



The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 72, February 1999

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President's View

by G. Emslie

This past month's weather, while wet and windy, hasn't kept our lively neighborhood from working on issues that affect us all. Last month's newsletter brought letters of criticism of an article on the proposed Arboretum master plan. This is good. The more we exchange ideas, concerns, and opinions as concerned citizens, the stronger our

neighborhood will become.

This past month the Crittendens kindly hosted a community meeting to share concerns over Metro's proposed demolition and rebuild of the 34th and Denny substation and bus shelter. A group of about 30 GMVCC members gathered to express their concerns and opinions. Metro had listened to the neighbors in the past (see article below) and we hope that direct community input and responsive government will come together for the common good.

community. Also on the horizon is the International Conference of Integrative Medicine. This conference will be held at the Washington State Convention Center on April 30 through May 2. One of our neighbors, Alan Serebrin, has been instrumental in bringing this conference to the city. If you or your business is interested in the health expo, you can obtain more information at 206/622-2812 or on the net at <http://www.integrativemed.com>.

Last, and certainly not least, a big thank you to all who donated books to the prisons and to Celine Grenier for bringing this need to our attention and for collecting and delivering the books.

Look forward to seeing you at our next community council meeting on February 16 at 7:30 in the portable at Martin Luther King School. ▼▼

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Coming up is the 7th Annual Progressive Dinner and Silent Auction, on March 28. If you are available to help, please call Tonya O'Neill at Martin Luther King School (206/726-6660). If you have any items that you could donate to the silent auction, please call Gary Emslie at 206/324-7139. Your donations will help to fund future programs in the



The Community Rights a Bad Decision by B. Crittenden

An ugly cement block building was almost planted in our neighborhood, at 34th and Denny, by Metro this month. The work of many local residents and the belated cooperation of Metro appear to have averted this potential disaster.

Historical Record

In the mid 1970s a neighborhood organization that came to be part of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council, called the Denny-Blaine Neighborhood Council, converted some rundown HUD housing to better use. Five properties were purchased by this community group: four on Denny and one on 36th. New or renovated houses were built on three lots. One property

was combined with another lot with a new house built by the owner. The fifth property was the lot at the Northeast corner of 34th and Denny.

Metro approached the Council in 1977 and offered to purchase the lot to construct an electrical rectifier station to enable the #2 Madrona bus to get up the steep hill from the lake. The leadership of the Council agreed to this transfer, with three conditions: (1) that Metro would build a structure that fit into the architecture of the community; (2) that a bus shelter similar to the Ellsworth Story structure at the pond opposite Epiphany church be installed; and (3) that the area be well-maintained. Initial drawings by

Metro were for a finished cement block building. The reaction by the neighborhood was that this did not meet our criteria and would be unacceptable. Numerous community meetings at that time drove the point home.

After extensive discussion, Metro confirmed that they would like the property and would agree to the design requests of the community. Metro worked with a rendering done by John Rohrer of the neighborhood and designed and built a bus shelter and rectifier building that met the criteria set by the Council, discussed thoroughly

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Bus Shelter

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with community members, and agreed to by Metro. Unfortunately, the structure was built poorly with untreated wood set directly into dirt, and was not maintained. The structure began to rot and Metro removed the bus shelter about two years ago.

Today's Activities

In recent months, Metro did not consult community residents or our Council when they decided to replace the wood structure around the rectifier with a cement block construction, and to not replace the bus shelter. community

residents were outraged by Metro's forgetfulness and its insensitivity to the agreement we had with them. Both the process and the content of the project were bad.

The GMVCC and many local residents have met with Metro on two occasions, exchanged many calls, and it now appears that Metro is going to change the plans so that a bus shelter is replaced and that all of the structures have some architectural similarity to the bus shelter at the pond. And, they have tentatively agreed to provide the maintenance that the area needs. Stay tuned, but for now our community appears to be better off for the work and support of residents and the Council, and the cooperation of Metro administration in correcting this oversight. ▼▼



Letter from Africa: An Ongoing Missive

[Our friend Sara the English teacher in Rwanda returned there after Christmas break. —Ed.]

Two huge petrol tankers broke down last week and are still parked en ville. Work is being done right there so it looks much like a truckyard, oil and grease everywhere, a huge crankshaft lying on the ground along with various other bit parts and people camping out guarding everything.

Walking 1 1/2 miles a day. I like walking to work and knowing enough people to greet and wave to. I got the university bus a couple of times and chat to various profs I've met. I'm hardened to the begging street kids and I think they bother me less. Did I tell you the government did a sweep over Christmas when I was gone and took them all somewhere but they all came back? There are more than there were before.

Some women ride "moto taxis" side-saddle and look very graceful. The ground is covered with the large orange blossoms from the flame trees like sumptuous dropped fruit.

Some yellow day lilies have come up outside the kitchen along with the Michaelmas daisies (?). Walking to the Rectorat, I like to stop and admire the flower garden where flowers are for sale. Today I saw birds flitting among the flowers but couldn't see what they were. Did I tell you I saw a large owl last week at the Rector's House?

When I showed a video about a talkative bore bothering a co-worker who wanted a quiet lunch, the response was that the quiet man was the rude one for repelling the "friendliness" of the other. People said that you would only read a book if there was no one else to talk to and talking is much more preferable. Reading a book while eating is unfathomable.

Today I was showing a piece about a Canadian immigrant whose family had left Ireland during the famine. A sample of

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

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Arboretum Update

by N. Knapp

Now that the Board of Park Commissioners' meetings are over, we are into a new phase of evaluating the proposed Master Plan for the Arboretum. This represents a critical phase for the future of our beloved park. On February 15th the Arboretum Botanical and Garden Committee is supposed to send the revised Arboretum Master Plan to the Seattle Parks Department. Parks will include this revised plan among all other alternatives, including the alternative of doing nothing, in the preliminary scoping documents. That documents will go to a public hearing before the City Council, and this is where we

will really need your help.

In the next Arboretum newsletter we will let you know what alternatives are going to be considered and the date of the public hearing. We hope that all of you who have an opinion about what you want to see happen to the Arboretum will write, call, or e-mail the members of the City Council any time between now and the hearing. On the actual day of the public hearing we hope a whole lot of folks from Madison Valley will be among the crowd in the Council Chambers. Make your voices heard! It's our park and we have the right and privilege of having our say. ▼▼

[Nancy Knapp is the GMVCC Representative to the Arboretum Botanical and Garden Committee. —Ed.]

Minutes of the Greater Madison Valley
Community Council
for January 19, 1999

Gary Emslie called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Introductions were performed all around, followed by a report on the Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School Playground.

Drainage on 32nd Ave. E.

The state of drainage on 32nd Ave. E between John and Denny still hasn't been dealt with by the City, Jerry and Nancy reported. Cara said she had no news about the development proposed near the fire station.

A quorum was reached at 7:45 PM.

Bus Shelter

The decaying bus shelter at 34th Ave E and E Denny has been taken down, though Epiphany Church donated the land to the city for it and the city agreed that at least part of it be used as a bus stop and waste can site. Gary, Hunt Towler and Bob Crittenden discussed what the Council should do to have input. It was decided to mail a letter of concern to the Seattle Department of Construction and Land Use with copies to the City Council and other appropriate parties. The letter is to state that GMVCC protests the lack of notice to the community and the lack of community participation in taking down the bus stop and removing the garbage can. The Council Secretary was directed to draft and send this letter, based on a model by Bob Crittenden.

Additions to Mailing List

It was unanimously agreed to include the "Texaco Zone" of



Madison Street Clean Up

Meet at Cafe Arosa, 3121 E. Madison
at Arboretum Court
Saturday, March 20, 10:00 a.m.

...Africa

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the comments:

How could a ship sink and people survive? How could a 14 year old be alone in the world. How could someone be a manager without going to school. (This must be a bit of a lie said one student). Why would people get married during a war? Why would people go camping? However, they knew the difference between refugee and immigrant (the former due to political unrest and not a choice, the latter a choice to look for work and a better life).

I think the staring isn't bugging me as much, at least when I'm not tired. I do get shocked when school kids ask for money, especially in French, and I reprimand them soundly.

The other day I sat beside Anne, a Rwandan teacher. We had an interesting conversation about the aftermath of the genocide. She is so beautiful and I found myself admiring the

the neighborhood in the GMVCC and to send the newsletter to all applicable addresses.

Treasurer's Report and Related Items

David Foecke reported a treasury balance of \$2,005.12. This balance does not reflect costs of approximately \$650 for the January newsletter.

Gary brought up the need for ads in the newsletter to help cover costs.

David Foecke announced that he will not stand for reelection as Treasurer in the next Council elections to be held in May.

Arboretum Plan

Nancy Knapp discussed the ongoing Arboretum Plan process. It appears that some possible changes to it may be positive, but that many things are still considered "in plan" that many may object to.

Sale of Council Van

Gary spoke of problems concerning the Council van and the Council voted to sell it. Gary said he would see what it could be sold for.

New Business

Miriam is going to contact Madrona concerning a joint meeting at which local historian Paul Dorpat might speak.

Bob Edgerton asked whether or not neighborhood emergency plans existed outside school plans. He agreed that an article in the newsletter on this subject might be a good idea.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM. ▼▼

[Minutes prepared by Celine Grenier, GMVCC Secretary. —Ed.]

sheen of her skin and the smooth lines of her face as she talked. She said that she feels positive about the future. People may still think separatist thoughts but the behaviour has changed. It'll take time but they will get back to the state they were in before the Belgians introduced the notion of ethnic division between Hutus and Tutsi. Inter-marriage was common before, which points to the fact that the distinction is an economic difference, not an ethnic one.

Walking home in the dusk, I saw a man stripping bark off a tree. What for? Then I came across a large tree branch lying beside the road and for a moment I thought it looked like a dead body, hacked up and left to rot at the side of the road and I felt some tiny inkling of the the horror that people must have experienced walking by bodies. The world must have seemed mad. How did they deal with this grotesqueness? Did they step around the bodies and keep walking? Did they falter? Did they think, Thank god it's not me?

Did I tell you that the radio (as during the genocide) is used to send messages just like a telephone? Students tell me that the university calls them on the radio to come to class. People send individual messages on the radio. This is how children were reunited after the war. Susan's nanny was separated and reunited with her son. He is a beautiful 7 year old and has such a serene face it is hard to imagine how he suffered. To be continued. ▼▼

THE VALLEY VIEW
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Mail to the address above.

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Next Community Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 16, 1998, 7:30 p.m.

Martin Luther King School Portable Building
3201 East Republican St. (parking available on playfield)

Notices

Harrison Ridge Greenbelt Clean-Up

Spring will come, we are confident. The Harrison Ridge Greenbelt is flourishing as the hundreds of young conifer trees put on new growth. The battle against blackberry and ivy vines must continue, however. We are oiling our clippers and hereby set a date for volunteers to gather to clear brush:

**Meet at Denny Way and 33rd Ave. E. at 10.00 a.m.,
Saturday, March 27.**

We'll have tools and gloves, coffee and refreshments. Come and see the wild roses and the woods of the future!

7th Annual Progressive Dinner and Silent Auction

The 1999 edition of this Madison Valley tradition is scheduled for March 28. This year's participating restaurants include Rover's, Cafe Flora, the newly reopened New York Style Cafe, Fran's Chocolates, and others. The cost is \$40 apiece/\$75 for two, with proceeds benefiting Martin Luther King School. The auction is to be held at Bailey-Boushay House, with proceeds benefiting the Greater Madison Valley Community Council.

Paid Advertisements

Concerned about your marijuana use?

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The Check-Up offers free, confidential, non-judgmental feedback. Participants will be paid.

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a multicultural AIDS prevention research project for HIV+ men

If you are HIV+ & sexually active, we'd like to talk with you. We offer \$50 for two interviews.

If you are Latino or African American, call 322-7061, & ask for Luis or Hop. All you other guys, call 616-5395.

A partnership between the UW School of Social Work and the People of Color Against AIDS Network.

The Valley View welcomes advertising. Display ads of a size equivalent to a standard business card cost \$20.00 per month. Pricing for larger display ads is negotiable. Contact Jerry Sussman at 206/325-6308 for further information or to place an ad.