our local businesses are feeling it, but I'm proud to say our merchants are finding ways to keep their businesses open. Two businesses closed the doors of their Madison locations, but are still open in nearby locations – **Conscious Body Pilates** is now in Madrona (at 3317 E. Union St.) and **Sweet Petula** is now in Pioneer Square (at 208 S. Jackson St.). If you miss them, you know where to find them!

Baas Art Gallery and Framing and **Rue De Lyon** have found a creative way to stay afloat—they're becoming roommates! Baas Art Gallery and Framing will become **Baas Framing Studio**, and the art gallery part of their retail space will now house Rue De Lyon. All of Rue De Lyon's jewelry, home accessories, and gift items should be in their new home (at 2703 E Madison St.) by the time you read this.

The retail spaces left by Sweet Petula and Rue De Lyon won't stay empty for long. **Birth & Beyond** is moving into both spaces, and expanding their operations. The Rue De Lyon's old space (at 2719 E Madison St.) will be used to house the contents of Birth & Beyond's shop from up the street. Meanwhile, Sweet Petula's old space next door (2717 E Madison St.) is already set up and offering something new: classes for new moms with great topics like "Choosing Child Care Providers" and "How to Choose Kid's Books." Birth & Beyond has also moved their special occasion kid's clothing store, **Spoiled by Nana**, from Issaquah to this location. If you have a little princess (or prince), you'll want to shop here.

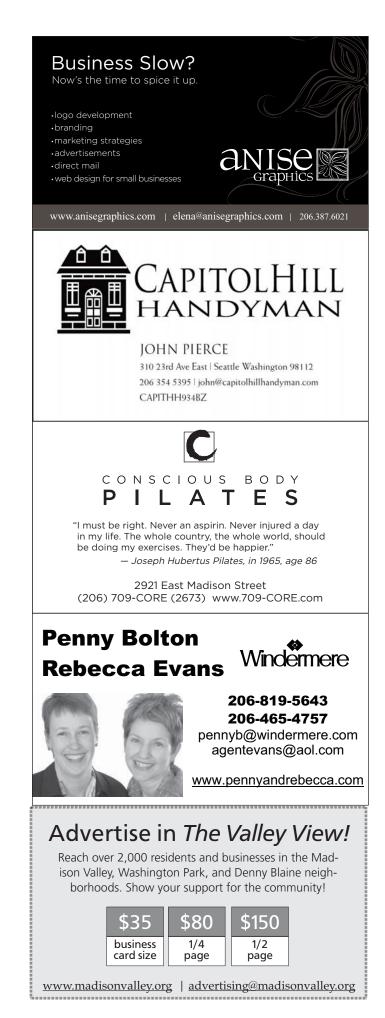
Finally, **Fast Frame** is moving into the location formerly housing the infamous Lavender Spa (2840 E Madison St.), as soon as it is remodeled and ready for them. This is great news for residents weary of the purple paint and disappointed by the shady business of the last tenant! Please take time to visit all of these stores and support your neighborhood business district whenever you can!

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Chef's Dinner, continued from p. 8

son Foundation. "We far exceeded our fundraising goals and previous years' proceeds. Donors know what a tremendous difference every gift makes to our clients. Their gifts reflected the critical need to sustain this important community asset."

The appetizers and dinner were prepared by celebrated Seattle chefs from top restaurants throughout the city, including some local chefs from Madison Valley, Capital Hill and Madison Park. Noted chefs from local neighborhood restaurants included Eric Banh of Baguette Box and Monsoon; Daniel Molina of The Bailey-Boushay House; **our own Joseba Jimenez de Jimenez, of The Harvest Vine and Txori;** and Rich Coffey from the Madison Park Café.





MLK Clean Neighborhood, continued from p. 1

working kitchen and meeting rooms, and a public playground at the former school.

After the volunteers pruned blackberries, pulled weeds and invasive plants, swept stairs, and cleared sidewalks, we regrouped at the Valley School for entertainment, coffee, hot cider and reflection on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. After a brief talk about our plans for a community center, we listened to an audio clip from Dr. King's speech, "Three Dimensions." Then, the local singing group *Abrace*, sang two beautiful, inspiring songs; an ancient Coptic tune and the gospel song, "The Storm is Passing Over." It was the perfect conclusion to a celebration which honored Martin Luther King, Jr.'s call to service. Thank you to the Valley School, Tully's Coffee, Essential Bakery, and PCC for helping make this event possible.

Meanwhile, our effort to create the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center is taking great leaps forward. We now have a website at www.mlkcommunitycenter.org, so please visit us! We've also received a strong letter of support from City Council President Richard Conlin. Additionally, we had encouraging talks with Senator Patty Murray's office and have applied for a Department of Neighborhoods grant to fund an architectural feasibility study. We are awaiting the final report from the School Use Advisory Committee, and will let the community know when the Seattle School District begins its public process to decide on a master tenant for the MLK, Jr. Elementary School. Yes, we can! To find out more about how you can help our efforts to create a Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, visit www.mlkcommunitycenter.org, e-mail aengelson@speakeasy.net, or call Andy Engelson at 206-484-9823. 胁

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still can write, call, or email your state representatives urging them to vote against this bill.

I will continue to report on the progress of NPAC and whatever is happening to our Central Area Neighborhood Plan Stewardship. You can learn more about the Central Area Neighborhood Plan at:

http://caneighborhoodplan.wordpress.com/

Finally, you can be a part of change and progress in the Central Area. Your voice, and most importantly your participation in our community, is greatly needed. Your contribution could be in the form of participating in your neighborhood community council, community center, or local school. To keep everyone apprised of volunteer opportunities, I will try to include volunteer notices in the Central Area as part of my upcoming articles.

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Traffic Revision on East Arthur Place

By Andy Engelson

Thanks to efforts by local neighbors, a high traffic residential street is now one-way to help increase pedestrian safety. You may have noticed the new street signage and orange cones that sprang up at the end of January on the road behind Pizza Hut. One block of East Arthur Place, located between Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd and 29th Avenue, has been made a oneway street, limiting traffic to westbound only.

Previously, traffic driving north on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd used E. Arthur Place as a shortcut to avoid waiting at the stoplight before turning right onto East Madison. A right turn on a red light is not allowed at that intersection, so rather than wait for the stoplight, many drivers simply turned right on to E. Arthur Place, a narrow residential side street, and popped out onto Madison on 29th Avenue (behind Café Flora).

Warren Wallace runs a daycare with his wife Julie and lives on E. Arthur Place, and like many of his neighbors, was fed up with cars speeding down the narrow street during the morning and evening commute. Many cars would fly through the block with little regard for pedestrians, local residents, or traffic laws. Last fall, a car smashed into a hedge in Warren's front vard. After that incident, Warren called the City's transportation department to address the problem head on. Traffic safety officials monitored traffic patterns on the block and agreed to allow neighbors to petition for a traffic revision. After meeting with every resident on the block, Warren gathered the required number of signatures to seek a permanent traffic revision.

The City recently placed new signage to indicate the street is now one-way only, and orange traffic cones have been placed at the entrance to the street to alert drivers of the revision. While it may take a little longer to wait at the intersection before turning east or west onto Madison, we feel that pedestrian safety is well worth the extra minute or two in our commute.

We're all pressed for time these days, but as you drive through our neighborhood, please stick to the arterial streets when possible, which are better designed to handle larger volumes of traffic. Remember to drive slowly on side streets to make our neighborhood a safe place to stroll and live. The no-free-right-turn at Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard onto Madison Street is designed to increase crosswalk safety at the intersection, which is important to local residents and business owners alike!



The Valley View - Greater Madison Valley Community Council P.O. Box 22278 Seattle, WA 98122

17th Annual Chefs' Dinner Raises More Than \$285,000 for Bailey-Boushay House

By Nori A. Hawkins

According to a January 23rd press release by Virginia Mason Medical Center, more than 300 community and corporate leaders gathered on Sunday, January 18, for an exclusive, multi-course Chefs' Dinner. This annual event helped to raise more than \$285,000 for Bailey-Boushay House, an important Seattle facility located right here in Madison Valley. Bailey-Boushay House opened in 1992 as a skilled nursing facility operated and funded by Virginia Mason Medical Center (VMMC). Its mission is to care for people living with HIV/AIDS and other complex, life-threatening diseases. Proceeds from the Chefs' Dinner event will support nutrition programs for clients and residents living with HIV/AIDS.

An additional 100 guests joined the event at an hors d'oeuvres reception and silent wine auction. "The event was the most successful Chefs' Dinner to date, exceeding last year's funds raised by more than \$15,000. The increase was due to the tremendous generosity of host Bell Harbor International Conference Center and Columbia Hospitality; event sponsor, the Safeco Insurance Foundation; all the chefs who donated their time, talents and food to the cause; and the more than 500 participants and volunteers who opened their hearts and pocketbooks to Bailey-Boushay House. Emcee for the evening was media personality Dick Foley."

"Even during this time of economic uncertainty, supporters of Chefs' Dinner amaze us with their generosity and willingness to give to Bailey-Boushay House," said Darren Kerbs, director of events at Virginia Ma-

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Friday Lunch 12:00PM – 1:30PM: A La Carte Options from \$8 - \$24 & 3-Course Menus

Tue – Thu Evenings From 6:00PM, Fri – Sat Evenings From 5:30PM: A La Carte Options from \$9 - \$24 & Price-Fixed Menus Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Seattle, WA Permit No. 6873

