



THE VALLEY VIEW

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School Board Decision Disappoints

By Adrienne Bailey & Kimberly Larson-Edwards



On October 20th, the Seattle School Board voted 5-2 to sell the elementary school property to the First A.M.E. Church. Our group, Citizens for a Community Center @ M. L. King Jr. School

(CCC@MLK) is incredibly disappointed in the outcome, as we know we offered the best proposal for diverse and full community use of the space. Over the last two years we have done surveys, events and extensive community outreach to solicit feedback and input for programming that would best serve our neighborhood and the broader Central Area Community.

Director Martin-Morris offered an amendment to sell the school to CCC@MLK and Director Smith-Blum offered an amendment to postpone the vote until December 8; the Board rejected both amendments. During the discussions, Director Martin-Morris made a case for community use of the space, so if you have not yet done so, we ask you to send him a thank you for his support and seeing the vision of CCC@MLK: harium.martin-morris@seattleschools.org. Several directors mentioned receiving lots of emails and messages from the public wanting community use of the space, so we thank you for your support.

After the vote, First A.M.E Church members and supporters gathered in the lobby, and Pastor Anderson made a point to shake hands with some members of CCC@MLK. There is a possibility this may not be the absolute and final end for our cause. In the meantime, we will be working on measures to ensure community use and input on programming for the space, especially from the people of Madison Valley. Before doing so, we would hope that First A.M.E. Church members come and give us a presentation on what they plan on doing with the space and to introduce their renters and service providers. We are obviously beyond disappointed in the outcome, as we have all worked hard over the.. *cont'd at right*



Holiday Events Calendar

Wed, Nov 17, 7:30-9:00 p.m. — GMVCC Monthly Meeting at the Valley School. This is the last meeting of the year, there will be no meeting in December. New Council Candidates are sought!

Mon, Nov 22 — First shipment of Christmas trees arrives at City Peoples Garden Store; Noble, Frasier, Douglas, & Grand Firs. Extended holiday hours until Dec. 23rd, store open to 8:00 p.m.

Sun, Nov 28, 5:00-6:00 p.m. — Christmas Ships Parade at MOHAI. Special Preview night, Kitsap Carolers perform. Join Santa to enjoy complimentary hot chocolate, and glittering lights. Museum admission is free after 5:00 p.m. Ships arrive at 5:30 p.m.

Wed, Dec 1, 8:20-8:40 p.m. — Opening Night for the Christmas Ships Parade at Gasworks Park. Con Brio Women's Choir performs, rain or shine! For complete schedule see: www.argosycruises.com/themecruises/xmasSchedule.cfm


Sat, Dec 11 — Sun, Dec 12, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. — Gifts & Greens Galore at the Washington Park Arboretum, Graham Visitor's Center. Beloved holiday sale featuring Live Music, seasonal refreshments, and fresh-cut evergreen swag! Free admission.

Wed, Dec 1, 4:00-8:00 p.m. — Holiday Open House at City Peoples Garden Store. Hot cider, food tastings, and gift bags to the first 40 customers who make a purchase! See coupon on page 8.

Thurs, Dec 2, 10:00a.m.-8:00 p.m. — First Thursday Free Admission at MOHAI. First Thursday free tours are offered at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Special events during evening program, see calendar: www.seattlehistory.org/plan_your_visit/calendar.php

Sat, Dec 18, 4:55-5:15 p.m. — Christmas Ships Parade at Madison Park Beach. Vivace Cathedrals Choir performs.

Thurs, Dec 23 — Christmas Ships Parade Finale. Seattle Girls' Choir— Prime Voci performs at Portage Bay (W. Montlake Park) 8:45-9:05pm. Grand Finale at Gasworks 9:45-10:05p.m.

last 2-3 years to create our vision for this building. We will soon meet to discuss our next steps, including, but not limited to, whether or not to appeal the School Board decision. Let us know if you want to provide input or be involved with efforts moving forward at MLK Elementary School. We believe the community needs to remain involved in what happens at the property, and to ensure it remains community space for use by any and everyone. 

GMVCC ID STATEMENT



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2010 - 2011 GMVCC OFFICERS

President: (Retiring P. Triandafilou) *Need candidate*
president@madisonvalley.org

Vice President: Charles McDade

Secretary: (Retiring Cathy Nunneley) *Need candidate*

Treasurer: Adrienne Bailey

Newsletter Staff

Editor & Layout: Nori Hawkins
editor@madisonvalley.org

January Submissions Due by Friday, Dec. 22nd
For Advertising Info Contact: 206-349-4095
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



The last GMVCC Meeting of the year will be held on **Wednesday, November 17, from 7:30 — 9:00 p.m. at the Valley School.** Bring a batch of holiday cookies to exchange with your neighbors, or something special to sip! **We hope to see you there!!!**

Find Us On Facebook

I'm happy to report our **online fans** are growing and we now have our own **direct link** — making it easier than ever to find us! It's the quickest way to check out what's happening around the valley this holiday season and read what your neighbors are saying... **Don't be a turkey, come check us out.**



Facebook.com/TheValleyView



GMVCC Minutes

Wednesday, September 15th, 2010

Treasurer's Report: Closing balance: \$6,561.05

The meeting was called to order by retiring president, Peter Triandafilou. There was not a quorum present. Introductions were made. Concerning the SDOT report on a parking survey of the neighborhood, conclusive statistics demonstrate good compliance with parking regulations with a general parking capacity use of 75%. In unrestricted areas, it appears some vehicles are using the street as a "park and ride" for the Madison bus lines. Some suggestions for the community to consider are: to extend restricted parking along E Madison St. to Lake Washington Blvd; to allow parking on both sides of the one way street of E. Arthur; and to increase the 1 hour areas to 2 hours. The full report may be accessed on the web: www.seattle.gov/transportation/parking/cp/madisonvalley.htm

CCC@MLK: the school board committee has recommended the sale of the school building to the First AME Church. Banner at the triangle on MLK Way and E. Madison: it was discussed as an issue regarding some businesses leaving signage up for several weeks. A general agreement was reached that the area should be regulated to allow signage for limited time periods with the ability to "sign up" for specific dates. The entity to oversee this effort has yet to be decided.


Council recruitment: personal efforts to encourage neighbors to become active in the community council will be stepped up. Elections of new officers: we need candidates for the officer positions. Everyone is encouraged to contact the council with interest. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Wednesday, October 20th, 2010

Treasurer's Report: Closing balance: \$6,374.52

President pro temp Charles McDade called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There was not a quorum present. The Halloween Potluck was cancelled due to lack of funds. Evelyn Hall attended as a rep from the Green Footprints and Friends of Alder Creek groups. They are making progress on their projects. A retreat is planned to review projects and make plans for the upcoming year.

Cathy Nunneley reported as a member of the Friends of the Harrison Ridge Greenbelt. Libby Sinclair has organized monthly work parties to remove invasives from the area with the support of the Parks Dept. The yahoo website will announce work party schedules. We are looking into the possibility of having a community garden in the cleared area left from the recent removal on 32nd Ave E. Interested neighbors may contact us at: cjunnely@yahoo.com.

Recent Crime: There was a drive-by shooting on E. Arthur Place on October 1, No one was injured and there were no arrests. The *Valley View* newsletter may need to suspend printing due to lack of council funds in 2011. The council has not hosted fundraising events this fall, as members have been concentrating efforts on the MLK community center. The MLK School building will be sold to First AME Church. It is unclear if the GMVCC will be able to use some of its space. 

A Season to Give Thanks

Dear Readers,

November, 2010

It has been a pleasure to serve as Editor of *The Valley View* for the past two years and I hope you enjoy reading our publication. I'd like to thank all our writers and contributors for keeping us so well entertained, informed and engaged. I'd also like to give special thanks to our advertisers, who help keep our newsletter going. Pay attention to the ads you see on our pages, as valley merchants need your business this holiday season and beyond.

The new year brings funding challenges to the council, as coffers have become depleted. We need the help of our devoted readers to ensure we stay in print. We're undertaking a Fundraising Campaign and ask you to consider becoming a sponsor of *The Valley View* in 2011. Your small, tax deductible donation will make a big difference! In January, we'll start listing sponsor names in each issue, as a thank you to the neighbors who support us. Several donations were received in October, and I have great hope in the generosity of our readers to make our fundraising campaign a success! *Many thanks & Happy Holidays from the Editor — Nori Hawkins*



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**The Ivy that Ate Seattle —
Is Trying to Devour Our Greenbelt**
By Libby Sinclair and Cathy Nunneley




All over the city neighborhoods are banding together with the help of volunteers, Seattle Parks Dept. and organizations like Green Footprints, to fight the spread of English Ivy.

Ivy is a lovely container plant and looks terrific on those college walls. But once dispersed by birds, animals, people and wind, it takes over quickly. It is currently endangering many young trees and native plants in our Harrison Ridge Greenbelt. You can see it climbing up trunks and spreading out over the ground. Ivy develops a thick woody stalk that wraps itself around trees and inhibits their growth.

Over the last fifteen years Greater Madison Valley neighbors, school kids, birders and greenbelt fans have worked together to plant and nurture native plants and trees. Many are thriving, but are in danger of being choked out by ivy and its fiendishly invasive friends blackberry, holly and morning glory.

But, help is on the way, and you can be a part of it. *Friends of the Harrison Ridge Greenbelt*, a group of Madison Valley neighbors, has been holding monthly work parties in the greenbelt again. Our first goal is to free up our young trees. Next we clear away invasive plants and lay cardboard and wood chips down to prevent their return. We have made significant headway on a large section of 33rd Street as well as spots here and there.


We invite you to join us each month. You can meet your neighbors and some nice volunteers too. Come for an hour or stay the whole time. It will be fun, and dirty and satisfying. Kids are most welcome. We will feed you bagels and coffee and provide tools (unless you wish to use your own). Hand pruners and work gloves are most useful.

Next Work Party: Sunday, November 14th
from 11am – 3pm. Meet on 32nd Avenue between Denny & John (where the house was moved). 

What's Happening on Madison?

By Ann McCurdy


Fixx Coffee House has closed—what, you didn't know it was open? In its place at 2310 E. Madison is **Patty Pan Café**, serving up “quick, healthy, affordable food showcasing local ingredients.” They serve breakfast items, soups, salads, stuffed breads, and espresso. Patty Pan used to be in Ballard, and has sold food in numerous farmers markets. Sounds delicious and I hope they stick around a long time.

What's almost as ironic as a butcher next to vegetarian restaurant? How about a gas station that sells cell phones you can't legally use while driving? The **Shell Station** has renovated space at 3100 E. Madison to install a new **Verizon Cell Town Premium Retailer**. Now you can buy that hands-free device *and* be legal on the road. **Suess Chocolates** has sadly closed their doors at 2909 E. Madison and moved their shop to Mill Creek. Best of luck in their new endeavor! Lastly, **Ropa Bella**, who used to be where **Oh! Chocolate** is now located, moved to Madison Park for awhile, but is now back in the Valley selling their fine apparel and accessories at 2717 E. Madison. Welcome Back! 

SPU Press Release — Oct. 7, 2010



Recently, a wooden sign in memory of Ms. Kate Fleming was placed at the stormwater facility kiosk. Ms. Charlene Strong requested that the sign be removed. Out of respect for wishes of the family, SPU has removed the sign. We do understand the community's

wish to honor Ms. Kate Fleming. Seattle Parks Department is working closely with Ms. Strong to place a stone sculpture honoring Ms. Fleming's life near the Phase 2 Washington Park project site on Parks Dept. property that will have visual prominence from E. Madison St. Installation of the sculpture is planned at the end of Phase 2 construction (approx. Fall 2011). We will be sure to inform the community when the project is complete and about any opportunities to be involved in the memorial dedication. SPU would like to take this opportunity to remind the community that it is unlawful for anyone to affix any sign upon a City-owned structure in any public place (SMC 15.48.105) and that such a violation is subject to a maximum penalty \$250 plus statutory assessments (SMC 15.48.900). Please contact Ingrid Goodwin at Ingrid.Goodwin@Seattle.Gov or call 206-233-3864 for any questions or concerns. 



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Restoration Grows at Alder Creek

By Wallis Bolz




United Way "Day of Caring" volunteers and the Seattle Conservation Corps gave a terrific boost to the invasive plant removal effort at the Alder Creek Natural Area in September and October, a project of Green Footprints Action Works (GFAW). ZGF Architects, Puget Sound

Energy, and the Seattle Federal Executive Leadership Board participated in the annual United Way of King County "Day of Caring" event at Alder Creek on September 24th. Twenty-seven volunteers contributed over 95 hours of labor to the Natural Area: the equivalent of three neighborhood work parties.

Volunteers cleared the Quarry and rehabilitated a large segment of the Alder Creek stewardship trail. JTS Inc, a contractor clearing power lines of tree branches in the neighborhood for City Light, also made a timely delivery of wood chips on the day of the event. GFAW thanks Mad Valley neighbors Tom Samuelson, Mary Lynn Jensen, Penny Bolton, Sam Greeley, Brennon Staley, Ann Hirschi and the Central East Parks Facility, as well as Kwame Robinson of Seattle Parks and Recreation for their support of the event.

Seattle Conservation Corps (SCC) spent October hard at work clearing invasive plants from a portion of the slope above Woody Lane, a Washington Park Arboretum road that connects 26th Ave E. to 28th Ave E at E. Helen Street. SCC removed Wild Clematis and English ivy from the slope, where native vegetation did not fare well beneath an old-growth canopy of clematis and ivy. A hardy small handful of survivors include Western Sword Fern, Big Leaf Maple, and Indian Plum. SCC has stabilized the slope with jute mat and a coir log above the creek will collect slope sediment. Native plants will be planted on the slope in 2011.

You can read about our comprehensive trail-planning project for the western slope of the Washington Park Arboretum (called *Trees, Trails & Swales*), and other neighborhood projects by visiting: www.greenfootprintsactionworks.org.

Work Parties at Alder Creek: GFAW hosts neighborhood work parties at the Alder Creek Natural Area on the **second Saturday of each month, from 9 a.m. to noon**, excluding August and December. Join us! Alder Creek work area is at the 26th Ave. E. Right-of-Way, btw. E. Helen & Prospect St. 

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