

The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 130 June 2005

E-mail: gmvcc@hotmail.com

Neighborhood Announcements

Community Garage Sale

(formerly the Annual Courtyard Sale at Bush School)

Saturday, June 25th

10 AM-4 PM

At

ML King Elementary Playground

"Rent" a space to sell your own stuff

or

Donate directly to the GMVCC

All proceeds to fund *The Valley View*

Space is limited so reserve yours ASAP!

See page 3 for details

Next GMVCC Meeting:

Wed. June 15th 7:30 PM

Voting: 1. crosswalk at 29th and Madison
(see page 6 for details.)

2. next year's officers.

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One of Our Neighbors

She's Living Her Dream

A few years ago, Cora Jackson felt the Lord speaking to her. "He told me to do music FULL time." Chuckling, she recalled answering with "Lord, You and whose bank?" However, Cora responds seriously when God takes the time to give her life direction. So, at the age of 50, Cora is doing just that. Living and breathing music is now her life.

Cora, a native Seattleite from our neighborhood, was the fifth of eight children. She attended local public schools. She recalls streets filled with children running in and out of each other's houses. "During the summer there were so many children that the city just blocked off the street and held a day camp for them right here in the neighborhood." *Continued on page 7*



Cora Jackson is a self-taught musician, gospel singer and composer. She has lived her whole life in our neighborhood.

GMVCC Contact Information

Council Affairs: Gary Emslie, President

Email: gary.emslie@bush.edu

Council business, agenda requests, inquiries, concerns

*

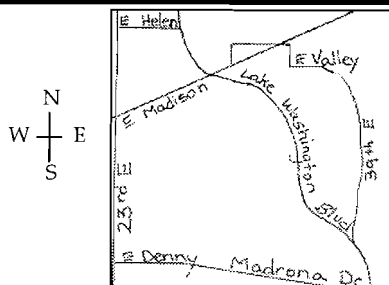
Valley View Newsletter: Cathy Nunneley

Email: cjnunneley@yahoo.com or 329-4083

Article submission, advertising, suggestions, volunteers

GMVCC P.O. Box 22278 Seattle, Washington 98122

The Illustrated GMVCC



This map shows the boundary of the GMVCC and the distribution area of *The Valley View*.



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!

Support *The Valley View*

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

Advertising in *The Valley View*

We have a circulation of 2500.

Approximately 2 X 3 inch ads or announcements:

\$25 per month

\$175 per year (2 months free)

Special requests negotiable

Contact the editor: **Cathy Nunneley**
 329-4083 or cjnunneley@yahoo.com

The Valley View is taking our traditional summer holiday for the months of July and August. We will be revising our mailing list so let us know if you are not receiving the newsletter. Contact the editor, see page 1.

Coming up next year: the GMVCC website!

Have a wonderful summer! *The Valley View* Staff

Community Council Minutes

May 18, 2005

The meeting was called to order by V.P. Charles McDade. A quorum was present. The minutes from April were approved.

Treasurer's Report: \$580 income from ads and donations. \$945.29 paid for the newsletter.

Megan Hoyt from Seattle's crosswalk Dept: A crosswalk at 29th and Madison is possible if the community desires it. 3 parking spaces and a tree would be lost. See accompanying article, page 6.

Community Rummage Sale: See page 3.

New Farmers' Market at Mt Zion Church, 20th & Madison will open Fridays 3-7 PM.

Andy Goulding: continued efforts to save ML King School bolstered with the school board backing down on closures.

Flood Victims: The Flood committee will begin to meet jointly with the GMVCC now that the issues have stabilized. They will have their task force meeting prior to the GMVCC and then participate with the Council to make decisions regarding the neighborhood. SPU reps presented info. Phase III: the "big fix" is up for discussion. SPU hasn't made any decisions but will listen to what the community recommends for use of the site where 5 properties will be uninhabitable. 2 houses are now vacant and it was voted to apply for no trespassing signs and increased police patrol. A tree house on one property is a potential dangerous place for kids and neighbors want it to be removed. Demolition of the houses will be put into the 2006 budget. Maintenance of the properties until then, specifically with lawn mowing, needs improvement. SPU is working on this issue.

Elections next meeting. All current officers have volunteered for next year.

Meeting adjourned at 9PM.

Letter to the Editors

Dear *Valley View* Editor,

Regarding issues discussed at the last GMVCC meeting, I am grateful for good engineering detail support from the City. Please keep in mind our grand visions for long range planning and improvements, including:

1. Flooding in the valley: Hold onto our vision for a tunnel under Madison, near the P-Patch, connecting the sewer line to the main line, and opening pedestrian and bicycle access to the Arboretum.

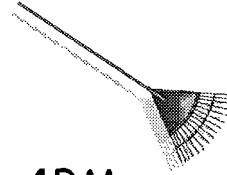
2. Traffic on Madison: Push our vision to reduce traffic, such as enforcing Peak Hour HOV ONLY access to 520 from Lake Washington Blvd.

3. Keep excellent public education in our neighborhood by supporting the work of M.L.King Jr. School to re-invent itself.

4. Continue to maintain The Sidewalks of Madison Valley, by cutting brush and picking up litter.

Thanks for the good work, Andy Goulding 329-6350

Community Garage Sale: A New Look for Our Traditional Courtyard Sale



Saturday, June 25th 10 AM-4PM

In an effort to minimize the work for our few volunteers and still provide a service to the community while funding the newsletter, we have decided to hold a community-wide "no garage, garage sale". We are modeling this sale after the successful event held by our neighbors in Madrona.

This year, we will hold the sale at the ML King playground. You may "rent" a space from us to sell your own goods or donate stuff directly for us to sell. Here are the details:

1. **Rental fee: \$15 per group.** You set up and take care of your own sales. First come, first served basis, no refunds. Madrona always runs out of space so reserve early!

Contact: Cathy Nunneley 329-4083, 954-6643 (cell)
cjnunneley@yahoo.com
128 33rd Ave E 98112

Your spot will be reserved upon receipt of your payment.

2. **Donate directly to GMVCC: FRIDAY 6/24 ONLY!** Drop off at the school. Tax-deductible receipts will be available for you.

Need help with pick-up? Call Jerry: 325-6308

Volunteer organizing/pricing party that evening beginning at 5PM. To volunteer, contact Cathy.

3. **Northwest Center will remove all leftovers.** This service alone is worth your \$15 fee!

4. **Publicity:** GMVCC will advertise in all local papers and appropriate web sites for you. Please email all of your friends. The more publicity – the better!

5. **Lemonade/cookie stands:** We REALLY encourage this: Kids come on out! There will be no charge for this. Just yummy fun for all.

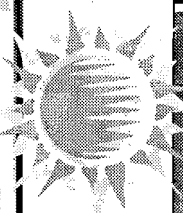
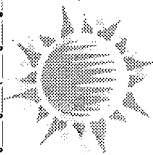
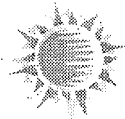


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Tunnel Under Madison? Voters Speak

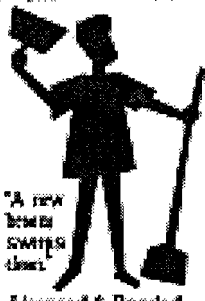
Email response to the tunnel proposal came in steadily showing our staff that they are reading the paper out there. Opinions in favor were 3-1 ranging from fervent approval to endorsement with cautions. The people against had practical concerns: this tunnel might be over 100 feet long and could pose safety problems requiring police patrols. Parking may increase and the pea patch could be affected.

Some proponents realize for the first time that the natural topography of our valley heads directly to the Arboretum and that the City's earthen fill to raise Madison Street not only blocks us physically but has contributed to our flooding woes. Several writers had seen the images researched by Paul Dorpat our photo-historian who showed us the old cable car trestle over the valley. The walkers and bike riders glowed at the idea of opening this path to the park. As many suggested, we should keep the plan on the table. We shall do that.



Madison Street Trestle 1912
Looking south to the valley from the Arboretum.

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Around the Neighborhood

Awash Grocery is closed. Abi Manion, blockwatch captain, has been in contact with the out-of-state owners. She reports that they would like to remodel the building and perhaps have a coffee shop with an upstairs residence. If the site continues as a grocery, she reports that no alcohol is to be sold. Since the store's closure, there has been no reported drug activity at the intersection. Additionally, the problem with cars doing "wheelies" has been resolved.

Steve Magley, of City Peoples, reports that the developers of the vacant lot across from the garden store is slated for construction this summer. They are awaiting some more permits. No additional parking is planned for what will be a large building with retail topped with condos.



ML King continues its' struggle to stay open. A lot of passion has been expressed by generations of parents that attended the school and wish to have their children and grandchildren continue there. With the back and forth decisions by the district, the community is confused.

The superintendent's decision is due June 15 and the board will vote in July about closures. Meanwhile, the school is continuing to recruit students to the Montessori program. Please call ASAP if you are interested. Contact principal, Barry Dorsey at 252-2900.

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Our Spring Art Walk and Sale Along Madison a Success!

Armed with copies of *The Valley View* and maps of participating shops, crowds of art lovers strolled Madison Street to view the local talent on May 7th. This event was a fun time for all. Even Mother Nature helped out by providing soft temperatures and abundant sunshine.

Lime green balloons and signs guided folks to the shops and the artists were on hand to talk about their work. The business owners were very happy with the partnerships between them and "their" artists. Fun drinks and finger foods encouraged us to linger and really appreciate the creations.

This Spring Art Walk was our second in what we anticipate to be a yearly event on the Saturday before Mothers' Day. Next year we increase the participation of more businesses and artists with longer hours to extend the fun.

A big thanks to everyone that helped out to make the Art Walk a success. This type of event further illustrates the benefit of cooperation between the businesses and neighborhood residents to enhance our community. We hope to continue this partnership with more events throughout the year.

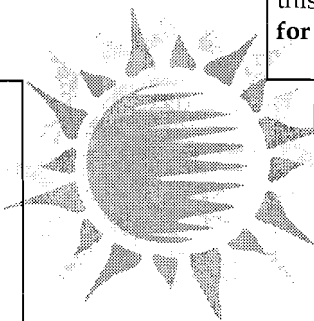


On the left, Karrie Baas of Baas Gallery host to ceramics artist Barbara Dunshee. Some of the vessels created by Barbara may be seen in the foreground. Barbara was the lead artist for planning the art walk and responsible for bringing this event to our neighborhood. Thanks, Barbara for all your work! It is much appreciated.

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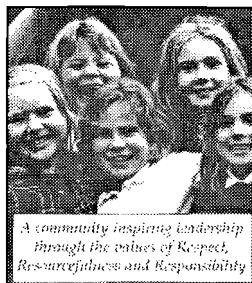
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A Crosswalk at Madison and 29th?

After studying the impact of a crosswalk at 29th and Madison, Megan Hoyt, the City's crosswalk guru, recommended that it be sited at the intersection as pictured in this illustration.

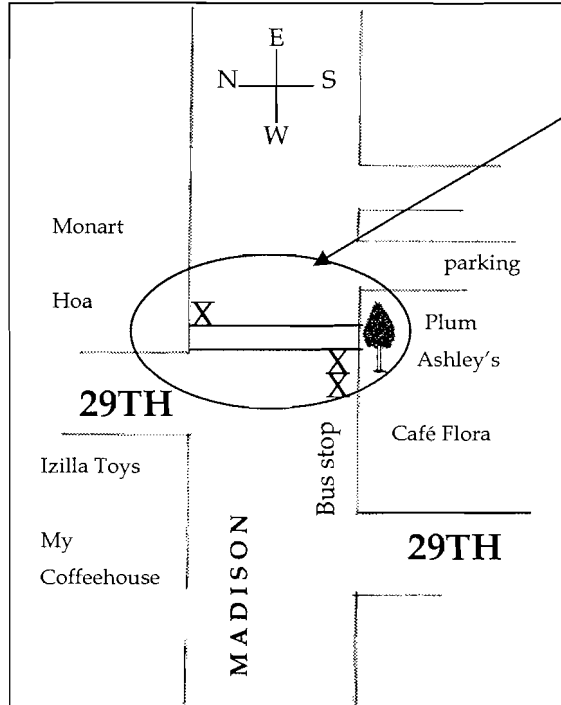
The site is difficult because 29th Avenue does not line up with itself as it crosses Madison. Although **already a legal crosswalk**, motorists speeding by do not recognize it as such because it is not marked. Many people do not understand that **EVERY intersection is a legal crossing**. Motorists frequently do not slow down and it's not uncommon for them to hurl uncouth oaths at pedestrians trying to cross.

The business community has long been concerned about the safety of customers crossing the street especially with the influx of several shops catering to children.

The issue will be discussed at the upcoming Madison Valley Merchant Assoc meeting on Wed., June 1st and at the next GMVCC meeting on June 15th.

The Council will be voting on this crosswalk installation at the next meeting so please let us know your views!

Contact the editor, Cathy Nunneley (see page 1) or attend the meeting on June 15th.



Proposed site for a new crosswalk

A Bird' eye view of E Madison & 29 th.

Installation of a crosswalk would eliminate 3 parking places as indicated by X. (30ft from the crosswalk)

A tree at the site would also need to be removed.



Photo of Madison Street looking East towards the Lake. The proposed crosswalk would begin at the corner of 29th on the left, cross the street and end at the building to the right, The Madisonian.

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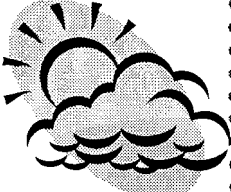
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* daytime availability, reliable vehicle, driver's license and insurance required to provide transportation.

BELLA DOLCE

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Growing up, Cora's house was filled with singing. The family always naturally sang harmony together and all the kids participated in the choir at the local Baptist Church. Cora took it several steps further by singing in the All City Choir, and the Northwest Choir. At the age of 12, she asked for piano lessons. The church gave her an old piano and she was off -- playing, writing songs and singing.

While in college, Cora married her high school sweetheart. The union did not last and she left the marriage after a few years. For 14 years, she worked for the IRS. As is common to many musicians, Cora's advanced math aptitude is second nature and she excelled at her work. In 1985, at a disco, she met Ed. He was instantly smitten and within months they were married. Ed is an accomplished trombonist and shares her love of music. They moved to the Madison Valley house in which he grew up.

In 1993, Cora was approached by St. Therese's Church and offered a job leading what they referred to as their "gospel choir". She was becoming well known around Seattle for her musical skills. Laughing she says, "I told them that choir they had was no gospel choir. They kept insisting, so I decided to give it three months to see what I could do." Those three months turned into five years.

In addition to directing the choir at St. Therese, Cora began to present her original music to them. At first she was a bit shy about how they would receive her creations. However, the compositions were met with such enthusiasm that she was motivated to expand her creative endeavors. Musical plays, known as gospel theater, came next, then CD recordings.

In 1998, Cora left St. Therese's and organized her own choir. Eventually, she found a rehearsal home for the group downtown at the Matt Talbot Center and they perform there every second Sunday. "I love to bring the ministry of music to the people," she explains.

Cora's choir is part of her Christian-based performing arts troupe S.T.A.N.D. (Song, Theater, AN' Dance), or (Shout Triumphantly Announce a New Day). The artists perform contemporary dance to original compositions, popular gospel music and new arrangements of traditional Christian songs. Since 1989, STAND has performed two original gospel musicals, **The Concert of the Cross** and **Mary Had a Little Lamb**. A third, **God's Trombones**, is in

the works now. Cora wrote the music and lyrics and directed the plays.

In addition to STAND, Cora and her husband have formed Sonojack Records and ND Valle' Music to record and publish her music. Her company's CDs feature collaborations with highly regarded performers as well as the STAND troupe. Cora has performed at the Port Townsend Blues and Jazz Festival, sung the national anthem at Safeco and has a perennial berth at the spring Folklife Festival. These are only the local highlights of a career that takes Cora traveling throughout the country. For example, she regularly travels to Idaho to direct a fledgling performance group.

When Cora formed STAND Productions and Sonojack, her son turned 18 and she felt that she would finally have the time to devote herself to music without the responsibilities of parenting. However, this plan was not to be. Cora's niece leads a compromised life and has been unable to care for her own children. The first two children arrived at her doorstep in the late '90s and another soon followed. When the fourth child was born Cora felt completely overwhelmed. That child has been adopted by her close friend and STAND collaborator Barbara Lynn. Barbara lives across the street so all four siblings are growing up together.

Although many members of Cora's family have experienced difficulties in life, she has managed to lead a productive and love-filled existence. "I don't care too much about being in control," she offers as an explanation. "Big money doesn't hold an attraction to me. I am really an introvert. I loved school and reading while growing up so I didn't need the popularity of running with the crowd. My mom didn't smoke or drink and neither do I."

Advice? Cora doesn't hesitate. "Find a thing and embrace it. For me it's always been God and music". Amen.

Interested in your neighbor Cora Jackson's work? You may visit the following websites: standproductions.org sonojackrecords.com.

Please let us know about your interesting neighbors! With their permission we will feature them in an upcoming issue of *The Valley View*! We all benefit from learning about our community.

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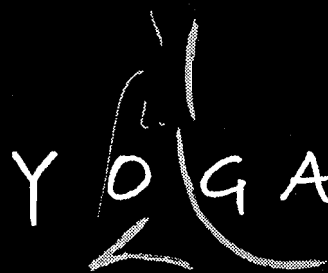
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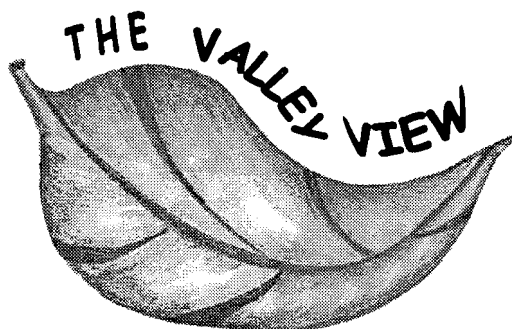
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Deadline: 15th of each month.
 Your submissions are appreciated!
 Mail to the address above.

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Tuesday-Saturday Evenings

5:30-9:30 PM

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Friday lunch

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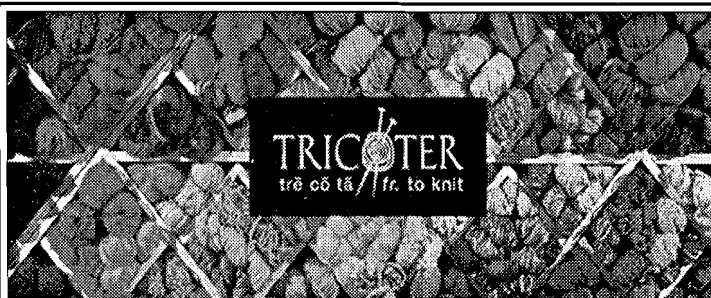
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