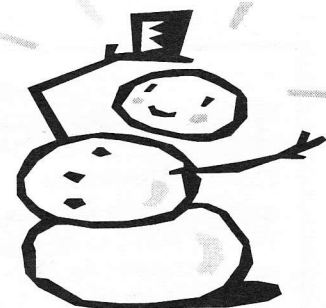


The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 71, January 1999

E-mail: valleyview@altadata.com



President's View

by G. Emslie

The start of the new year brings us cause to reflect on the year's significant events, our family's new arrivals and, sadly, its passings. We celebrate the birth of this new year and dwell on the possibilities. My dream for the new year is a community vital in spirit and enriched by neighbors helping each other to build a

safe, engaged, and joyful community.

Our city lost a great leader. John Stanford (1938-1998), the visionary and compassionate leader of our city's schools, was a beacon of hope for children, families, and our city. Thank you, John Stanford, for making our city a better place. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends. Help keep the Stanford legacy alive: keep the education of our city's children at the top of your to do lists.

Our next community council meeting is on January 19, at 7:30 p.m., in the portable at Martin Luther King Elementary School. Hope to see many of you in attendance. How we can improve our surroundings and city resources, and how our government agencies work or don't work, will fill our year's agendas.

This year the city seeks our input on how it should spend approximately \$235 million in funds to build and renovate the city's libraries. Of specific interest to our neighbors on 32nd, and to valley home

owners with water in their basements, is the Seattle Public Utilities Creek, Drainage and Wastewater Citizens Advisory Committee. SPU Director Diana Gale and project contact Kirsten Evans can be reached at 233-7164 for ideas and concerns from interested citizens. The Arboretum Foundation's building plans continue to attract neighborhood questions: see the letters in this issue. Tired of jet noise? Get involved: call 433-5393 to register your concern. We at the Council look forward to a full year, and hope to see you on January 19.

P.S. Mark your calendars: On January 15, join community leaders in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration at Mount Zion Baptist Church, 1634 19th Avenue, from noon to 1:15 pm. Come early and join our neighbors in celebrating Dr. King's legacy. ▼▼

In This Issue

President's View	1
Our Local Library	1
Arboretum Issues: Reader Response	2
The Sound of Change	2
King School Notes.....	3

Our Local Scene

by M. Roskin

The Madrona-Sally Goldmark Library, a classic brick bungalow just a bit south of Madison Valley, is one of our community's great resources. Built in 1919 as a firehouse, decommissioned in 1971, and reopened as a station of the Seattle Public Library system in 1973, the building itself, shown at left, is an architectural pleasure. Its collection, services, and staff are, collectively, a neighborhood treasure.

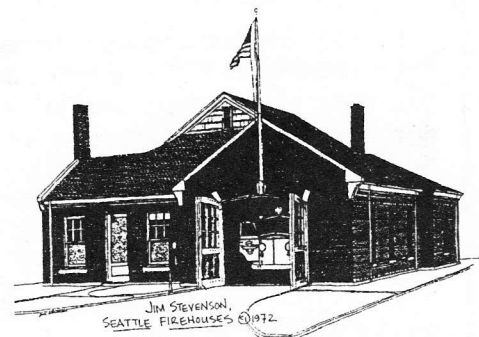
In 1985 the library was renamed in memory of Sally Goldmark. Early on, Mrs. Goldmark had been one of the main advocates for converting the abandoned firehouse into a library. Some readers may recall that in 1971,

Mrs. Goldmark paved the way for a local library branch by establishing a children's reading room in the Madrona neighborhood.

The Richard ("Waiting for the Interurban") Beyer sculpture at the corner of 33rd and Union, on library property, is a neighborhood landmark. The theme of the sculpture is "A Peaceable Kingdom." Four life-sized animals nestle about a large granite rock, creating a place for neighbors to congregate, to rest, and to climb among the peaceable cast aluminum creatures.

Services

One of the library's strongest relationships is with neighborhood elementary schools, including Madrona



(right across the street), Martin Luther King, T.T. Minor, Valley, and St. Therese. Mary Palmer, the children's librarian, reports that every now and then, teachers from Martin Luther King help their charges trundle up the hill for

(Continued on page 3)

The Arboretum Plan:

Reader Response

To the Editor:

Once again the Newsletter contains highly opinionated comments about the Arboretum plan (December, 1998) which I consider inappropriate for a neighborhood newsletter.

It appears that the author of these comments believes that these opinions are held by the entire neighborhood, and has been representing them as such at planning meetings. I have heard too much about what "the neighborhoods" want without any evidence. This neighbor is very interested in the revitalization of the Arboretum after many years of neglect. I have learned a great deal from the Arboretum collections and programs over the years, and am very pleased to have this living museum in our neighborhood.

As with any educational facility, it needs to be maintained and kept up to date, to continue its usefulness and relevance. The first plan was a draft based on input from diverse viewpoints. It was earnest in laying out the problems it was trying to address, and it is appropriate to respond to it with both concerns and alternatives.

However, the knee-jerk response to a few minor details in the plan that began in the Montlake meeting has polarized the planning process and made it much less



The Sound of Change

by a Neighbor

The only constant is change. Trying to avoid change brings suffering, so I TRY to appreciate the changes that take place on our block and to work the noises of demolition and construction into my life. In the eight years we have lived on our block, there have been changes in spades--spades, shovels, hammers, cement trucks...

We were the first changers after we moved here. We added a studio over the kitchen, no doubt driving our neighbors nuts with the construction noise. Since then, we've gotten our comeuppance, in kind.

Our neighbors three houses up soon hammered up new, stained cedar siding over their whole house. The house two up from ours is nearly constantly being renovated, but still looks almost as bad as it always has. Windows closed in from the inside show their studs and insulation though glass on the outside. Piles of building materials and garbage are always flowing out. It's quite a mystery house.

(Continued on page 4)

useful. I am sorry to see members of my own neighborhood jumping on this bandwagon.

If you do not think the Arboretum needs more buildings, fine, say so. If you think all the native vegetation should be saved, then you deserve a good explanation of the reasons that thinning is being proposed. But to vilify the planners and especially the Arboretum Foundation, which is basically composed of volunteers who contribute their time and energy out of the love of plants and the desire to educate others about them, is really misplaced. Please learn something about the history of the Arboretum and the purposes for which it has been striving all these years. There are many wonderful parks in Seattle but the Arboretum is unique.

Although it certainly serves us well as a neighborhood park, it is far more than that. It is a heritage, representing the creative energies of many brilliant and dedicated individuals over generations. By all means criticize the plan, but do so in terms of its successes or failures in building upon this rich history.

Very truly yours, Dennis Tully

Editorial Response

[The following response to the preceding letter was prepared by Nancy Knapp, Chair of the Arboretum Committee of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council. — Ed.]

Because of my great love for the Arboretum I became a founding member of the Arboretum Park Preservation Coalition. In this capacity I want to respond to several of the questions you have raised. You seem to assume that those who oppose the adoption of the Arboretum Plan are not interested in the "revitalization" of the Arboretum. Nothing could be further from the truth.

All the members of the Arboretum Park Preservation Coalition, which represents 12 community councils, are well-acquainted with the park and collections and care deeply that they be properly maintained and funded. I have walked or jogged there daily for over 15 years, and it was my alarm over the changes that I had noticed in the park that led me to the APPC. I would be happy to mail you the latest copy of our APPC newsletter, which clearly states our position and was recently mailed to over 1800 Seattle parks supporters. I would also like to send you a copy of an article written by a guide at the Arboretum, one of a number of persons who are affiliated with the Arboretum and are disturbed about the Plan. Their concerns include the construction of new buildings and parking lots, disruption of plantings caused by rerouting of trails, commercialization, and traffic problems not addressed by

(continued on page 3)

Library

(Continued from page 1)
a special library visit.

Although children are important part of the library's base of patrons, the library's collection also offers a good mix of adult fiction and non-fiction, books on tape, large-print books, videos, periodicals, CDs, and cassettes. The library offers a wide range of additional services, including internet access, word processing, homework time (Tuesday evenings), and preschool story time (most Wednesday mornings). Also, the library honors local authors with a special shelf devoted to books written by members of our extended neighborhood.

Improvements in Store

Seattle voters recently approved new investments in the City's libraries. Improvements at Madrona will include

an expanded book collection, mechanical and technical upgrades, a more efficient floor layout, and extended service hours.

The library urges citizen participation in implementing the library plan. Anyone may sign up at Madrona-Sally Goldmark to receive regular mailings, and may log onto the SPL website at www.spl.org. The library welcomes your suggestions concerning the library's layout, services, collection, or any other item of concern. ▼▼

Madrona-Sally Goldmark Library
1134 33rd Avenue, 98122
phone: 206/684-4705

Hours:

Monday and Wednesday: 10 a. to 6 p.
Tuesday and Thursday: 1 p. to 9 p.
Friday and Saturday: 2 p. to 6 p.
Closed Sunday

SUPPORT THE VALLEY VIEW NEWSLETTER: COUPON FOR DONATIONS

Name: _____

I am not receiving Valley View; please add me to the mailing list.

Phone: _____

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

Address: _____

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

(Continued from page 2)
the Plan.

I do care deeply about the native plantings as well as the collections. I first became alarmed when I was told by one of the workers that on the average one large tree a week was cut down and that there were only about 800 such trees in the park. The math is simple. Without the big natives the Arboretum would not be the Arboretum. One of the workers told me that just east of the pond with the little dock a huge cedar (over 100 years old) was cut down at the instigation of one of the guides, who complained that she could not see the azaleas from the path. Another equally old native was cut down to improve the view from the tour buses.

Not all the members of GMVCC feel as strongly as I do about saving the native trees, but since the Arboretum Plan was first presented to GMVCC last spring there has been almost total unanimity in opposing the parts of the Plan which propose the building of new buildings and parking lots, closing off Arboretum Drive, reconfiguring the trails, and promoting more commercialization. Nor are we convinced that fences and fees are really off the table because of the \$45,000,000 pricetag for the Plan. These are not "minor details."

We meet every third Tuesday in the portable behind King School. Please consider attending our next meeting so that we can continue to have an open dialogue. ▼▼

King School Notes

by J. Sussman

Raising students' proficiency in all academic work is a chief goal at M.L.King School. Last fall the Seattle Times reported that after two years of rising scores, the school had a disappointing year in 1998. Principal Euhania Butler explained that 70 students were new to the school as well as 13 new staff people out of 27 total last year. King's summer school was required to accept students from out of the area rather than its own. Still, Ms. Butler does not offer excuses. We will overcome, she says.

This is Ms. Butler's sixth year at King. She came at a time of low enrollment and discouragement, promising to stay five years. Her consistent academic leadership and close ties in the community have earned her solid support. The teachers are determined to use every resource. Every class stresses reading and listening, comprehension, spelling, and grammar. Math and science have high priority. Every student who needs help has a tutor. Ten student volunteers from Bush School have been coming regularly. Central Youth and Family Services provides a full time counselor.

Even with a packed house of 287 students, King School looks confidently to the future. Visitors and volunteers are always welcome; call the office at 726-6660. ▼▼

THE VALLEY VIEW
2802 East Madison St., Box 184
Seattle, WA 98112
Greater Madison Valley
Community Council
Member of the Seattle
Community Council Federation

Newsletter Staff

Celine Grenier
Eli Stahlhut
Jerry Sussman
Maggie Seymour
Miriam Roskin

The Valley View is published 10 times each year.

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

1998-1999 Officers

President - Gary Emslie
Vice President - Celine Grenier
Treasurer - David Foecke
Site Council Reps. - Mike Seymour, Maggie Seymour
Phone - 206/328-0058
E-mail - valleyview@altadata.com

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 6873



Next Community Council Meeting

Date/Time/Place: Tuesday, January 19, 1998, 7:30 p.m.
Martin Luther King School Portable
Building
3201 East Republican St. (parking
available on playfield)

Change

(Continued from page 2)

Across the street and down the block, a house which had gotten a complete facelift was sold and got a completely new character makeover. Near the top of the block, a house we used to call The Spot House (because it was patched but never repainted) was recently razed to the ground. The block had the look of a gap-toothed kid. Construction crews have worked over these last two recordbreaking rainy months getting the ground prepared and setting up to pour a new foundation.

Every time a new foundation goes in, the course of the underground waterflow changes, altering the "bog zones" in back and front yards. One hardly knows where to locate the next lily pond or where to put the next French drain.

Other houses have been added to or remodeled. Cracked up sidewalks have been sledge hammered out and repoured. Roofs have been redone. New houses have gone up behind neighbors on both sides of the block. At one point, our friend across the street, who works in her own backyard studio, had one construction site and two remodeling jobs going on around her at the same time. Surround sound!

The block looks better and better, and/but housing prices are going up, and we have yet to experience a long stretch of quiet. Change may always entail some form of noise. ▼▼

Book Donations

Please bring any books that you would like to donate to the King County Prison Library to the next Community Council meeting, 7:30 PM, January 19, corner portable in the MLK School yard. Recent non-fiction is especially appreciated.

Laura Flanagan, ND

Naturopathic Physician

at Body Conscious
605 29th Ave. East
Seattle, WA 98112

Phone: 206-860-7896
Fax: 206-860-8102