



The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 105, September 2002

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President's View

Another fall season approaches. The amazing growth of summer at the 30th Ave. street-end P-patch sparkles with the early dews which have recently returned to greet us each morning. Hope you, family, and friends had a productive, reflective, and relaxing summer.

At our last council meeting in June, neighbors expressed concern over the scope and speed of project completions in and around the P-patch. Governance and potential future projects in the adjacent City Parks property seemed foremost on the concerns list. P-patchers Sandy (684-0284) and Larry (329-1159) seek volunteers to help with P-patch projects. Please call them if you are able to lend a hand.

The next council meeting is scheduled for September 17th in the portable at 7:30. Perfect! You can vote in the school's gym (primary election is the same night

and polls are open until 8 pm) and then come to the council meeting. In addition to hotly contested legislative positions, citizens need to weigh in on the Prop 1 Low Income (aka affordable housing) Housing Levy. You have watched the prices/assessed values of homes on your block skyrocket in the last four years and the rents have followed. Affordable housing in our neighborhood is an important issue. Your vote matters: use it.

The Bush school has an open meeting for neighbors on September 18th at 5:30-7:00 pm in their commons off of Harrison. The school will update neighbors on the current status of the construction project.

In the Big Thank You department we all owe thanks to Eli Stahlhut for organizing and managing the successful July courtyard sale. Great bargains were found and sunshine

(Continued on page 3)

Reader Response

Dear neighbors,

I read with interest and appreciation the letter published in the June edition of the Valley View. The letter, "The South Seattle Star Lands on Our Valley," was a response to an opinion published in the second issue of our paper. You are correct: the opinion was written by me. It appeared in Soapbox, which is the editorial opinion of the South Seattle Star.

I can't take credit for bouncing Madison Valley out of the Central Area. I am recording an observation based on anecdotal reports, both informal and published. This evidence includes Madison Valley merchants who tell their customers they are located in Madison Park to avoid an association with a poor and/or historically black

(Continued on page 4)

Opinion

The War on Iraq

by Jack Irwin

Are we ready for a new war? I don't see much agreement out there, in spite of the Vice President's certainty that a pre-emptive attack will accomplish wonders in the Middle East. Bad Man Saddam Hussein will not send his armies out in the desert this time, but will likely keep them in and around cities. The attacker will have to go in and fight a bloody messy war. So far we have heard only the possible cost in money: 30 to 50 billion dollars. With the likelihood of an extensive battle on the ground, what will be the cost in blood? Mr. Cheney's list of all the benefits that will follow this attack sounds like a fairy tale. The idea that American troops will be greeted by masses waving the stars and stripes in the streets of Baghdad is fantasy. Who believes that? There is little evidence that Saddam's neighbors want to be a part of a violent "rush to democracy." Their own regimes would be in danger. It would be foolish for us to go it alone.



I believe we should press on with rebuilding Afghanistan. Let us show our constructive sympathy with problems of poverty and human rights in the Muslim world. Concentrate on progress toward an equitable agreement between Palestine and Israel that will bring a peaceful future. Carry on the campaign for diplomatic isolation of Iraq and support the UN work for inspection and against weapons buildup. No to a first-strike war on Iraq. ▼▼

Color Me Red White and Blue

by Miranda Levy

The recent influx of wall to wall patriotism in this Land of the Free makes me furrow my brow. All of a sudden I see skies of blue, trees of green, and American flag stickers affixed to the helmets of burly-looking motorcycle mamas and papas. A peculiar picture? To say the least. America sure does clean up well. However, should we just clean up now? Because we are at war? Methinks that if patriotism is in the hearts of all my fellow Americans then perhaps it should be shown at all times so we can see who really digs the stars and stripes.

While I can't possibly claim that the recent splurge of

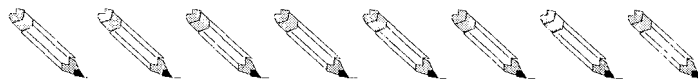
Red White and Blue, continued

American pride is a bad thing (certainly not!), it is simply frustrating that such public displays of American affection are shown only in times of crisis. In the manner opposite of 'fair-weather friends', Americans suddenly feel an urge to lift every voice and sing hell for leather in honor of their God-blessed country—just because things aren't going as smooth as butter on toast anymore. If these new flag-flyers are truly sincere in spouting their slogans, the question must be asked: Why haven't we heard all these voices before? It is most difficult to believe that every single one of these Americans, with their newfound pride, is acting upon said pride independently. Sure, the new ribbons worn abreast by everyone at the Emmys are a nice, supportive trend item, but shouldn't they be worn because one wants to, not because it's 'the thing to do'?

The patches on baseball uniforms, the flag salute in first period, the M.C. Hammer video at Capitol Hill. All are trends that have appeared in response to the events of September 11th. Horrible as the day was, and vivid as these memories stand at this moment, all these trends will indeed fade in time (although I'm sure most of us will agree that Hammer Time had its *moment* some time in the early 90's and really doesn't need to make a comeback at all). The Seattle Public School District was berated with anxiously patriotic phone callers, demanding that we at Garfield High School (and similar establishments) improve upon our inadequate support for the country. Henceforth we are called to salute our flag each and every morning—bleary-eyed and too irritated to stand up as we may be—and darn well *prove* that we stand by America.

This is not a concrete cause to show support for in the manner of AIDS or cancers. Remember, Democracy does not assume total agreement and as such, America has not (and should not be) united in support of one specific aspect of the crises we currently face. People can stand for a war cause of their own interpretation, without need of outside influence. If someone's heart really is be-starred and striped, then so be it and let them grin smartly from atop our purple mountain majesties. *Without* pinning a ribbon on the guy next to him (C'mon...all the other guys are doing it...).

The problem is, one can't help thinking that so much of it is just phony. To succumb to a Holden Caulfieldesque statement, I must say that everyone's a phony. Never more so than in present times when we see kids at school with ribbons tied to their backpacks and I see men emblazing American flag tattoos on bulging biceps. If we love America, we love Americans, *capisce?* Until we prove that, then it's false advertising to claim one's self as a 100% American supporter. We may hide our indiscretions behind shiny-new flags but we are the same old America and there is no need to pretend otherwise. Pushing our boys out in the world to fight for us—boys who don't even shave and whose voices have yet to cease cracking—may seem the right thing to do, but they are still the same boys who just three months



ago were being kissed goodnight by their mamas and given allowance by their daddies.

We are America, and we already know it. We needn't don special apparel (although it's so *in*) and we needn't praise our country if we don't do so with our full hearts. We may fight, and we may cry, because we are—still and forever—America. We are Brave and at Home.

What a Wonderful World.▼▼

Neighborhood News

Big Thanks to Courtyard Sale Volunteers

The GMVCC would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make this year's courtyard sale another big success. We would like to extend special thanks to the Bush School for so graciously allowing us the use of facilities for storage of donated goods and space to stage the sale.

This year was our 14th annual July courtyard sale. All proceeds go to help fund this community newsletter. We raised \$1,400 — enough to pay for about 4 issues. Your community council is dedicated to keeping our neighborhood a great place to live. If you would like to help with next year's sale please call Eli Stahlhut at 206-322-7196.

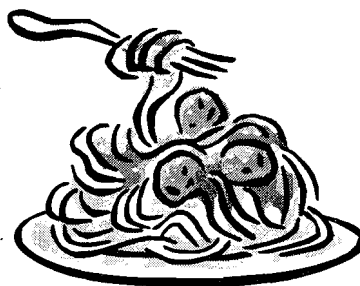
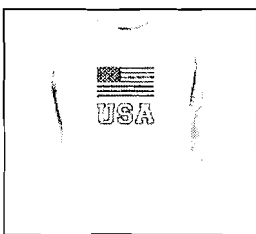
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Annual Spaghetti Dinner

It's not too early to begin serious planning for our famous fall spaghetti dinner. This dinner is a much-anticipated event for the entire community. Neighbors from all over the area have the opportunity to mingle with fellowship, good food and entertainment. As in past years, the dinner will be held on the first Friday night in November at the ML King School cafeteria. The dinner includes spaghetti with meat or vegetarian sauce, garlic bread, salad and dessert. An assortment of drinks is available for purchase. Both individual and family tickets are available. The tickets are offered by your neighbors door to door and are also available at the dinner.

We are always in need of volunteer support. Whatever interest or skill you possess can be matched. Some duties include decorations, entertainment, meal preparation, serving, baking dessert, selling tickets to neighbors and, of course, the clean-up crew.

Please consider a few hours of your time to help make this year's dinner another success. For information and volunteer opportunities, please call Cathy Nunneley at 329-4083.▼▼



Community Council Minutes

Minutes for GMVCC Meeting of June 18, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. A quorum was present.

A correction was made to the minutes of the May meeting: The minutes said that there was little activity in the pea patch and that people tend to do their job and leave immediately. However, according to Sarah Trethewey who is in charge of the p-patch, the problem was simply that pea patch neighbors are reluctant to work in the pea patch; that they don't spend *extra* time which is necessary in order for the pea patch to thrive. On the basis of this clarification, the minutes were approved.

Candace was introduced as the Community Council's new treasurer. She is currently in transition but is determined for the CC to earn more money.

P-Patch. A new member, Kate Fleming, volunteered to clean the mass of debris in and surrounding the pea patch. She later noticed that Larry Grant, the pea patch volunteer coordinator was clearing in places other than the p-patch and, in the first week of June, was clearing the wild plants and replacing with natives. The area was cleared in the manner of the park, where people can sit and children can run wild. Kate mentioned the "Neighborhood Involvement" rule, which says that Larry needs agreement from nearby residents. The majority likes the pea patch to be beautiful but wild, and does not appreciate the clearing the noise associated with the children that are allowed to play there.

Kate's other main issues were:

1. There are many neighbors not holding plots, and in fact only three single-person plots are currently being used.
2. Pea patch associates must abide by rules as set by the parks department.
3. Before more work should be started, and before a visit from the Parks Dept. representative, the current projects must be done!

Field House. The latest plan for the Washington Park field house says that the space will be a total of 1973 square feet, which includes 265 sq. ft. of new space. The facilities will include an inside toilet, a kitchen, hot water, and a patio. The Parks Dept. has shown interest in the project and wants it to succeed. The estimated cost for the renovation is \$200,000. An initiative will be taken in order to win another substantial grant.

Arboretum Foundation Board. Boone Barker says that, through contact with the Department of Neighborhoods, there is a good chance that the project of receiving grants. The AFB has volunteered to help with writing for the grant. There is also tremendous support from the Japanese Garden as well as the sports teams that use Washington Park.

A motion was passed to write a new letter for a major grant up to \$150,000. A second motion was passed to send a letter regarding Bush School's application for a building

President's View, continued

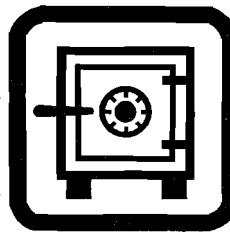
graced the collection of volunteers and bargain hunters. The week following the courtyard sale, neighbor Ron Ho organized, advertised, and managed an art and crafts sale in the Bush courtyard. No junk here! Thanks Ron. Proceeds from both sales will be used this year to help to pay for the printing of your community newsletter.

Upcoming event: don't forget that we have the annual Spaghetti Dinner in November.

Best to all for the start of the school year, and hope to see you on September 17. ▼▼

Appreciation

Sarah Trethewey, Outgoing Treasurer



Sarah's work has been a boon to the council. She was the leader in building the P-patch and overseeing its wonderful development. Her experience in writing the grant for the garden and managing its finances was invaluable. Her life is so busy she did not run for re-election this spring.

Nevertheless she stayed on the job to see the completion of the fieldhouse grant project. Our architect Kent Johnson finished his design work to everyone's approval. We spent only one half of the grant money to achieve this. Sarah has paid the last of the bills, and the Department of Neighborhoods and the Parks Department are happy with us. Our next task is to obtain the funds and get the construction underway.

Sarah now passes the treasurer's mantle and checkbook to our new holder of the exchequer, Candace Poncedeleon. (She is, incidentally, Pearl Castle's daughter.) Best wishes to Sarah and Candace. Come and meet them at the September meeting. ▼▼

variance.

City People's Support. Lisa St. George transferred the \$2,000 donated to King School by City People's into the C.C. account. It is necessary that this money is used as soon as possible, to buy plant materials, etc.

This past year, it came to the C.C.'s attention that part of the expense included an extra \$85 dollars for the custodian's services last November; payment had never been an issue in the past. The C.C. is studying the bill in preparation for this November's Spaghetti Dinner.

Ads and General Newsletter Issues. The C.C. has proposed an ad switch with the Madison Park Times in order to gain publicity. Furthermore, we need a new person to scout for ads, to encourage more locals to write, and to introduce new features like a Community Soapbox.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. ▼▼

Minutes prepared by Miranda Levy, Secretary.

THE VALLEY VIEW

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2001-2002 Officers

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Vice President - Charles McDade
Secretary - Miranda and Claire Levy
Treasurer - Candace Poncedeleon
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Next Community Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2002, 7:30 p.m.
Martin Luther King Elementary School Portables
3201 E. Republican Street
(parking available on playfield)

Reader Response, continued

neighborhood, realtors who have renamed my neighborhood Madison Park West and Arboretum Heights, and those who have refuted my statement that Madison Valley is part of the Central Area because the neighborhood is no longer predominately black.

Perhaps I am splitting a fine hair here but it was my intent to demonstrate that despite a neighborhood's prior assertion that they are a part of the Central Area, this distinction is lost in the surge of newcomers who create their own geography, their own mental maps of place. Miller Park was once a neighborhood in the Central Area--is it now? I appreciate your response to the Star. In fact, I am delighted. It is my belief that a newspaper, at its best, is an important factor in the creation of coherent communities.

Our city is in a period of great transition, and some of transition's most provocative issues are playing out in central and south Seattle. It is my hope that the Star can continue to provoke thought and discussion, and, in doing so, bind one to another.

With best regards,

Wallis Bolz, Publisher, South Seattle Star

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Call to Writers and Designers

With a busy fall travel season on the horizon, the Valley View could really use some extra hands to write stories and take on layout and design responsibilities for this newsletter.

If you can write or do simple desktop publishing-style layout, please contact us at 206/325-8126 or at our email address: gmvc@hotmail.com