

The Valley View



ISSUE 56

Greater Madison Valley Community Council

JANUARY 1997

JOB FAIR

Seattle University will have its 16th Annual Summer Job Fair in Lemieux Library foyer, 11 AM to 2 PM, April 9, 1997. Employers who have Summer jobs available and wish to be included in this event may contact the University at 296-6084 or 296-6086 before January 24. This is an excellent opportunity to meet qualified college students.

NEW RULES NEEDED?

Throughout these rain-soaked weeks we have seen numerous disasters involving houses and roadways next to slide-prone steep slopes. In many cases local building departments issued building permits on sloping sites with the assurance of soil technicians and engineers that foundation plans would guarantee stable platforms for structures. The rising demand for houses coupled with scarcity of suitable sites and with prices soaring for housing, resulted in the city granting permits in many questionable cases.

Then come the rains. The rains always come and break records. Houses and hillsides collapse or are engulfed in mud. **Who is liable?** The City and the soil engineers try to evade responsibility. Eventually taxpayers must take part of the burden to pay for these awful misjudgments.

Surely more rigorous restrictions must be enforced to keep buildings off these dangerous hillsides. At least new rules could be enacted to place full responsibility on owners and builders who insist on locating on hills.

**Community Council
Retreat is January 18th at
12:00 pm! See you there!**

WINTER LIGHTS

The Holiday House and the Greater Madison Valley Community Council would like to thank everyone who participated in the Winter Festival of Lights, and brightened the neighborhood.

The festival committee was overwhelmed by the community participation with over 400 homes brightly decorated for the winter season.

The original plan was to hand deliver certificates of participation to everyone who took the time to help make the gray days of winter brighter. Due to the massive participation including apartment dwellers who decorated their balconies this became impossible to do.

If you would like a certificate of participation in our First Winter Festival of Lights you can send your Name and Address to the Holiday House 3317 E. Harrison, or call 726-9378 (please spell your name and address and speak clearly if leaving a message) and we will be happy to mail you one.

The committee would like to give honorable mention to these five homes for their illuminating displays.

1. 304 33rd Ave. E.
2. 415 31st Ave. E.
3. 418 31st Ave. E.
4. 504 23rd Ave.
5. 508 23rd Ave.

The hope for next year is to include neighborhood children, with caroling, and a tree lighting ceremony with decorations for the tree being made by local children.

If you have ideas to make next years Festival better or would like to volunteer in any way please contact Darrell Welsh or Robbin Buckley at the Holiday House 3317 E. Harrison.

Once again THANK YOU for making 1996 Winter Festival of Lights a success!!!!!!

GMVCC RETREAT

The GMVCC Annual Retreat will be Saturday, January 18 at 12:00 PM, at the Martin Luther King School Portable.

We will be working out the Agenda for 1997.

Bring your ideas!

How can we achieve the thriving community we all work toward?

Potluck lunch will be at 12:30 PM.

VTEC NEWS

The VTEC Computer Lab will have its **grand re-opening:**

February 4, 1997, at 6:30 PM

The VTEC hours will be as follows:

Tuesday-Thurs: 6:30 - 9:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 - 4:00 PM

The VTEC features free computer use, including e-mail and full Internet access. We have a variety of office automation software (Microsoft Word, Excel, Access) and children's educational software and games. There are volunteers at the VTEC who will be happy to get you started, so please stop by!

Watch your newsletter for future notices for computer classes and Personal Technology Nights such as: Sports on the Internet, Kids and Computers, Finances and Investing, Science on the Internet, Making Valentine Cards, Health Resources on the Internet, Homework and Computers, and much, much more...

**IT'S A
BRAND
NEW YEAR**

VILLAGE SCHOOLS

The Village Schools Partnership Planning Project is a year-long exploration of the possibilities of collaboration between Martin Luther King School, Bush School, Meany Middle School, and the surrounding community councils. The Project has received a grant from the Department of Neighborhoods to hire a part-time staff person to assist in this project.

Stan Hiserman has been hired to do the job. Stan has years of experience building community-school cooperation projects. He was one of the founders of the "Powerful Schools" coalition in Southwest Seattle, and is currently assisting the "Sound Schools" coalition in West Seattle. He recently completed a master's degree from Antioch University. We are very lucky to have Stan involved. Please plan to come to one of our first public meetings to add input to this planning process:

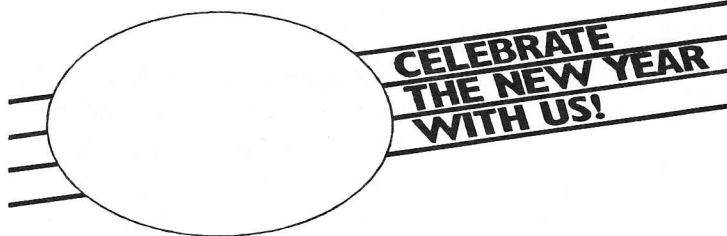
Village Schools Gatherings:

Thursday, January 23, 1997
7:00 PM, Bush Commons Room
or

Tuesday, February 4, 1997
7:00 PM, Meany School

Auditorium

Come share your ideas, and join in the discussion as we "search the future", and brainstorm ideas of how our schools and communities can work together.



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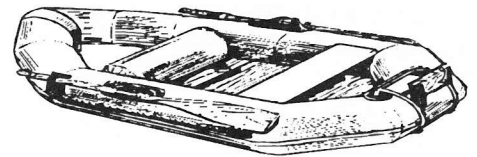
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WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE...

In February and March of 1996 our council corresponded with the Parks Department about unfinished business along 32 Ave. E. near John St. Former landowners in the greenbelt had bulldozed an opening there and clear-cut trees on the hillside three years ago. The City bought them out and no houses were built, but the damage was done. That cut becomes a stream every winter and after every rainstorm. The sidewalk has washed out, the roadway is full of potholes and is under water for weeks at a time. Some of this excess water flows down John st. to the valley and contributes to the problem there. The Parks Department informed us that a work order had been issued by the Drainage and Water Utility to install a trench drain along the east curb of 32 Ave. E. that would empty into the catch basin at John St. The work was to be done last August or September. No one appeared to do this work; now we must contact the City and press them to honor their commitment and get the job done. Work like this can only be accomplished in the driest months of August and September.



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Phone: 206-762-0900

ROVER'S

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"MEANY'S MESSAGE"

Meany Magnet announces the following:

Superintendent John Stanford recognized Meany-8th grade students for their Academic Progress (improvement of test scores) on the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills!

In cooperation with the Seattle Rep, Meany students will develop and act out A Drug-Free Video Production. The presentation will be shown throughout the district and entered in nationwide contests.

Our 6th grade students have been invited to participate in the fifth Annual Martin Luther King Math/Science celebration at the Pacific Science Center. This tribute to Dr. King reminds students of his excellence in math and science and inspires them to pursue their own futures in these areas, January 15, 9:45 AM - 1:45 PM. Students will meet with an exciting group of successful role models from the Community College, Komo, Metro, Microsoft, Boeing and will be grouped in teams of 8-10 with a college mentor. Students will explore the Science Center exhibits, as well as have an opportunity to discuss hopes and dreams with Science student mentors from the UW and Seattle Community Colleges.

Schoolwide Assembly, Jan 17:

This will be an opportunity to showcase student performers and our performance groups.

Jazz Concert, January 23, 7:30 PM: Enjoy an evening with our Award Winning Jazz Band.



MARTIN LUTHER KING HIGHLIGHTS

Martin Luther King Elementary will present a program to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Wednesday, January 15, 1997, at 6:30 PM in the school auditorium. Midge Bowman, Head of Bush School, will be the main speaker. There will be a Reader's Theater enactment called "the Dream Lives On." And other students will recite poetry, on significant events in the life of Dr. King. A narrated slide show featuring first and second graders "Dream for the Future."

The Songbirds choir will perform. Dress rehearsal will be at 1:30 PM in the school auditorium. The public is invited to all the performances.

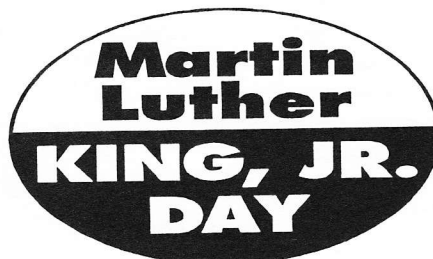
There will be "No" school Monday, January 20, in honor of Dr. King's birthday, or on Friday, January 31, the day between semesters.

M.L. King will have a Vanguard School Early Release day on Wednesday, January 22, 1997. Students will be dismissed at 12:30 PM.

OPEN HOUSE:

Thursday, January 30, at 6:30 PM. Parents, neighbors and especially parents of prospective kindergarten students are invited to tour the school and receive information about the curriculum and enrichment activities. There will be a variety of displays and the Songbirds All-school choir will perform.

M.L. King will take a "Bite of the World" during the school day on Thursday, February 13, as students experience cultures from every continent through food, song, and dance. Parents and the public are invited. For more information call the school at 281-6510.



Communities share responsibility for families by Bush School Head Midge Bowman

"It is in the shelter of each other that the people live."
Irish proverb

The recently formed Village Schools Partnership between Bush, Martin Luther King and Meany Middle School and the Greater Madison Valley Community Council, is an example of the power of a group to work together to create a beautiful, safe and life-affirming environment for all our young people.

The Village Schools Partnership, our sister schools, our families and our places of worship are natural communities. Ultimately, we all have the responsibility for the people with whom we live. Especially for the children.

To discuss how the three schools and two neighborhood associations might build on the successes of their past collaborations, the five entities have formed a planning committee called the "Village Schools Project" to determine how much support exists in the community for their cooperative efforts and what kind of projects would be of the greatest interest. In late fall, the Village Schools Project received a \$27,000 grant from the City of Seattle, primarily to hire a support person to help the committee survey the community regarding the project.

"The intent is for people in the same community to communicate more effectively with each other about what they want for their children," explains Gary.

Anyone interested in participating in the Village Schools Project is invited to attend a community meeting on January 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bush Commons. For more information, call MS Director Gary Emslie at 326-7755.

Village News

The Newsletter of the Village Schools Planning Project - Jan'97

Welcome!!

If you are receiving this newsletter, you may have filled out a pledge form in the last six months, indicating an interest in the *Village Schools Planning Project*.

This newsletter will hopefully help bring you up to date on what has been happening.

Funding Approved

The grant that was submitted to the Seattle Dept. of Neighborhoods has been recommended by the Mayor and approved by the City Council for funding. The grant will provide \$27,200 in funds, allowing us to hire a Community Organizer to assist us in the planning project.



Mark these Dates!!

We've set our first dates to be gathering public input into the planning process at two "*Village Schools Gatherings*". Please plan on attending one of these meetings to help generate ideas and questions about how public and private schools and communities can cooperate for the benefit of all involved.

Village Schools Gatherings

January 23, 1997 -- 7:00 PM
Bush School Commons, at
E. Harrison and 36th Ave. E

February 4, 1997 -- 7:00 PM
Meany Middle School Auditorium
301 - 21st Ave. E.

What is the Village Schools Planning Project?

This is a project to explore the interest in, and the feasibility of, a cooperative partnership between 3 schools, and 2 neighborhood organizations:

- M.L. King Elementary School (public)
- Meany Middle School (public)
- Bush School (private)
- Greater Madison Valley Comm. Council
- Miller Park Neighborhood Association

How can our communities become more involved in our schools, and how can our schools be more involved with the neighborhoods that surround them? How can we cooperate to share resources and ideas between the schools and communities? These are the questions we will be asking.

Steering Committee Forming

The Village Schools Planning Project has been forming a steering committee of representatives from the different organizations involved in the project. Some have been meeting since last spring to plan the grant application, and the hiring process, which is now underway. When the process is complete we will have the principal, a staff member, and a parent from each school, and 2 representatives from each neighborhood organization. This committee will oversee the planning process in 1997. This will include much information and opinion gathering from many different parts of the community. You can contribute your ideas by attending one of the meetings mentioned above.

There's more on the other side...

The Village Schools Planning Project

HOW CAN OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES WORK TOGETHER?

- ◇ *Martin Luther King Elementary School*
- ◇ *Bush School*
- ◇ *Meany Middle School*
- ◇ *The Greater Madison Valley Neighborhood*
- ◇ *The Miller Park Neighborhood*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

VILLAGE SCHOOLS GATHERING

Thursday, January 23, 1997 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Bush School Commons Room - 36th and E. Harrison (322-7978)

or

Tuesday, February 4, 1997 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Meany Middle School Auditorium - 301 21st Ave. E. (281-6160)

HELP ENVISION THE FUTURE

The Village Schools Planning Project is a year-long exploration of the possibility of creative cooperation between 2 public schools, one private school, and 2 neighborhoods for the benefit of the entire community. The Village Schools Gatherings are the first opportunities for public input into the process. Please bring your ideas, your questions, and your enthusiasm.

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THE VALLEY VIEW

2802 E. MADISON ST, BOX 184
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**NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER
MADISON VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**
Member of the Seattle Community Council Federation

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Robbin Buckley - Kids Korner and typing

John Dirkman - layout

Jerry Sussman - proofreader

The Valley View is published ten times a year.

Newsletter Deadline - second Wednesday of the month at noon. Your submissions are appreciated! Drop off at 3317 E. Harrison.

1996/1997 OFFICERS

President - Robbin Buckley

Vice President - Charles McDade

Secretary - Mike Seymour

Treasurer - Karen Fujita

Site Council Representative - Peggy Sussman

Phone # - 328-0058 (voice mail)

COMMUNITY COUNCIL RETREAT IS JANUARY 18TH!

GMVCC VAN PROGRAM UPDATE!!!!

As of January 1, 1997 we are no longer under contract with the county. The door is now open for us to explore new uses for the van, but our primary use will still be, safe transportation of our children. New ideas like: grocery runs, and Dr. visits for the elderly or handicapped persons. Group activities: movie nights, ski trips, bowling, beach parties, field trips.

No longer supported by county money, we will need to support the Van Project by other means. We now currently charge \$20.00 a month per child for door to door service to and from school and daycare. The rate will increase February 1, 1997 to \$30.00 a month per child. Rates and Driver Fees, for other events and van usage will be determined at our January Retreat. To help hold down rates, come to the Retreat with your ideas and/or volunteer time (qualify to be a driver for some of the above activities to offset driver fees).

Van rental is subject to the Greater Madison Valley Community Council Van Project rules and regulations, and driver availability.

RECIPE of the MONTH POPULAR POTLUCK POTATOES

2 Lg. bags frozen O'Brien Hash Brown Potatoes
2 cans creamed soup (mushroom, celery or broccoli)
2 pints sour cream
2 cups grated cheddar cheese
1 cup diced yellow onion
1/2 cup diced green pepper (optional red or yellow peppers for color)
2 cups meat optional (polish sausage, ham, or even hot links for the hotter taste)
1 soup can of milk. You may need a little more to make sure mixture looks wet.
Add spice to taste:
salt, pepper, garlic powder, seasoning salt, celery salt, basil, rosemary, thyme, sage, whatever you like.
Mix all ingredients in large bowl, spread in large baking dish or dishes.
Topping:
2 cups crushed cornflakes
1/4 cups melted butter
Mix together spread on top bake in 350 oven for 45 mins.
or till nice and bubbly. Enjoy!

VALLEY VIEW SUPPORT YOUR GMVCC NEWSLETTER

I will help the GMVCC Newsletter by:
◇ Making a contribution of \$ _____ towards the printing and mailing of the GMVCC newsletter.
◇ Volunteering for mailing parties, writing, graphics, artwork, or other:

◇ My skills are: _____

◇ I am interested in the following community issues: _____

◇ I am not currently receiving the newsletter by mail.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Please cut out the completed form and mail to: GMVCC, 2802 E Madison St., Box 184, Seattle WA 98112

