

The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 87, September 2000

E-mail: madisonvalley@juno.com

President's View

by Gary Emslie

Haven't yet reached the solstice and yet that feel of fall is in the September evening air to remind us that our neighbors' children return to their neighborhood schools. Their successes are our futures. Don't forget to support your neighborhood schools.

The annual summer courtyard was big success. Many of our neighbors helped organize and participate on the day of the sale. Many more neighbors were generous with their donations (see article on page 3).

Three areas within our council boundaries were active this summer with neighborhood potlucks: groups on 33rd, 34th, 35th, and 36th gathered in late August. The community on 24th between Roy and Mercer had

their annual block party as did the citizens on 26th between Ward and Helen. Good time was had by all and neighbors built positive relations and the starts of an information network.

Remember that our first community council meeting will be held at the Portables on the playground of the Martin Luther King School at 7:30 p.m. on September 19th. We hope to see you there. The city's office of Public Utilities (Diana Gale's office) will have a representative in attendance to update the community on the issues affecting water, salmon, and treatment.

Looking ahead, October's meeting will welcome a presentation from Adam Kline. Other issues pending for this fall include but we are not limited to those mentioned, are the progress of our P-patch, a Department of Neighborhood's self-assessment, traffic on John, traffic and parking congestion

on Harrison off of Martin Luther King Blvd., need of a cross walk on Harrison and Lake Washington Blvd. and much, much more. It's your neighborhood and your participation is the key to positive, healthy neighborhood growth.

In other mark-your-calendar news, the Friends of the Public Library Book Sale is scheduled for September 22-24 at the Sand Point Naval Station. If you've never been and are a reader, you've missed the sale of the year. Look forward to a positive year.

We are looking for a new treasurer and someone to sell newsletter ad space to our neighborhood merchants. Both jobs are great ways to get to know the neighborhood, its merchants, and neighbors. Most Council volunteers spend roughly 5-10 hours per month in these activities; however, the more fun you have, the more time you'll spend – and often vice versa. ▼▼

Seattle Summer: 1940

by Peggy Sussman

Driving on Aurora last week I spotted the crumbling old cement elephant that has been a landmark to us natives for (can it be?) sixty years. For me it always recalls a trip I took with my good friend Joanne and her parents the Carltons across the Sound to the Kitsap Peninsula. Our family lived on Atlantic Street, opposite my alma mater, Colman grade school. Our rented house had a big wood cookstove in the kitchen that also

was the only heat in the place. We had a grand backyard: almost a half acre of land with climbable fruit trees and a vegetable garden. There were lots of kids in the street to share games with every

(Continued on page 2)

P-Patch News

by Sarah Trethewey

We are slowly making progress, but we still need your help to build our new neighborhood p-patch. The proposed site at 30th and Mercer will be a great addition to our neighborhood. We are in need of prospective p-patchers as well as donations in the form of labor, tools, plants, or just about anything else. The Parks Department has agreed to clear the space when we are ready to start building, which will be a huge help for us. If all goes well, we should start construction in March of 2001, just in time for spring planting. If you can help in any way, please call Sarah at 325-3734. ▼▼

Several p-patches in the city are so productive that they have surpluses to distribute to food banks and the needy. Our 30th and Mercer site has an easy potential to be as bountiful. Our Council stands ready with financial support once this project gets underway. So please call Sarah now to be on her list of participants next spring. – Ed.

In This Issue

President's View	1
Seattle Summer: 1940.....	1
P-Patch News	1
Gardening with Native Plants	2
GMVCC Minutes	3
Courtyard Sale	3
Community Center Prospects?	3

Seattle Summer 1940, continued

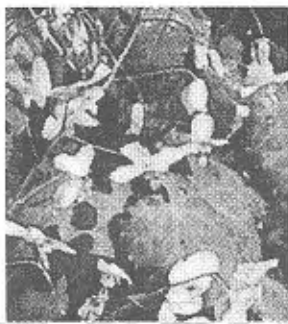
day, but that invitation to go camping in the country was really special.

The road north on Aurora, old highway 99, took us to the Edmonds ferry. The boat went to Kingston and then we were on a rough road that crossed a little bridge of planks with trees all around. Mr. Carlton had been a logger but the Depression came and his company went broke and he lost his job. The company offered to pay the men with land in-

Gardening with Native Plants

Groundcovers for Dry Shade

by Cathy Nunneley



Epimedium

Plants whose foliage covers the ground are among the most useful for gardeners. Their dense growth habit inhibits weeds thereby reducing maintenance. In addition, by covering bare ground, they can help conserve moisture and reduce the need for artificial watering. We have many choices for native plants in this category.

One of the most difficult gardening challenges is growing plants in dry shade. This condition exists under dense trees, under the eaves of the house or against north-facing walls that may block wind-swept rainfall.

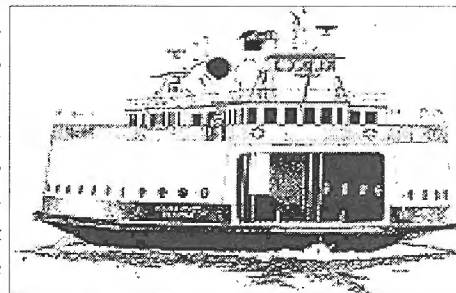
A favorite plant for under trees, rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias is EPIMEDIUM. This is a mostly evergreen plant with heart-shaped leaves on wiry stems that form a dense mass. In the spring, sprightly yellow flowers rise above the mass of leaves to wave in the breeze. Cut the old foliage down in the early spring to encourage a new flush of growth. It needs minimum water.

VACCINIUM is another evergreen plant that forms a thick carpet. The evergreen leaves are shiny green with bronze tinges in the fall. It has clusters of tiny flowers in the spring, which yield edible red berries similar to cranberries.

Another popular native is CORNUS, a low species of Dogwood. This is a deciduous plant that spreads quickly in woodland settings. In spring it sends up radiating whorls of green leaves topped by white flower-like bracts. In May, clusters of tiny flowers emerge from the bracts. Red berries may follow in the fall before the leaves turn yellow and die back.

A pretty ground cover in a dry shade area can transform this type of difficult, often neglected space into one of beauty. ▼▼

stead of money. Land was so cheap then that people could buy tracts for only the taxes owed, just a few hundred dollars. The Carltons got ten acres of logged-over land that still had young trees and some very old ones. Their place was on a high bank overlooking a wonderful sandy beach. In a cleared area near the edge of the bluff they set up a tent, and a table and benches made of boards for eating. Our week there was a kid's dream. The parents stayed above reading, cooking, and looking at the sky. We played on the beach down below, sometimes floating on drift logs way out in the cold water. When we got tired we'd flop face down on the warm sand and watch tiny transparent crabs going about their business.



The Klickitat, part of the ferry system's fleet in the 1940s. Drawing by Tom Sanislow, courtesy of the Washington State Ferries web site.

We climbed the bank to the camp for dinner and bedtime. We had to sleep in their car (the grownups were in the tent) with the back seats taken out. The reason was there were still cougars that prowled the woods at night. Sure enough we heard them in the dark screeching and shrieking. We shivered and covered our heads, but being tired and cozy in our civilized car with the windows rolled up, we fell asleep. There were paw prints at the edge of the camp, but we never did see a cougar.

On the third day Joanne and I decided to hike up the beach to the village of Eglon. The map showed it could not be very far. The tide was out, so when we started off it was easy to walk along. We came to a big maple that had fallen across the way. It made a good diving board; we climbed out and jumped into two feet of water. It was freezing but a lot of fun. There was nobody around and you could do whatever you wanted. When we dried off and got our clothes on, the water was way high and there was no beach to walk on anymore. That forced us up the steep bank covered with brush and nettles. It was miserable. All scratched up, we found a dirt road but couldn't figure which way to go. It seemed an awful long time before the car appeared, trailing a dustcloud (it was a Studebaker, I think) and there were the Carltons, worried and searching for the lost kids. The mama cried but they didn't get mad at us and we went back to camp and had something to eat.

Upon returning to Seattle and my family, I learned that I had missed some real excitement. A big black and white bird, a tame magpie that could talk, had flown in our window and stayed for several days. It entertained them and it was a real wonder, but it was gone before I could see it. I had a great adventure but always regretted missing that magpie. ▼▼

Minutes of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council for June 20, 2000

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 by Vice-President Charles McDade.

Geoff Kellman spoke on behalf of Cathy Baker about the traffic circle at 27th and Denny. She made a resolution asking for our Community Council to be the fiscal agent for the project. Jerry moved that we agree. It was seconded and the motion passed with no opposed and one abstention.

Our Treasurer, Angel Chaffin, announced that our total savings now add up to \$8,452.89.

Jerry suggested that we make a third edition of our book "City Woods." More pages and drawings would be added. This will be voted on in September.

Sarah Trethewey spoke about the pea patch. She said that we don't know about getting a permit but hopefully a development will happen this summer.

Nancy Knapp brought the subject of the Arboretum. She suggested that we support the non-action proposal and increase maintenance for the Arboretum. Nancy also motioned that we write a letter to the City Council about our approval of this proposal. The vote was made and there was no objection.

Eli mentioned that the courtyard sale was off to a good start and neighbors who could help should go to the Benaroya Theater at Bush school Monday-Friday till 4 o'clock. Antoinette, a teacher at Madrona school, asked that we set aside navy bottoms and white tops with collars for the new uniforms at Madrona. A great heap of clothes has been donated already.

Miranda and Claire Levy were voted in as the new Co-secretaries.

Adrienne Bailey came at 8:30 and she suggested that we have our block party in the first week of August.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00. ▼▼

Minutes prepared by Claire Levy, Secretary

Courtyard Sale

by Eli Stahlhut

Our annual courtyard sale was held at Bush School in mid-July. The sun lit up a cloudless sky, ideal for a market day. (Last year it rained on us and we had to move inside.) We had goods that attracted people from all over town. Donors gave us treasures unprecedented. Bush School generously provided a large space for storing, sorting, and pricing everything. Volunteers worked a full week preparing the sale and we were ready for customers early Saturday morning.

Clothing, boutique items, art work, wonderful books, and oddities like a 1950s breathalyzer from a saloon in the mountains went off in a rush of sales. Teenagers baked cookies and sold juices and iced tea. We all had a grand time. Seattle now looks to us for this event with great expectations. The result this year was the best ever with a return of more than \$3,000. Our only expenses for this sale are for placing ads in the local community papers and the Times. We donated all leftover items to the Northwest Center for the Retarded. We are thankful to all our friends who donated items and who worked to make this a success.

The sale proceeds go to local projects that all you neighbors help to choose in our regular council meetings, to the support of Martin Luther King School, and for producing this newsletter. ▼▼

Is a Community Center in Your Future?

Citizens, how is this for a project idea? Madison Valley needs a real community center: a substantial building that can serve as our permanent meeting place, where young people can gather for classes, or any local group could use for civic activities. That building exists and is little used today. The City owns the brick field house in Washington Park at the playfield off Madison. We think it could be remodeled and made available to our community. It has lavatories, a real fireplace, and space for kitchen facilities. There is even parking space. Let's raise this at our next meeting and work to make it a reality. ▼▼



THE VALLEY VIEW

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U.S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 6873

The Valley View is published 10 times each year.
Deadline: First of each month.
Your submissions are appreciated!
Mail to the address above.

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**Next Community Council Meeting**  
  
Tuesday, September 19, 2000, 7:30 p.m.  
Martin Luther King School  
in the portables  
3201 East Republican St. (parking available on playfield)  
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