



THE VALLEY VIEW

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 148

madisonvalley.org

September 2007

Community Kiosk Has Arrived

by Cathy Nunneley



Our Madison Valley information kiosk has finally been placed at the storm water facility (a.k.a. "The Pond") on 30th Avenue East between East John and East Denny streets. The kiosk was financed and obtained by Seattle Public Utilities for our neighborhood at the request of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council. We appreciate the efforts of SPU for this project, which saved the Council many hours of grant writing, fund raising, and matching fund labor.

The kiosk is available for neighborhood notices only. *The Valley View* newsletter will be displayed every month within the glass front compartment, and notices about community council activities will be posted on the adjacent bulletin board. There is ample space on the west side of the kiosk for neighborhood notices. Please feel free to post flyers and notices for garage sales, block parties, missing pets, job opportunities, and any other pertinent information. *This space is for all of us!* There is a plastic box attached to the side of the kiosk for flyers and announcements. Please refrain from posting flyers for any activities that are not related to our community. Additionally, SPU will post information regarding their long-term project to address the flooding problem in the vicinity of the pond and any future community meetings.

Attached to the kiosk is a community garbage can for litter only. Many months of negotiation with SPU and the agency's trash management have resulted in the placement of this can. Please do not use it for household garbage. The can will be serviced once a week. We have this trash service for a trial period and it will be removed if the can is abused. Many thanks to neighbor Chris Page who initiated the efforts to bring this service to the neighborhood. Please help everyone out and dispose of your trash in the can and keep the grassy area litter free and attractive.

Also at the kiosk is a box of plastic "Mutt Mitts" for picking up and disposing of dog waste. Neighbors were concerned that pet waste would be a problem at the grassy site and the availability of these mitts will help alleviate this problem. Please use them or your own plastic bags to keep our grass clean and safe for our children to play!

The Council hopes that the kiosk will become a welcome conduit for information and enhance communication within the neighborhood. One key to the glass compartment will be held by the current *Valley View* editor and a second key will be held by Barbara Lynn as a representative of the Flood Victims Committee. Notices placed at the kiosk will be monitored and inappropriate or out-

⇒ Please see **Kiosk** on page 3

Fun in the Sun: Our Community BBQ

by Lindsay Felcyn Zaccara



150 Madison Valley neighbors joined in the fun

burgers and hot dogs, and children played in the school's playground. A visit from our Fire Station 34, Benny the Balloon Guy (paid for by the Madison Valley Merchants Association), and guitar music by Doug Fleming, Jr. rounded out the party fun.

Roughly 150 people attended the barbecue. Through admissions, a raffle with terrific prizes from local merchants and additional donations, we paid all of our expenses and even made a profit of \$233, which will help offset the cost of printing and mailing *The Valley View*. Thank you to all who bought extra raffle tickets or gave more than the price of admission!

Thanks to a small but dedicated group of volunteers, the 2nd Annual Madison Valley Summer Barbeque was a true success!!

The weather held out and The Valley School was a wonderful location for the summer event. Families from all around our neighborhood ate ham-



Hat from Benny the Balloon Guy!

Great prizes were also given to the top three winners of the

⇒ Please see **BBQ** on page 3

Events Calendar

Wednesday, September 12: Madison Valley Merchants Association. Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at Cafe Flora. All are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, September 19: Greater Madison Valley Community Council. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at the Bush School Community Room (entrance on E. Harrison St. and 34th Ave. E.). All are welcome to attend.

Thursday, September 27: The East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition (EPCPC) and Seattle Neighborhood Group. Meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 2120 S. Jackson St., Second floor, Room 212. All are welcome to attend, and this meeting is the best way for all groups to get their issue on the front burner of the East Precinct.

GMVCC ID Statement

The Valley View

September 2007, Issue 148
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Greater Madison Valley Community Council
P.O. Box 22278, Seattle, WA 98122
Member of the Seattle Community Council Federation

2007-2008 GMVCC Officers

President: Wallis Bolz
Vice President: Charles McDade
Secretaries: Ann McCurdy and Heather Searce
Treasurer: Jennifer Janzen

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Minutes from GMVCC Meeting of June 20, 2007

By Secretary John Coldewey

President Tom Searce called the meeting to order at 7:30.

Treasurer's Report: Jennifer Janzen reported that ad revenues for the *Valley View* newsletter brought in \$353 in May, a slow month. (This does not include income from existing ads that were paid for in previous months.) Meanwhile, the cost of printing the newsletter, including mailing and postage expenses, was \$1,108.50 for the most recent issue. The ending balance was \$13,194.14, and the organization remains well in the black.

Water Retention Pond Kiosk Update: Cathy Nunneley displayed the new warning signs for the water retention area. She noted that a provisional agreement with the Seattle Public Utilities regarding the kiosk there was now arranged. The keys will be delivered soon and the appropriate forms signed. [See kiosk article, p. 1]

Valley View Newsletter: Peter Triandafilou reported that *Valley View* ad revenues presented a problem, since they did not present a steady source of income and did not cover the cost of publishing and mailing the newsletter. A motion was made to reduce the number of issues from nine to six. It was pointed out that the newsletter never made money, that it was the main public form of communication for the Council, and that the Council was happy to raise money for it. The motion was defeated. The Council complimented Peter's work and vowed to continue supporting the newsletter.

MLK Jr. Site - Possible use by SPU for storage of utility equipment: Wallis Bolz reported that the Seattle School Board is considering leasing the vacant MLK Jr. School property to the Seattle Public Utilities for storing pumping equipment,

⇒ Please see GMVCC on page 4



Support *The Valley View*:
Make a tax-deductible donation or
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**Color: Medium Blue. Although GMVCC is a 501c(3) entity, only donations are tax-deductible, not T-Shirts.*

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A family enjoys their burgers

dessert contest: Karen Turnquist, Kimberly Larson-Edwards, and Ann McCurdy—who happened to also be the only entrants! Next year, bring a dessert and you just

might win something.

Special thanks to Barry Wright, director of The Valley School, for the use of their facilities for our festivities! A great time was had by all this year, and we will hope to see you at the Spaghetti Dinner this winter.

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EXTRA BIG THANKS to Eric Geir, Jennifer Janzen, Frank Lawler, Ann McCurdy, Heather Scarce, and Tom Scarce. Without their help the barbeque would not have happened.



Music by Doug Fleming, Jr.

Thanks to our cheerful staff of volunteers: Lea Baker, Wallis Bolz, Pippa Kiraly, Kim Larson-Edwards, Charles McDade, Megan Schmidt, Glenn Zaccara, Lindsay Zaccara and Amber Chenoweth.



The Greater Madison Valley Community Council sends you *The Valley View* for **free**, nine times a year. Each issue costs approximately 50 cents per person, or about \$5 a year. While the price of publishing and mailing each newsletter is partially offset by advertising costs, we are still under-funded and **can only continue to publish with your donations!** Please consider sending us a tax-free contribution, by writing a check to GMVCC. We are grateful for any amount.



Two attendees (3 wks and 3 mos), exhausted from all the excitement

dated materials will be removed. If you notice any problems with the garbage can or accumulation of trash around the site, you may contact Mike Mercer at SPU. He may be reached at 206-684-0570 or mercerm@seattle.gov.



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GMVCC, continued from p. 2

which would be used in case of emergency flooding in the neighborhood. After some discussion the Council moved to stand against such use of the property and to write a letter to the School Board communicating that position.

Arboretum Botanical & Garden Committee Seat Opening:

Wallis Bolz reported that the Arboretum Botanical & Garden Committee (ABGC), which governs the Arboretum, has an open board seat, and she suggested that the GMVCC support Paul Gibson's proposal that the ABGC appoint a neighbor to the board seat. Gibson is a member of the Montlake Community Club. The Council agreed to send a letter of support to Susan Golub, who works in the Office of the Superintendent at Seattle Parks & Recreation.

Madison Valley Summer BBQ on August 12: Because of insurance costs, the Council decided not to sell alcoholic beverages at the Summer BBQ, which will be held at the Valley School on August 12.

GMVCC Elections: The Council elected Wallis Bolz as its new President, Charles McDade as its continuing Vice-President, Jennifer Janzen as its continuing Treasurer, and Heather Scarce and Ann McCurdy as its new Co-Secretaries. We thank retiring President Tom Scarce, and retiring Co-Secretaries John Coldeway and Larry Kron, for their hard work in the previous year.



Council officers for 2007/2008, Left to Right:: Wallis Bolz, Heather Scarce, Jennifer Janzen, Ann McCurdy and Charles McDade.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Pilates comes to Madison Valley

by Jennifer Karkar Ritchie

When it comes to staying fit, our choices in the Valley just got even better. For those of you that have lived in Madison Valley for a long time, getting exercise probably consisted of lots of nice walks, hikes in the Arboretum, jogs and bike rides. Now thanks to our bustling business district, you can choose from yoga, the gym – even Pilates. Since I have already experienced all but the latter, I decided this summer to try a private duet Pilates class with my husband at one of our newest local businesses – **Conscious Body Pilates**.



Pilates in action


Conscious Body Pilates (2921 E. Madison St.) was opened by active

community members Heather Scarce and her husband Tom. Heather, a certified instructor, was drawn to Pilates during recovery from an automobile accident, and as such has focused on providing Pilates instruction to people of all needs and abilities.

New to Pilates, we opted for a private lesson (you can go solo too) to get an understanding of the basic principles and techniques. Conscious Body also offers mat classes for various skill levels at regularly scheduled times. The 55-minute session seemed like a cross between yoga and physical therapy, leaving us both with a much greater sense of posture and personal movement. And don't be surprised if you experience a shockingly sore core that will serve as a reminder of your efforts.

No better time to give your workout a boost and start a new routine that brings strength to your entire body. For more information, you can check out the Conscious Body Pilates website at <http://www.709core.com>.

See you next month with another great find.



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Green Footprints Ready to Map Neighborhood

by Wallis Bolz

Green Footprints Action Works (GFAW), a neighborhood effort to map an ecosystem in a portion of Greater Madison Valley, has received a Large Projects grant in the amount of \$28,893 from the City of Seattle.

GFAW volunteers will survey trees, water, wildlife and habitat, and other notable features of the project area. GFAW and Seattle Urban Nature will produce maps from the data volunteers collect, and these maps will serve as the basis of two neighborhood planning workshops. Residents will identify sites and projects to enhance tree canopy, wildlife habitat and neighborhood wetlands; intercept surface and storm water with natural drainage features; and improve pedestrian access throughout the neighborhood. GFAW will work with landscape architect Peggy Gaynor to develop designs for natural drainage features, and environmental artist Buster Simpson to develop a design for a public art work.

Volunteer training workshops are scheduled for September and October 2007. Check the Green Footprints website for specific dates, times and training locations: greenfootprintsaction-works.org.

All Madison Valley residents and businesspeople are welcome to join the effort. We need volunteer help with the survey, fundraising, and planning efforts. For more information, contact Eileen Maloney (eileen.maloney@gmail.com, 325-9192) or Wallis Bolz (wallis@allaboutcarl.com, 329-3672).

The Green Footprints project area is bounded by 23rd Avenue, E.

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Seattle Night Out Block Parties: A Great Way to Get to Know Your Neighbors

by Kimberly Larson-Edwards

On Tuesday, August 7th, neighbors in Madison Valley, as well as Seattle at large, gathered at local block parties to get to know one another and promote community safety.

Night Out is a national crime-prevention event held on the first Tuesday of August every year to promote community safety. The Seattle Police Department sponsors the day locally, and neighbors are encouraged to organize block parties and other local get-togethers. The City of Seattle allows residents to apply for a free permit to block traffic on non-thoroughfare streets for the evening.

Approximately 35 Madison Valley residents enjoyed a BBQ potluck at the block party on 29th Ave. E between Denny and Howell streets. The Station 34 fire truck and several firefighters paid a visit -- much to the delight of the kids in attendance. Sergeant David Drain, in charge of patrol for the East Precinct Police Dept., also stopped by to introduce himself to residents. Block party-goers shared jambalaya, burgers, hot dogs, chicken, pasta salads, cookies


and ice cream sandwiches among other treats. The Grocery Outlet provided a gift certificate for a second year in a row to help offset costs.

If you are interested in organizing a block party on the first Tuesday of August next summer, make sure to check www.seattle.gov/police/prevention/Blockwatch/maintenance.htm for details. The deadline to apply for a permit is usually the end of July.

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Flood Issues, *continued from p. 8*

In case there is another flood before the long-term solution is complete, SPU will be pursuing the use of an outdialer call system for residents in the flood-prone areas near the detention pond at 30th Ave E and E John streets. The outdialer will automatically be triggered by rain gauges (and cameras in the future) in this specific area and will warn people of impending potential flood conditions. SPU has identified homes in the flood zone and will use a mailing to these homes to collect phone numbers for the outdialer call list.

SPU has also contributed ideas for a 30th Ave E & E John FloodWatch project, with the intent to encourage residents of the flood plain to prepare an emergency response program. Some options they shared for organizing and getting funds for the FloodWatch project include the city's Department of Neighborhoods Small & Simple Grant program and the Seattle Police Department's SNAP program (Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepare). Some ESC members are planning to meet with our representative from the Department of Neighborhoods, Ted Divina, to discuss this further. Contact Barbara Lynn or Margaret Cesena if you are interested in joining the FloodWatch effort.

SPU has met with the Seattle Department of Parks & Recreation regarding their capital improvement schedule for the Washington Park Playfield. The Parks Department was ready to design a project to improve the lighting and play surface at the field. However, SPU asked the Parks Department to wait for SPU to develop its recommendation for a final utility solution in Madison Valley before moving forward on their playfield improvement plans. SPU is working closely with the Parks Department to explore flood prevention options that involve Washington Park, and will be talking about these options with the community soon.

SPU and their consultants have found that extreme flood events are a challenge to model using mathematical computer modeling alone. This modeling is needed to perform storm/surface water management alternatives analysis. In order to ensure that the flow discharge data the model produces matches what SPU knows anecdotally about past storms that caused flooding, SPU will be augmenting its computer modeling efforts by building a scale model of the combined sewer in 30th Ave. E. and using it to learn about the capacity of this major sewer and stormwater pipeline during large storms such as the December 14, 2006 event.

The next ESC meeting is planned for September when more results of the modeling are available. Meeting minutes from ESC meetings will continue to be posted on SPU's website at: www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/News/Current_Issues/MadisonValleyFlooding. The ESC community representatives' names and email addresses will also be posted at the website and Madison Valley residents are encouraged to contact ESC representatives to get information about the project or to provide input. Madison Valley residents are welcome to join ESC meetings or participate as community representatives. Check the website for meeting dates and times.

SPU will be sending a more detailed newsletter to update residents on their progress sometime this fall. This mailing will go to a broader range of households than in the past and includes all addresses on the *Valley View* mailing list. SPU also plans to announce and hold a meeting with the broader community when modeling of the long-term alternatives is completed to share the results and continue soliciting community feedback.

Next Community Council Meeting: Wed, Sept 19th

See Event Calendar on Page 1 for Details.

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Residential Parking Zone is Here!

by Richard Winsler

Did you know that there are nearly 100 different stores and services offered along East Madison Street between Lake Washington Blvd. and 27th Avenue East? Where do all those employees and store owners park? If you live anywhere near the business district, you know the answer—in front of our homes.

For years the residents have tried working with the businesses to come up with a solution to alleviate the ever increasing parking problem. It was frustrating not to be able to park in front of your own house. A simple solution was to have the employees park north of Madison along the nonresident side of 29th Avenue East. Not only would it be accommodating to the local residents, but it would then free up parking spaces for customers as well. Unfortunately, a large number of individuals continued to use the closer residential streets for parking while at work.

RPZs (residential parking zones) have been around for nearly twenty years, with 23 zones throughout the city of Seattle. They are specifically designed to discourage long-term parking by nonresidents. Only those who live within the boundaries of the RPZ qualify to obtain a parking permit; all others are able to park for 2 hours or less before receiving a \$44.00 ticket from parking enforcement.

Madison Valley residents started this process a year ago. During that time the City of Seattle conducted many studies and held several public meetings to discuss what the best plan would be and what blocks would be included. The signs went up in August, and once again we are able to park in front of our houses.

If you would like to add your block to the RPZ (all blocks must be contiguous) call Julie Erickson at 206-684-5092. The city makes it very easy and quick to add on blocks to an already existing RPZ. Happy Parking!

SPU and Our Flooding Issues

by Shawna McGarry

The Madison Valley Engineering Sub-Committee (ESC) meets on an almost monthly basis regarding Seattle Public Utilities' (SPU's) long-term project to address flooding in Madison Valley. The ESC, consisting of community representatives from Madison Valley and SPU project representatives, has had two meetings over the summer.

The former independent engineer on this committee, John Frech, stepped down from his position and has been replaced by John Rogers of CH2M Hill. Since Mr. Rogers headed up the investigation of the Madison/Mercer Bowl flooding he already has extensive knowledge of the utility system in this area.

➡ Please see *Flood Issues* on page 7



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