



The Valley View

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER MADISON VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

March -April 2010 • issue 169 • madisonvalley.org

CCC@MLK Heads to Olympia

By Kimberly Larson-Edwards

In case you missed it, Citizens for a Community Center at M.L.K. Elementary have garnered quite a bit of media coverage lately, including stories in the Sunday edition of *The Seattle Times*, KPLU, *Madison Park Times*, and *Central District News*. In late January, CCC@MLK President Adrienne Bailey, AAVGWS representative Robert Stephens, and Madison Valley Merchants Association President Larry Levine traveled to Olympia to meet with the Chief of Staff for Speaker Chopp. The purpose of the meeting was to update the legislative leaders on CCC@MLK's efforts, re-view our concerns about the Seattle School District's Selection Committee report, brief them on our rebuttal, and discuss our next steps.

State Reps. Sharon Tomiko Santos and Eric Pettigrew have been working with Speaker Frank Chopp and State Senator Adam Kline to ensure that the \$1.1 million the State Legislature allocated to create a Community Center at M. L. King Jr. School would remain in the state budget. The CCC@MLK community delegation was surprised to hear that School District representatives had met with state officials and gave the impression that The Bush School was offering a flat \$9 million to purchase the decommissioned school. Legislative staff showed concern when we explained the \$9 million offer was actually a 99-year ground lease with a purchase option around the 40th year. The legislative staff also expressed that the two private schools bidding to purchase M. L. King Jr. School should be disqualified, since they are private schools and would not be in the best interest of the neighborhood nor the community.

It was a very encouraging meeting, with staff thanking us for the update and confirming that the \$1.1 million grant would still be available for a non-profit group to apply towards the purchase of the M.L. King Jr. School. Now that we have met with our state leaders in Olympia, we need you to speak up at their upcoming Town Hall Meetings. We need them to hear and see first-hand the broad community support we have for our community center proposal.

As we reported in January, the School District Selection Committee (chaired by the District's CFO Don Kennedy) issued their draft report summarizing the four proposals and presented that report at a workshop session on January 6. Unfortunately, their draft report has many misleading or inaccurate statements about the CCC@MLK's proposal. CCC@MLK has submitted a rebuttal to the Committee requesting a meeting and has asked the Commit-



Pictured left to right, Ann-Phyfe Palmer; Kimberly Larson-Edwards, VP of CCC@MLK; and Adrienne Bailey, President of CCC@MLK. Thanks to Madison Valley neighbor Bez Palmer's artistry and design time, over a dozen volunteers turned out for our recent postering event, and we put up over 400 CCC@MLK posters around the area. They also distributed an additional 300 flyers in the Central Area over Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend. The posters generated many calls and emails to the School Board, plus several volunteer contacts. If you are interested in distributing more flyers or posters, you can visit our website to download the materials, make copies and get them out in the community! They can be found at: www.mlkcommunitycenter.org



events calendar

Sat, March 20, 9:00 a.m. – Work Party at Alder Creek, hosted by Seattle Parks, Green Footprints Action Works, and the Natural Areas Crew. Located on 26th Ave E, between E. Helen and Prospect Streets.

Sat, March 27, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. - CCC@ MLK Craft Party, at the Valley School. Get campaign updates and help make pasta-art cards to send to the School Board. Kids & Adults welcome!

Wed, April 7, 11:00 p.m. – Rover's Chef Thierry Rautureau appears on the season premiere of Top Chef Masters, on the Bravo Channel. See pg.4 for details.

Wed, April 7 & Wed, April 21 – Regular School Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Wed, April 14 – Arbor Day Celebration in Washington State. Washington State Legislature has established that Arbor Day will be observed the second Wednesday of April.

Wed, April 21, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. – GMVCC Monthly Meeting at the Valley School.

Sat, April 24, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. – GMVCC Community Potluck Party at the Valley School.



The Valley View

March - April 2010 • issue 169
www.madisonvalley.org

Published six times a year by the
Greater Madison Valley Community Council
P.O. Box 22278, Seattle, WA 98122

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GMVCC Minutes – January 20, 2010

Treasurer's Report: January Balance: \$8319.44

General Business: The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by President Peter Triandafilou. A quorum was not present. Concerning the MLK School situation, we are still awaiting the school board decision.

Concerning the yard waste fraud issue, Cathy Nunneley reported that she has been contacted by David Marshall from SPU and that an inspector will contact her regarding his investigation to the allegations of fraud in a couple of weeks.

Regarding *The Valley View*, there is a call for more help with the newsletter. Peter has been contacted by volunteers to help with his request to redesign the GMVCC website. He would like to establish a web accessible platform for the site to enable appointed council members to post directly on the site.

Fund Raising: Charles McDade has suggested holding a community rummage sale this year. Peter has also suggested having family-oriented movie nights with popcorn. Charles will continue to organize the quarterly pot lucks.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

GMVCC Minutes – February 17, 2010

Treasurer's Report: February Balance: \$7866.57

General Business: The meeting was called to order by the President Triandafilou at 7:30 p.m. Introductions were made. There was not a quorum present.

The quarterly potluck dinner was enjoyed by many in the neighborhood. Among participants there was expressed enthusiasm for a summer family movie night and a community wide rummage sale. Anyone wishing to help make these projects happen is requested to contact us for planning.

The small number of attendees at GMVCC council meetings was addressed. It was acknowledged that busy families keep people home and that perhaps we could compile a list of interested neighbors to call when we do have an important voting issue and need a quorum. Please contact us to be included in this list.

CCC@MLK: The community center efforts are in a holding pattern awaiting the School Board decision. The Bush School has sent letters to some households soliciting support for their bid to demolish the school and create a playfield to enhance their athletic program. The Bush School asserts that the neighborhood will be permitted to use the field when not otherwise occupied. It is a concern that the field could be in constant use by the Bush students or others that could rent the field from them. Bush also contends they would build a play structure for the neighborhood.

The Valley View is still looking for a graphics person to assist with layout. The GMVCC website is not user friendly and we would like to change that. It was suggested that perhaps we could develop a shared website with the Madison Valley Business Association. Anyone willing to help with the website project is urged to contact Peter Triandafilou.

Adam Kline will be addressing the council at the April meeting. Lindy suggested that the GMVCC take a stand on the A+ plan for the 520 bridge. This plan would add 2 additional lanes of traffic through the Arboretum. All other surrounding communities and a number of groups have taken a negative position. This issue will be the focus of the March meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Spring Community Council Meetings:



Your Greater Madison Valley Community Council urges you to attend meetings this spring! Please join your neighbors in the discussion of these critical issues affecting our quality of life in Madison Valley. We need to hear your voice to make a difference in the pending land development changes happening in our own back yard. GMVCC Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month, from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the

Valley School.

Wednesday, March 17

Discussion: The A+ Plan for the 520 Bridge. Don't miss this hot-button discussion on what's happening with the 520 Bridge expansion and how it will affect our neighborhood.

Wednesday, April 21

Guest Speaker: Senator Adam Kline will be in attendance address issues and concerns for the Madison Valley neighborhood. This is your chance to express what's important to you and your family, and have your voice heard in Olympia.

Wednesday, May 19

Community Council Officer Elections will be held for 2010 – 2011 positions. A quorum of twelve persons is required, so please attend to support your GMVCC!

Yard Waste Update

By Catherine Nunneley



Hello Neighbors! Since my article appeared in last month's newsletter, I have heard from many of you who have experienced overcharging on your bills. I have relayed this information to Seattle Public Utilities and the SPU representatives are actively looking into the situation, although it may take some time. In the meantime, I suggest that you monitor your bills closely and follow the advice given by Andy Ryan, City of Seattle's Media Relations Coordinator, in his response here:

Seattle Public Utilities has assigned its Customer Call Center Director, Debra Russell, to conduct a review of the yard waste billing issues raised in the January issue of The Valley View. SPU will report its findings back to the Madison Valley community as soon as its investigation is complete. If you have questions about your yard waste bill, please contact David Marshall at 206-684-7641. 🏠

Mother's Day at the Arboretum



A trip to Washington Park Arboretum on Mother's Day is a Seattle rite of spring. Families come here in droves to stroll along historic Azalea Way and see the spectacular azaleas, rhododendrons, and dogwoods in full bloom. Once again, the Arboretum Foundation and the UW Botanic Gardens' Education Department will host their popular annual Mother's Day event. Families can have a free photo

taken on Azalea Way, next to the Graham Visitors Center. Kids can enjoy many fun, plant-themed activities, and every mom will receive a special take-home gift! **Come see what's in bloom and celebrate your special mom, Sunday May 9 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Graham Visitor's Center.** 🏠

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Thierry On Top
 By Nori Hawkins

In early February, The Seattle Times ran a story on three talented Seattle chefs who will be appearing this spring on the Bravo Channel's hit television show *Top Chef Masters*. I was happy to see longtime Madison Valley Restaurateur (and fellow neighbor) Thierry Rautureau in the mix. In case you're new to the neighborhood, Thierry is the owner and Executive Chef of *Rover's*, a top-notch restaurant that's been serving up fantastic French cuisine in the valley for more than twenty years. Thierry has worked and lived in Madison Valley with his wife Kathy and their two boys since 1987, long before it was considered the hip urban borough of today. So of course we'll be cheering for our hometown favorite, the "Chef in the Hat" to win this venerable culinary contest.



Top Chef Masters is in its second season on Bravo, which can be found on cable channel 66. This year's challenge pits twenty-two renowned chefs from around the country against a team of masters. The show runs its contestants through a weekly barrage of cooking challenges, eliminating a chef every episode until a champion can be named at the end of the season. The winner will receive \$100,000 donated to the charity of their choice. Thierry's chosen charity is *Food Lifeline*, where he serves as board member and dedicated supporter. *Food Lifeline* is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to ending hunger in Western Washington. Last year, *Food Lifeline* secured upwards of 24 million pounds of food for those in need, and served 675,000 people with hot meals, food banks, and shelters. A worthy cause indeed.

The other two Seattle chefs competing on *Top Chef Masters Season 2* are Jerry Traunfeld (of *Poppy*), and Maria Hines (of *Tilth*). I am confident they will all compete admirably, and represent Seattle with grace and style under pressure. Thierry, however, is no stranger to performing on the air – he and Chef Tom Douglas host their own talk show on Kiro710 News Radio (97.3 FM) every Saturday afternoon from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. And Thierry can frequently be seen on local KCTS Channel 9, hosting cooking segments amidst a flurry of pans and whisks and fresh seasonal food.

The first episode of *Top Chef Masters* airs on **Wednesday, April 7 at 11 p.m.**, followed by Wednesday night shows at its regular timeslot of 10 p.m. Make sure to tune in and watch your very own neighbor compete in this exciting reality series – just look for the chef wearing his trademark Fedora. Or better yet, pay a visit to *Rover's* to sample his culinary prowess in person. *Rover's* is located in the charming and secluded garden courtyard at the corner of Madison and 28th Avenue East. While awaiting the opening of his second storefront this spring, a bistro named *Luc Bar & Kitchen* (and *Luc 2 Go*), *Rover's* is offering a preview menu of *Luc* cuisine starting March 2. Check out his website for complete menus, spring dining events, and more information on all his culinary creations at: www.rovers-seattle.com. Good Luck Thierry from all your neighbors in Madison Valley! 🏠

18th Annual Chefs' Dinner Breaks Records

By Alisha Mark - VMMC

On Sunday, Jan. 17, more than 300 community and corporate leaders gathered for an exclusive, multi-course Chefs' Dinner, to benefit Bailey-Boushay House, a skilled nursing facility operated by Virginia Mason Medical Center that cares for people living with HIV/AIDS and other complex, life-threatening diseases. An additional 150 guests participated in the hors d'oeuvres reception and silent wine auction.

The event raised record-breaking funds of \$304,000, making it the most successful Chefs' Dinner to date. The increase was due to the tremendous generosity of host Bell Harbor International Conference Center and Columbia Hospitality; all 13 chefs who donated their time, talents and food to the cause; and to the hundreds of participants and volunteers who opened their hearts and pocketbooks to Bailey-Boushay House. Emcee for the evening was media personality Dick Foley and the event presenter was Safeco Insurance Foundation.

This year's honoree was Betsy Lieberman, executive director of Building Changes, who was recognized for her vision and leadership in helping create Bailey-Boushay House. In 1988, Lieberman started AIDS Housing of Washington to build BBH. Since then she has spearheaded the planning and development of more than 160 units of supportive housing in the Seattle/King County area. Nationally, Lieberman seeks to raise public awareness about the value of supportive housing and the prevention of homelessness.

The appetizers and seven-course dinner were prepared by 13 celebrated area chefs, including chefs **Daniel Molina of Bailey-Boushay House**, Jay Bartelson of Bell Harbor, Mike Davis of Barrio, Jason Stratton of Cascina Spinasse, Dalis Chea of Fresh Bistro by Herban Feast, **Joseba Jimenez de Jimenez of The Harvest Vine and Txori**, Jason Bray of Ivar's, James Drogman of Le Pichet and Cafe Presse, **Rich Coffey of Madison Park Cafe**, Peter Birk of Ray's Boathouse, Adam Federoff of Rosebud Restaurant and Bar, and Craig Hetherington and Lucy Damkoehler of TASTE.

Proceeds will support nutrition programs for clients and residents living with HIV/AIDS. 🏠



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What's Up On Madison?

By Ann McCurdy



We're going to see some changes in the next month or so. **My Coffeehouse** at 2818 E. Madison has closed and re-opened for business. The new owners Nichele and Steve plan to paint, clean, and remodel, with the idea that they want adults to enjoy the café whether or not they have kids in tow. Expect changes to the menu, the layout, and the hours as they plan to stay open while putting the changes in place.

Until they reopen, get your coffee fix at **Bella Dolce** at 2711 E. Madison. I was amused by their Happy Hour sign – half off all espresso drinks from 7:00-8:00 a.m. No alcohol involved in this happy hour – which is just as well at that time in the morning.

The adjacent storefronts for the former **Plum** and **Swedish Heirlooms** stores at 2911 E. Madison are being readied for a new business, **Bill the Butcher**, selling organic high quality meats from local farmers, as well as gourmet cheeses and wine. This is a business out of Woodinville which also has a shop in Laurelhurst, and I look forward to them coming here. Also, remember that **Plum** (www.plumshoes.com) and **Swedish Heirlooms** (www.swedish-heirlooms.com) may have closed their doors, but both still exist online – check out their inventory while it lasts!

Café Char at 2314 E. Madison has also closed after less than a year, but should reopen in March as an Ethiopian coffee shop. The previous Char owner, Charnita Baseden, followed a job to the East Coast, and we wish her well. Ethiopian native and long-time Seattleite Endanchy Girma plans to include monthly Ethiopian coffee ceremonies.

Our newest French restaurant, **Luc's** at 2808 E. Madison, had some remodeling delays (aren't they inevitable?), but this latest venture by **Rover's** owner Thierry Rautureau should be open in April. That is just in time for my birthday, in case my husband is reading this.

On a happy note, **The Bottleneck Lounge** at 2328 E. Madison celebrated their third anniversary March 6. Since last August, they've expanded into the adjacent space left by the former **Red Carpet Barber Shop**, no longer in business. It's good to see the local lounge doing well! Finally, there's a **Tarot Card** reader again at 2302 E. Madison St. I just walked by, and there's no name, phone number, or hours posted. Hmmm, maybe the tarot cards simply let the owner know when to be there. 🏠

tee to pass our rebuttal along to the full School Board for review. Under the rules for Proposal Requests, the CCC@MLK may not contact the School Board directly.

On February 4, CCC@MLK met with the Selection Committee to present our mission and vision, walk them through our proposal, address our concerns about their draft report, and provide an opportunity for dialogue to directly address any questions. The African American Veterans Group of Washington State (AAGWS), the Madison Valley Merchants Association, Mitchell's House, and Environmental Works also joined CCC@MLK Board members at the meeting. We addressed several items, including the claim that we would charge market-based rents to our partners and other renters, that AAGWS currently has office space and would not be offering any new social services, and that we would not be providing enough youth educational or social services programming.

While we felt the overall tone of the meeting tone was positive and amicable, it was hard to read where the Selection Committee stands. We do know that after submitting our rebuttal and requesting a meeting with them, the Selection Committee extended the opportunity for rebuttal to the other proposers, but none have accepted the invitation at this time. We ended the February 4th meeting by suggesting the Selection Committee offer all four proposers the opportunity to give a ten-minute presentation to the full School Board in the interest of fairness and transparency. The Selection Committee did not commit to this suggestion, but said they would consider it. They also did not give any indication of the decision timeline or when the School Board would be voting on the fate of M. L. King Jr. Elementary School.

One key step to bolstering our position with the School Board is to show that the City of Seattle, both our new mayor and the City Council, support turning M. L. King Jr. School into a Community Center. While the City did not allocate funds this budget cycle for a Community Center at M. L. King Jr. School, City Council President Richard Conlin has indicated that he will advocate for future funding. The City's Comprehensive Plan also encourages neighborhood involvement in the re-use of schools that have been closed, and there is precedence with other community-led centers like University Heights and Phinney Ridge schools.

Andrew Sue, one of our volunteers, has posted CCC@MLK's idea of converting M. L. King Jr. School into a Community Center on the *Ideas for Seattle Forum* webpage, located on the City's website. **Please call or contact the City Council and Mayor McGinn this month to let them know they need to voice support for the MLK Community Center to the School Board - we need your help to make our vision for the Community Center at MLK a reality!** Check out our website for additional information: www.mlkcommunitycenter.org

THE SPRING POTLUCK PARTY!

Saturday, April 24, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Valley School! Come and bring your friends. Bring your poems. Bring your story. Bring your musical instrument and your songs. Bring your wine. Bring your favorite dish. Come to the party, Come One and Come All!

Stormwater Basin Updates



The main phase of construction on the new Stormwater Basin design is complete, but the fences will likely remain in place until early summer, so that plants and grass can establish before the public will be permitted to access the site. The City of Seattle has not yet scheduled an opening date, and have not announced whether they intend to host a celebration event, or if there will be an official name given to the basin. Elaine Young, SPU spokesperson for the project, wanted to emphasize that this is not a public park, rather it is a stormwater detention facility that doubles as a public amenity. Good to note in case you were fooled by the remarkably park-like design and natural landscape setting. For safety reasons, the City warns that citizens should refrain from using the site during severe storms. If you would like to contribute ideas for the official name of the stormwater basin area, and think that the community should be included in the process, please send your ideas to editor@madisonvalley.org, so they may be passed along to Seattle Public Utilities for consideration.



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Your Neighbors Need You!

By Catherine Nunneley

Do you have concerns about our neighborhood? Would you enjoy focusing your skills towards enhancing our community life? With spring right around the corner, **May elections for officers of the GMVCC are coming up quickly. Please consider serving in a position of your Community Council.**

If you feel that the monthly meetings may tax your time, it is perfectly acceptable to share a position. As the founding Co-President of the GMVCC, I can attest that this is a great way to go. My teenage daughters shared the secretary position for several years. The Treasurer simply needs to keep the books and send reports to the President.

If becoming a GMVCC officer isn't for you, consider initiating a neighborhood activity or project you think would be fun. I personally have experienced the thrill of saving the greenbelt from destruction, the installation of a new crosswalk, and the kiosk at the retention pond as a few of my projects. I produced *The Valley View* single handedly for several years. Others initiated the fall spaghetti dinner, summer rummage sale and picnics, winter pancake breakfasts, and the quarterly pot luck dinners. Beautification projects such as sprucing up the neighborhood sidewalks, tending the grounds of the MLK School and the greenbelt have also been very successful.

Please consider serving your community through the Greater Madison Valley Community Council. **The GMVCC Officer Elections will be held on Wednesday, May 19th at the Valley School.** We hope to see you, hear your creative ideas and bring them to fruition. 🏡



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DATES TO REMEMBER!

Saturday, March 27
CCC@ MLK Craft Party, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 A pasta-art card making party!
 Cards will be sent to the School Board.
 Kids & adults welcome!

Wednesday, April 21
Community Council Meeting
 Guest Speaker: Senator Adam Kline

Saturday, April 24
Spring Potluck Party at the Valley School!
 Call Charles McDade at 206-325-3518 for details

Wednesday, May 19
Community Council Meeting
 Officer Elections to be held ~ a quorum required!