

THE VALLEY VIEW

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 156 madisonvalley.org June 2008

This Year's BBQ Has Food, Fun, and Info

by Andy Engelson



Last Year's Volunteers Came In All Sizes

This June 29 join us for fun, sun (hopefully!) and food. The Greater Madison Valley Community Council and Citizens for a Community Center at MLK (CCCAM) are sponsoring the Third Annual Madison Valley BBQ. Join your neighbors as we celebrate the arrival of summer...and the possibility of a community center at the former MLK School!

CCCAM is sponsoring this year's barbecue to draw attention to their efforts to create a community facility at the former Martin Luther King, Jr.

elementary school. (The school is currently listed as "surplus", which means it can be sold or leased, and the city is just starting the process of determining what uses will be allowed and welcomed at the site.) At this year's picnic, you'll find out more about our efforts, and how you can participate to create a place where Madison Valley can build community.

CCCAM is a grassroots movement dedicated to creating an arts/ideas/community center at the MLK school site. We've met with elected officials, and we are actively meeting with potential partners, from arts groups to architecture firms, to move our vision forward. We have an active steering committee and a list of community members interested in seeing a community space at MLK. To find out how you can volunteer, contact Andy Engelson at aeengelson@speakeasy.net or 484-9823. You can read our blog at http://madisonvalleyarts.blogspot.com/.



Take Our Survey:

What Should be at MLK?

What do you want to see at the site of the now-closed Martin Luther King Jr, Elementary School? Citizens for a Community Center at MLK (CCCAM) is conducting an online survey to find out. Take a few minutes to let us know what you think by going to http://madison-valleyarts.blogspot.com and following the link to the survey. Fill it out by June 16. Let your voice be heard!

Changes to 520 Bridge Mean Changes for Us

by Linda Becker

How many of us Madison Valley residents depend on the 520 bridge for daily commutes? How many of us plan our driving routes so as to avoid the Montlake Mess during rush hour—which sometimes amounts to half the day? And how often do we drive at 15 mph through the Arboretum behind a train of cars following a bicycle—or secretly envy the bicyclist and long for a safe bike route to work on the East Side? While Madison Valley is not on the Department of Transportation's (DOT) radar screen as they forecast the impact of the bridge replacement and interchange improvements, the changes will impact the Valley.

Basic plans for the bridge have been made. There will be two general purpose lanes and an HOV lane in each direction (currently there are no HOV lanes on the Seattle side of the bridge), and a bicycle and pedestrian path. However, there are still design questions for the Montlake and Arboretum area. At issue is whether to bridge over or tunnel under the Montlake Cut, and how to tunnel through the Arboretum. A further issue concerns a Montlake transit stop. People from a widely representative group of organizations are working with mediators to discuss these options, drawings of which you can see on the DOT project website.

Improvements in 520 traffic flow will affect the whole region, as well as bringing much needed safety improvements to the bridge. Any change to travel in and around the Arboretum will change traffic in our neighborhood. As yet, the DOT has not published projections of traffic flow beyond the immediate interchange areas.

The Valley View will report when questions regarding local traffic projections are answered. Future articles will review the environmental and health impacts of the projects. The DOT will also schedule community briefings upon request. For neighbors who want to find out more, see the DOT website: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge/default.htm



Events Calendar

3rd Annual Madison Valley BBQ. Saturday, June 29, 4:00-7:00 p.m. Valley School, 309 31st Ave. E.

Madison Valley Merchants Association. Wednesday, June 11, 8:30 a.m. Café Flora, 2901 E. Madison St.

Greater Madison Valley Community Council. Wednesday, June 18, 7:30 p.m. Bush School's Common Room (entrance on E. Harrison St. and 34th Ave. E.)

Open Meetings with Mary Bass, Seattle School Board Director. June 13 & 27, 6:00 p.m. Garfield Community Center, 2323 E. Cherry St.

GMVCC ID Statement

The Valley View

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Member of the Seattle Community Council Federation

2007-2008 GMVCC Officers

President: Wallis Bolz • president@madisonvalley.org • 329-3672

Vice President: Charles McDade

Secretaries: Ann McCurdy and Heather Scearce

Treasurer: Jennifer Janzen

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Ann McCurdy • editor@madisonvalley.org • 568-7372

Copyeditor: Shawna McGarry

Layout: Elena Abee

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Challenge: Summer of Living Locally in the Central Area

by Adrienne W. Bailey - Central Area Neighborhood Plan Stewardship, Chair

In these challenging economic times of high gas prices and other cost increases, this summer will be a great time to experience our community—not just Madison Valley but all of the Central Area. Living locally not only saves you money and time, it will save gas, boost our neighborhood economy, and provide an opportunity to discover what other products and services are missing that would compliment our current businesses.

The Summer of CALL

CALL (Central Area - Living Locally) challenges you to spend the summer shopping, eating and living locally first. Explore the community and consciously choose to look within the Central Area for all your needs and services. Stroll down East Madison Street but don't forget the corridors of Madrona (34th Ave) and Cherry Street (23rd to M.L. King Jr.) as well. The options are endless. (Find a list of Madison Valley businesses at www.madisonvalleyonline.com.)

Why shop locally? As mentioned, it can potentially be less expensive and require less fuel. In addition, the more we patronize our local businesses the more they provide. And, shopping locally keeps more money in our community. The more your dollar circulates in your community, the more you contribute to the growth and economic development of your community. It is said that when you support locally owned businesses, 73% of your money stays in our community and re-circulates.

The Next Step in the CALL Challenge

Think of "local" as "as close to home as possible" and then work outwardly block by block to find local merchants, products and services. Take note of when you have to go outside the Central Area for something: what it is, name and type of store, as well as how far you had to go to get it. Share your experiences of Living Locally by sending your results and comments to Seattle CALL@yahoogroups.com or join the Yahoo group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Seattle-CALL.

This group provides an opportunity for members to share their experiences of Living Locally in Seattle's Central Area. We will be becoming aware of the wonderful businesses and attributes of the Central Area. We'll also learn what types of businesses we need to enhance economic growth and compliment the current businesses. So, join us in this summer's challenge of Living Locally.





What's up on Madison

by Cory Smith

Keep your eyes peeled the summer for **Madison Colors**, a new art gallery to open in **Madison Lofts**. Gallery owner, and retired child psychiatrist, Jack Raskin, will be displaying his watercolor paintings, chatting with neighbors and answering any questions you may have about children. After retiring from his practice, Jack fell in love with the colors of paint on paper and decided to open his gallery. We welcome him to the neighborhood, along with new neighbor VanQuaethem Chiropractic and Massage.

Madison Valley goes Hollywood! Our own Bailey-Boushay House was featured at this year's Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF). SIFF premiered the documentary short, "Bailey-Boushay House: A Living History" this May. The 32-minute film follows the story of a grassroots effort to build the first skilled nursing facility in the United States that was planned, funded, built and staffed to meet the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. "A Living History" was filmed in studio and on location at Bailey-Boushay House and includes original music by Nick Denke of Seattle.

Moms and Dads take note: **Plum Children's Shoes** will be hosting its first Boutique Sale on Saturday, June 28 from 10-5. Fourteen different local stores specializing in children's and maternity goods will be joining Plum Children's Shoes for a parking lot full of great deals.

Sweet Petula Bath & Body is expanding its wholesale operation this summer to Pioneer Square. Their retail shop in Madison Valley will remain the same, but come July, they will open another smaller location at 208 Jackson Street.

Valley Gem

Personal Inspiration

by Jennifer Karkar Ritchie



Art by Anne Schreivoc

"Art" and "Seattle" continue to become synonymous, as the Sculpture Park, the new SAM and NWAAM, the expansion of galleries, and more all help to spread art throughout the city—even in our backyard. I found a wonderful source of inspiration and visual gratification in a visit to the **Baas Art Gallery & Framing** (2703 E. Madison St) where ogling the art has become my ongoing ritual.

Owned by an artist herself, Karrie Baas opened the shop in 1995, and employs other artists in an effort to support the creative community. The space features a gallery in the front, where each month a different Northwest artist's work is show-cased; and a framing section in the back for getting art, diplomas, and pictures expertly framed.

The shop, booked out a year in advance, consistently shows art from its core group of artists, as well as welcoming new artists. This July, Baas will feature art from new artist Anne Schreivogl, whose work is characterized as whimsical and light-hearted, and often depicts animals and people in everyday and unlikely scenarios. From an initial peek, you're in for a jolt of inspiration to your playful side.



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Is the Community Council Going Away?

by Ann McCurdy

Elections will be held at the next community council meeting, and something unusual is happening: Four out of five officers (Wallis Bolz, Jennifer Janzen, Heather Scearce, and Ann McCurdy) do not plan to continue. No, there hasn't been any vicious infighting or anything else gossip worthy. It's simply that these people have served our community and are now ready for someone else to take their place.

We are not the only community to have this happen—Madrona also lists their president as "Position Available". But losing so many will be detrimental to the council if no one steps up. Please attend our next meeting, and see how you can keep us going. Available positions include:

President: The President runs the monthly meetings, sets the agenda, and is seen as the "point person" for the community. Typically we only have 10 meetings—no meetings in July, August, or December.

Vice President: Charles McDade plans to run again as vice president. Vice President runs the meetings when the president is not available.

Treasurer: The Treasurer invoices and tracks Valley View advertisers, records deposits, monitors our P.O. Box, gives a treasurer's report at the monthly meeting, and attends GMVCC sponsored events where money is collected.

Secretary: Attends and takes minutes at the monthly meetings. This position can be shared.

None of our current officers had prior experience on a community council, and you don't need experience either. If you'd like the collection of houses we live in to be called a community, please consider becoming an officer.



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Graffiti: Nuisance or Art?

by Sandy Stahl

There are those who find graffiti an artistic form of self-expression, and others who consider it an eyesore and a nuisance. Property owners consider it vandalism.

Graffiti is a means of rebelling against authority by marking public or private property without the owner's permission. It has a long history: Graffiti has been found on the ruins of

Pompeii, on ancient Greek temples, and in the desert of Saudi Arabia. Some vandals leave their signature or "tag"; others do more elaborate pieces to cover a wall. Gang members often use graffiti to mark their turf to warn rivals away.

In attempting to stop the spread of graffiti, Seattle formed anti-graffiti teams and enacted a Graffiti Nuisance Ordinance. It states that property owners are responsible for cleaning up graffiti; they are given 10 days to clean it up before their first warning, along with information about how to remove graffiti and

resources for free paint. Every effort is made to contact the property owner before fines of \$100 per day (to a maximum of \$5,000) are levied.

Seattle's Graffiti division is divided into two teams: The Public team is focused on poles, street signs, traffic control boxes, bridges, parking meters, and fire hydrants, and has a 10-day timetable for removing graffiti from City property. Hate, sexist, or racist graffiti gets high priority treatment, usually within 48 hours. The Private Property team focuses on mak-

ing sure graffiti is removed from occupied and vacant homes and garages, apartment buildings, restaurants, and stores.

Rana Marie Lokos of the Private Property team is responsible for the northern half of the city, including Madison Valley . Rana patrols on a regular basis, looking for graffiti that needs to be eradicated. While graffiti is not as big an issue in this

neighborhood as it is in other parts of the city, there are several spots Rana watches along Madison, particularly the area between Café Flora and Madison Cleaners, and a hotspot between Mt. Zion Church and the former Dino's. All in all, she finds that property owners in Madison Valley are vigilant and stay on top of cleaning.

If you find graffiti on your property, cover it immediately by washing it off or painting over it. Leaving graffiti alone signals to vandals that it will be

tolerated and invites them to return. If you spot graffiti on a store or restaurant, ask the merchant to remove it quickly, and be sure to thank them when they do. If they don't remove it, call the Graffiti Hotline (details below).

There are a few things you can do to make your property resistant to graffiti: inspect regularly; grow vines or vegetation to cover your walls; install motion-sensitive lighting; and keep matching paint on hand to quickly paint out graffiti. Painting

Please see **Nuisance or Art** on page 5



Graffiti or Art?

Joy Canova

(206) 818-1545 joy@northwestelegance.com

&

Mark Gibson

(206) 423-0017 mark@northwestelegance.com





PUT OUR KNOWLEDGE ON YOUR SIDE

Nuisance or Art, continued from p. 4

an entire wall is vastly more effective than just painting over a small patch.

To get even more involved in eradicating graffiti, volunteer to organize a neighborhood cleanup. Rana will meet with you and assess your needs. She'll deliver the clean up supplies and necessary waivers and provide training on the event day. She will also pick up the supplies afterward or leave them for future cleanups.

Stop the spread of graffiti in your neighborhood by dealing with it immediately:

 • Graffiti Hotline: 684-7587, or go to $\underline{www.seattle.gov}$ and search for "graffiti"

Report graffiti on public and private property.

- Seattle Police Department: (206) 625-5011 Always file a police report when graffiti appears on your property.
- Call 911 to report graffiti in progress: Vandals must be caught in the act to be prosecuted. Do not attempt to stop them yourself.
- Rana Marie Lokos, (206) 684-3056, <u>rana.lokos@seattle.gov</u>. Organize a paint-out, or contact for more information.

Is the Valley View Going Away?

by Ann McCurdy

The short answer is: I don't think so. A few months ago I wrote that I was quitting my position as editor in June. My dad had passed away, my life was stressful, and I wanted everything off of my plate. I requested a volunteer from the community to take over my position.

No one responded. However, extra volunteers and a streamlined process have lessened the load overall. I would hate the *Valley View* go away, but I really need some help with the following:

Editor: If no one wants to take over completely, maybe someone could share my position. This involves soliciting and collecting articles for the nine issues we publish each year. You get to decide what kind of stories to print, keep track of events for the calendar, and often write little articles like this one.

Ad Person: This position can be shared. Keep track of ads each month, and contact businesses about advertising with us. It's actually kind of fun—you get to meet many of the business owners—but I'm already busy enough.

The *Valley View* is not published in the summer, so you wouldn't have to start working until August or September. If you're interested in helping out the *Valley View*, please contact me at editor@madisonvalley.org or 568-7372.

RANTS & RAVES

Send your rants or raves to editor@madisonvalley.org

- "I love the Rants & Raves column you had in March, and was disappointed when it wasn't in April or May. Can you bring it back?"
- "I'm assuming you were in desperate need of more articles for the latest edition of the view. I say that becuz several months ago I approached you to "allow" me to submit a story about the new Madison Park Vet Hospital. You denied it becuz it was in Madison Park, and not Madison Valley. Well, guess what?! Arosa Café is also in Madison Park, not Madison Valley. The nerve of you! Your (not too soon) departure as editor will not be missed by me."
- "Thanks to the Madison Valley Merchants for all they do for the community. Each month there seems to be a food drive, Shop for Children's, Art Walk, or some other activity. It makes me proud they're in Madison Valley!"



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GMVCC Meeting Minutes for May 21

by Heather Scearce, Co-Secretary

Treasurer's report: Beginning balance was \$12,980.82, and ending balance was \$11,887.47.

New Home for William Cummings Painting: The council has been looking for the appropriate place to display the painting by Bill Cummings formerly displayed at MLK Jr. Elementary School. It will now be on loan for one year to the Northwest African American Museum from September 2008 to 2009. Jerry Sussman read a letter by Cummings stating his wish to donate the painting back to the council and to display it within the African American community in the event that MLK was closed.

MLK Jr. Elementary as Community Center: Andy Engelson of Citizens for a Community Center at MLK (CCCAM) presented three proposals for turning MLK Jr. Elementary School into a community center, which could support community meetings, a daycare, arts facilities, artist live/work spaces, etc. CCCAM was formed by interested neighbors in the Madison Valley community, and now has 24 members and a steering committee of eight members who meet every two weeks. The following proposals were made but could not be voted on because only eight people were present and 12 people are needed for a quorum:

- 1. Have the GMVCC voice support for a true community facility at MLK.
- 2. Have GMVCC serve as fiscal agent for CCCAM.
- 3. Move to have GMVCC make a \$1,000 donation/grant to CCCM.

Discussion followed about the School Use Advisory Committee (SUAC) which is in the process of selecting members who will represent the community. The school district will not make a decision until SUAC has made its recommendation about what the community will allow and will not allow at the MLK site.

Summer Barbeque: Andy Engelson proposed that the Madison Val-

ley summer barbeque be put on this year by CCCAM. The barbeque would be held on June 29th at the Valley School. Since a quorum wasn't present, the proposal to donate \$1,000 to put on the barbeque could not be voted on. The group may apply for a grant from the Department of Neighborhoods.

GMVCC Officer Elections in June: Wallis Bolz announced the open positions for GMVCC officers next year (2008-9). Open positions include President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you are interested in running for a position, please attend the next council meeting on June 18th at 7:30pm at the Bush School community room.

Sinkhole on E. Arthur Pl. Julie Wallace, a Madison Valley resident who lives on E. Arthur Place expressed her concerns about a notice sent by the city on May 21st giving her two days to fix a sewer leak. The city claims that the sewer leak from her house has caused a sinkhole on E. Arthur Place. The street has been blocked for the past 3 weeks. Seattle Municipal Code 21.16.180 holds homeowners responsible for repairing sewer leaks and costs can run into the tens of thousands. [ADDENDUM: Another attendee who had experienced a similar situation gave Julie a reference to call. This reference inspected and photographed the sinkhole, and will report to the city that Julie is not at fault, and the city must fix the sinkhole.]

Free Trees: Thomas Wittimore from Department of Neighborhoods announced that the deadline to get free trees for your neighborhood is August 15. For more information, call (206) 684-0464 or visit www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/treefund.htm

Trash, Weed, and Mulch on June 7: Wittimore announced a Clean and Green Event will be held on Saturday, June 7 at 11 a.m. The group will meet at 23rd and E. Union St. and neighbors from all over the community will be picking up trash, weeding and mulching. The Mayor will come at 11:30 am.

City Customer Bill of Rights: Wittimore announced that the City of Seattle is developing a Customer Bill of Rights in order to improve on a bureaucratic and unresponsive system. For more information, call the Customer Service Bureau at 684-2489 or visit the Bill of Rights Web site: www.seattle.gov/mayor/issues/BillOfRights



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COME TO THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING!!

To be discussed: The latest on MLK; Flooding & SPU; Electing Officers! Wednesday, June 18, 7:30 Bush School's Common Room

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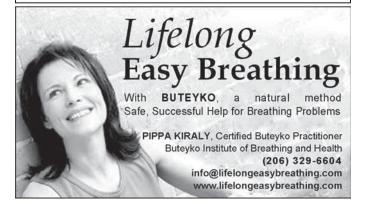
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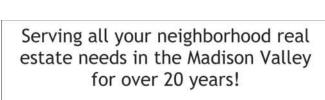
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June 29, 4:00 - 7:00pm The Valley School (309 31st Ave. E) Food. Fun. and Friends

This will be a fun party and a chance to meet your neighbors! We'll have musical entertainment, kids' activities, art projects, a raffle of cool prizes from local merchants, and plenty of great food. And it's all free!

Please see This Year's BBQ on page 1 for more information.





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