



The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 106, October 2002

E-mail: gmvcc@hotmail.com

President's View

I just love the fall colors as they begin to peek out from behind their summer greenery. The P-Patch growers are busy with the harvest of the spring/summer labors.

Our small P-Patch seems far removed from Washington D.C. And even further from the turmoil in the Middle East. As our representatives in Washington examine and analysis our country's future options and actions, we sit quietly in our homes wondering what is next? The strength of a country begins at home through the actions of its formal neighborhood organizations.

Your community has a voice. Do you use it? Will you use it? Will those in city, county, state, and federal positions of representation hear your voice? Strong opinions with inaudible

voices communicate far less than strong opinions and a community's voices. Let's hear the voices!

Thanks in advance for all of those who have agreed to help us with the Spaghetti Dinner at Martin Luther King Elementary School on Friday, November 1, 2002 @ 6:30 pm.

The next GMVCC meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2002 @ 7:30 pm in the portable at Martin Luther King Elementary School. I hope to hear your voice. ▼▼

Reader Response

Dear Valley View Readers,

Upon reading the September issue of this newsletter, I was surprised by the Community Council Minutes column. My neighbor and my partner and I had attended the June 18th meeting and discussed the P-Patch, but unfortunately the Minutes do not accurately reflect our comments and concerns. It is very important to us that our views be clearly communicated as there seems to be some confusion about the Patch and its neighbors. I am not a member of the Patch as the Minutes state, nor is my neighbor, Sarah, in charge of the Patch. The members pay annual dues, volunteer a minimum of eight hours per year and are granted their own plot to cultivate as they wish.

(Continued on page 4)

Neighborhood News

Harrison Ridge Greenbelt Revisited

Our friend Blair Constantine is the landscape designer who made the plan to revive our hillside of trees. He supervised the replanting of conifers and native shrubs in the greenbelt in 1994-1995. This woodland forms the eastern rise above the valley. It is publicly owned today, so there will be no condos or houses, only a place for birds and the occasional family of raccoons. Blair hadn't seen the results of our work in seven years, so we called him and he was happy to come over and take a look.

The open space, a little over six acres, runs along 32 Avenue East northward from Denny Way. At Thomas Street, which is unused, the tract turns east to Dorffel Drive. We hiked in on 33rd East from Denny. That is a stub of a street that dead ends at the greenbelt. The log barrier marking the entry is now enveloped by native roses, blooming happily and spreading all over the place. We could hardly make out the trail which was our working path, but in we went. The Harrison Ridge is mainly a steep rise with little level

ground. The hill is actually a great circular mound of sandy soil over clay that was left here by the ancient glacier. It is a conspicuous feature of the map of Seattle's geological hazards, like the hills above Alki beach and the Magnolia bluffs facing Elliott Bay. In periods of heavy rain or earthquake these dangerous piles turn to mud and come down. The 33rd right of way was abandoned in the 1930's when a great earth slide wiped it out.

Before our planting began, we had to clear out blackberry vines and ivy and remove tons of rubbish and debris. In the long ago it was customary to leave dead cars, tires, and trash in the nearby woods. Our crews of high school kids and conservation people hauled in hundreds of cedars, firs, and hardy bushes, dug holes and put them in the ground. The trees are thriving. Blair was very pleased. Cedars especially are shooting up, some already twenty feet in height and four inches diameter. As we moved over the coarse ground Blair identified the plants whose names we had forgotten: native hawthorn, crabapple, ninebark, ocean spray, serviceberry. Many of these plants are well known in the lore of the native people who were here before us. Indian people



Neighborhood News Continued

gleaned food items and medicinals where we walk. The history of the land is always here in this remnant of forest. We cannot restore the landscape that was, nor return the place to its original inhabitants, but we can stop its degradation.

Sober thoughts like this came to me as we wandered in the woods. At least we saved this place from further decay or "development" and in fifty years it will look more like it did in 1850.

We pulled down a few vines as we checked the trees and felt satisfied with the work. Blair wears glasses now, but hasn't aged much. He keeps his long black hair in a pony-tail and seems content as a keeper of woods and gardens. We shook hands and off he went. ▼▼

Farewell-to-Summer Delight

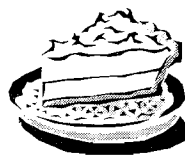
A late summer recipe brought to you
by Claire Levy

Lemon Meringue Pie

This cool and light dessert feels like a last taste of summer and is easy to make!

Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 1/3 cup cornstarch
- 1 ½ cups water
- 3 Eggs
- 3 tsp. Butter
- ¼ cup Lemon Juice
- 1 tsp. Grated Lemon Rind



Directions

Mix together sugar and cornstarch. Stir in water and heat over low flame until the mixture thickens. Let boil for one minute. Beat egg yolks into the sugar mixture and let boil one minute. Next, blend in butter, lemon juice and lemon rind. Pour into a baked pie shell and top with meringue. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes at 400 degrees or until meringue browns. When

finished, let cool completely and enjoy!

**The Bush School
has a change of address:**

**The Bush School
3400 East Harrison Street
Seattle, WA 98112**

* Stay tuned for more information in
next month's newsletter.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner Returns

Friday, November 1, 2002

@ 6:30 pm at

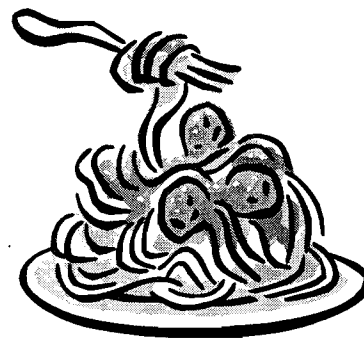
Martin Luther King Elementary School

Our annual Spaghetti Dinner comes this year on Friday, November 1, 2002 @ 6:30 pm. This traditional neighborhood get-together is a chance to celebrate the fall season, see old friends, meet new neighbors and share a modest, yet delicious meal at bargain prices.

Spaghetti (both vegetarian and meat sauces), salad, bread, and homemade desserts will be served in the Martin Luther King Elementary School's lunchroom. This year, we will have dinner, entertainment, and door prizes awarded. Rumor has it that this year's dinner might even support a silent auction. The cost is a

bargain: \$4.00 and tickets are available in advance or at the door. Bring your new neighbor to this community friend-raising event! We hope to see you there!

Information and volunteer opportunities, please call Cathy Nunneley at 329-4083. ▼▼



Community Council Minutes

Minutes for GMVCC Meeting of September 16, 2002

Gary Emslie was not present, so Charles McDade called the meeting to order at 7:30. There was a quorum present.

The minutes for the last newsletter were approved with exception of the pea patch situation. Clarification of some pea patch specifics are detailed in a letter to the editor in this edition.

Next, Candy Poncedeleon introduced herself. She is in the process of taking over from the previous treasurer. This process should be complete by the next meeting.

Mr. Larry Gossett, a King Country council member, spoke and brought brochures to the council explaining what he does for us as a council member. He covered topics such as the metro bus system, water treatment, criminal justice and other issues in our region. Mr. Gossett will be running for re-election again in 2003.

Eli Stahlhut told us that the Courtyard Sale went well and was a lot of fun. The biggest challenge ahead is recruiting more volunteers. The council made about \$1400.

The Annual Spaghetti Dinner is coming up! Volunteers are needed. The date of the event is November 1, 2002. The doors will be open at 6:00 PM and food will be served at 6:30. A volunteer recruitment table for council activities will be set up at the door. For info contact Cathy Nunneley at 329-4083 or cjnunneley@yahoo.com We will be serving homemade desserts this year. Contribution of a dessert is an easy way to volunteer.

Jerry says the field house project is going well, and we are still looking for graduate students who would be willing to work on it as a project.

Some neighbors are still concerned with the presence of unnecessary signs on our streets. An example of this are the Adopt -A-Street signs on Madison. Progress has been reported and a few signs have been removed. More information at the next meeting.

ADVERTISEMENTS?

To advertise in The Valley View, please contact **Cathy Nunneley at 329-4083** or cjnunneley@yahoo.com for information and

THE VALLEY VIEW

2802 East Madison St., Box 184
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Member of the Seattle
Community Council Federation
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Eli Stahlhut

The Valley View is published 10 times each year.

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

2001-2002 Officers

President - Gary Emslie

Vice President - Charles McDade

Secretary - Miranda and Claire Levy

Treasurer - Candace Poncedeleon

Site Council Rep. - Adrienne Bailey

E-mail: gmvcc@hotmail.com

Adrienne told us about how the city's budget cuts will be affecting us. Because of the cuts there will no longer be crossing guards at school. Most of the cuts affect children and senior citizen. For more information on the cuts, call Adrienne at (206) 860-1200.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15. ▼▼

Reader Response, continued

To quickly address some of the errors in the Minutes:

- * Almost every plot is currently occupied.
- * Only one resident of the 500 block of 30th E has a plot but that is immaterial as anyone in the whole neighborhood is allowed to sign up.
- * The P-Patch rules are set by the Department of Neighborhoods not the Parks Department.

We residents of the block of 30th E where the P-Patch is currently located have shared the same simple concerns for a year. We are delighted that the garden is located on our block. It beautifies our street and helps to make it peaceful and safe. We welcome the P-Patch gardeners and contrary to the Minutes, we enjoy seeing the children who play and work in the garden.

Our primary concerns have been in regard to expansion. The former coordinator of the Patch extended the cultivated area beyond the garden's legally granted bounds. We had to request that this expansion be stopped, we ended up having to haul away a large amount of debris associated with the expansion. There is an inaccessible, uncultivated Green Space adjacent to the garden. The Green Space is Parks Department property, not related to the P-Patch. The previous coordinator began clearing this area as well. Eleven of the fourteen households on this block signed a letter requesting that this clearing also be stopped. In the past, when that area has been made accessible, it has hosted illegal activities and behavior. If it is kept wild, this element will go elsewhere.

My neighbors and I just want our block to be safe and clean. We feel that it's important for us to have a say in that. While voicing our concerns we want to be very clear. We are glad to live near the Madison Valley P-Patch, and we look forward to happily co-existing for years to come.

Best Regards,
Kate Fleming

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Please contact me for mailing parties, writing, reporting, artwork, or other. My interests are:

GMVCC ▼ 2802 E. Madison Street, #184 ▼ Seattle, WA 98112

**Next Community Council
Meeting**
Tuesday, October 15,
2002 @ 7:30 p.m.
Martin Luther King Elementary
School Portables
3201 E. Republican Street

