



THE VALLEY VIEW

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 151

madisonvalley.org

December 2007 / January 2008

How Green Was My Alley

by Shawna McGarry

A transformation is taking place in the alley that runs through the 300 block of 30th Ave E and 31st Ave E. Once full of trash and rats, the alley provided a quick, low visibility cut-through. About six



An Alley Transformation

years ago, residents Francisca Bravo and Liam Stacey began to transform their grassy yard into native habitat. They became further inspired while attending courses and conferences on ecological restoration. Eventually, Francisca decided that she was going to find the time to develop a restoration plan for the alley. While in Seville, Spain they walked through tiny streets with little walkways full of beautiful plants and were inspired to bring this type of landscaping to their own alley. They talked with all of their neighbors whose properties shared the alley, developed a design, and applied for permits from the city to implement their vision.

Their goal was to plant the alley entirely with native plant species. They chose plant species that provide important habitat needs for birds or butterflies. However, after talking with nurseries and studying the soil, they found that they could only plant about 90% native species to start. So, they substituted natives with non-native plants from the same family. Over time, when more shade is provided from growth of the current plants and the soil amends, they can add native mosses and other small plants and transition to a completely native habitat. They also removed many invasive species like Himalayan blackberry, poison hemlock and morning glory.

A primary goal was to beautify this area and make it so peaceful and comforting to the eye that people would not want to destroy it or throw garbage in it. In addition, they are hopeful that native butterflies will come to the alley for habitat. In the future, as the plants grow and the ecosystem matures, they would like to provide ecology tours and share the interactions between plants and birds and butterflies to elementary through high school students. It will provide a unique opportunity for ecological learning in an urban area.

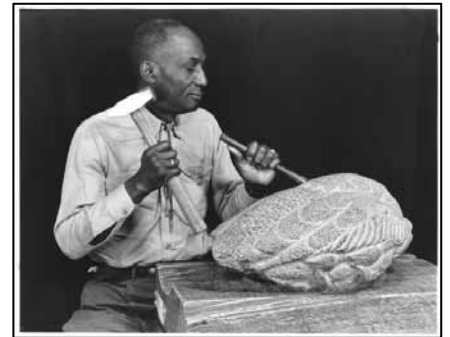
Francisca and Liam have put in many weeks of work with landscape professionals and local volunteers to clear out trash, add topography, and landscape this piece of public land. A student from Seattle Central Community College (SCCC) also helped greatly with plantings and ideas. Soon a new intern from SCCC will start work tagging the plants with their taxonomic names and important ecological relationships to birds or insects. The dream is that this project will provide peace and beauty to residents and

➡ Please see *Alley* on page 4

Art Scholarship Offered

The James W. Washington, Jr. and Janie Rogella Washington Foundation is offering *The Spirit in the Stone* Scholarship of up to \$5,000 to a promising art student enrolled in a Seattle high school or college and engaged in painting or sculpture. The student must be able to demonstrate creativity and artistic potential. Interested students can download an application form from www.jameswashington.org and return no later than January 10, 2008, along with letters of recommendation. The \$5,000 will be applied to tuition to an educational institution and/or to an art supplier. The winner of the scholarship will be announced at the opening of the African American Heritage Museum in March 2008.

The *Spirit in the Stone* Scholarship is in honor of the local African American painter and sculptor, James W. Washington, Jr., a leading member of the Northwest School of Art, who died in 2000. The scholarship is named for the book entitled *The Spirit in the Stone*, published by the University of Washington Press about Dr. Washington which examines his art and his thoughts about creativity. The scholarship is offered in keeping with Dr. Washington's interest in developing young artistic talent.



James W. Washington, Jr.

Dr. Washington's art has been exhibited in local and national museums including the Seattle Art Museum, Bellevue Art Museum, Whitney Museum in New York and the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D. C. Locally, his sculptures can be found in the lobby of the Sheraton Hotel and at the entrance to Mount Zion Baptist Church and the Odessa Brown Children's Clinic.



Events Calendar

Madison Valley Merchants Association. Wednesday, December 12, 8:30 a.m. Café Flora, 2901 E. Madison St

Greater Madison Valley Community Council. Wednesday, December 19, 7:30 p.m. Bush School's Common Room (entrance on E. Harrison St. and 34th Ave. E.)

Madison Valley Merchants Association. Wednesday, January 9, 8:30 a.m. Café Flora, 2901 E. Madison St

Greater Madison Valley Community Council. Wednesday, January 16, 7:30 p.m. Bailey-Boushay House, 2720 E. Madison St.

GMVCC ID Statement

The Valley View

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2007-2008 GMVCC Officers

President: Wallis Bolz · president@madisonvalley.org · 329-3672

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Sweet Sweet Madison

by Heather Searce



Karrie Baas of Baas Art Gallery giving out treats

Kids of all ages dressed up and joined the trick or treating fun down E. Madison St. this Halloween. A big thank you to the many merchants who participated—some even in full costume! Real Card Company designed beautiful little smiling pumpkin signs for merchants to hang in their windows to signify that Halloween candy was available to the trick-or-treaters visiting that business. It was a fun day for everyone!



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Minutes from GMVCC Meeting - Nov 28

by Heather Scarce, Co-Secretary

Wallis Bolz called the meeting was called to order at 7:35pm. 8 people were in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Deposits totaled \$2,052 from ad revenue and \$50 from donations. Our beginning balance on Oct. 17th was \$14,085.38. Our ending balance on Nov 28th is \$15,097.95. Printing costs for the Valley View are still a concern and we are still looking for a printing vendor with reasonable rates.

Madison Valley Website: Ann McCurdy and Frank Lawler currently manage www.madisonvalley.org but would like to make the website more robust. Cathy Nunneley suggested finding a teen volunteer from one of the local high school community service programs to build a more robust web site that could benefit both the community and business district.


Report on MLK Elementary School: John Coldeway and Larry Kron, members of the Neighbors of Bush School Association (NBSA) came to report recent developments on the MLK Elementary school property. The lawsuit against the school district ended in October and the property is now being considered for sale or lease. Local schools are currently looking at the property, but no sale has been made yet. Members of NBSA are concerned that if the Bush school or a non-profit community organization does not buy the property soon, commercial developers will move quickly to buy the property, remove a central cultural feature of the neighborhood, and bring more traffic into a single family residential area by building condos.

Spaghetti Dinner: While everyone agreed we should hold the Annual Spaghetti Dinner, no one has stepped up to lead the effort. We will need many volunteers to make the event happen. No date is set, although late January or early February would be ideal. More information on the event will be posted on the [madisonvalleycommunity](http://madisonvalleycommunity.com) and [madvalleywatch](http://madvalleywatch.com) email groups. **If you would like to volunteer, please contact Ann McCurdy at editor@madisonvalley.org or 568-7372.**

Community Kiosk on E. Madison St: Cathy Nunneley has the go-ahead to build a community kiosk on E. Madison. Coyote Central will design it and it will go in the space between Chinoise Restaurant and Madison Cleaners, behind the crosswalk on E. Madison St. She will submit a small and simple grant in April to fund the project.

Madison Valley Flood Control: Wallis Bolz led the discussion regarding SPU's proposed solutions to the flooding in Madison Valley. Peter Triandafilou and Wallis Bolz have led the effort to voice concerns to SPU and local government, but feel that no satisfactory solution has been presented. "The Northwest Lobe alternative" seems to be the preferred option of SPU and the city, but this still does not address the open pit in the center of our neighborhood. There is no consensus among 200 block residents regarding the buyout option, but Charles McDade (who lives on the 200 block) says the majority want to keep their homes and stay in the neighborhood. The council will continue to voice their concerns on this issue.

Remembrance: There was discussion about a possible gathering on Friday, Dec. 14 from noon to 1 p.m. to mark the anniversary of the flood and to remember Kate Fleming.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm. 

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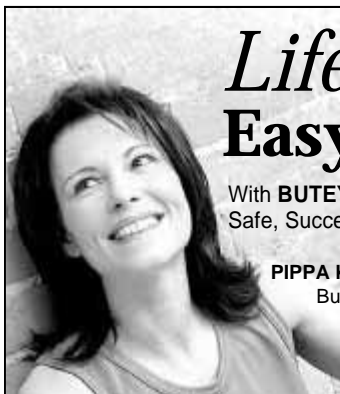
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Twelve “Gems” of Christmas

by Jennifer Karkar Ritchie

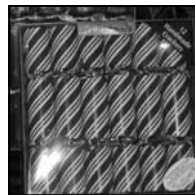
1. French-style hot chocolate (bittersweet cocoa, unsweetened cream, nonfat milk) with a dollop of cream from **Oh! Chocolate** (3131 E. Madison St) →



French-style hot chocolate

2. Pannetone Bread from **Essential Bakery Café** (2719 E. Madison St) has the festivity of fruitcake, but is more delicious.
3. Ratherbee candy-cane-striped catnip cigars for felines, and adorable plush Zanies for pups, at **All the Best Pet Store** (2713 E. Madison St).
4. Fantastic holiday cards (from Smudge Ink, Meri Meri, Snow & Graham, and more) at **Real Card Company** (2814 E. Madison St).
5. The gift of health—gift certificates to **Santosha Yoga** (2812 E. Madison St) or **Conscious Body Pilates** (2921 E. Madison St).
6. A gently used wool or silk scarf from **Gentleman’s Consignment** (2809 E. Madison St) for the guy in your life.

7. Festive, Robin Reed holiday crackers from **Rue De Lyon** (2719 E. Madison St). Pull them apart for a pop and fun trinket!



Christmas crackers

8. Signature scented soaps, lotions, body wash, candles and sparkling bath tablets from **Sweet Petula** (2717 E. Madison St).
9. Do you have a photo of the family, a visit with Santa, or your favorite vacation? Frame it beautifully at **Fast Frame** (2800 E. Madison St) with custom frames or a great selection of ready-to-buy wood, metal, and ceramic frames.

10. Get in the spirit with a unique, gorgeous birch tree or star from **Lavender Heart** (2812 E. Madison St).



Birch Christmas Tree

11. Want to treat a food lover? Experience a fancy French Friday lunch at **Rover’s** (2808 E. Madison St) or try the Ile de France Brie de Meaux (radicchio, brie and griotte cherry) tartine while dining at **Saint Germain** (2811 E. Madison St).


12. Cheers! Enjoy a toast at home with contemporary “Vin” glasses from **Red Ticking** (2802 E. Madison St), or go out for the PBR (Pabst Blue Ribbon) special at **Bottleneck Lounge** (2358 E. Madison St.)



Alley, continued from p. 1

others walking by, while also providing inspiring work for students, and hopefully inspire others to engage in the work of restoring the native habitats in their communities.





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*"I must be right. Never an aspirin. Never injured a day in my life. The whole country, the whole world, should be doing my exercises. They'd be happier."
— Joseph Hubertus Pilates, in 1965, age 86*

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Letter to the Editor

Our family has lived in Madison Valley for 14 years. When our kids were younger we had two playgrounds nearby--MLKing Jr Elementary and The Bush School. Since that time, the play area at King has been gated with No Trespassing signs, and Bush has converted theirs to a no public access soccer field and play area.

There are no other playgrounds nearby, and there are many more families with young children in our neighborhood. Every day I walk by King and I am angered at the waste of space. I don't know about a playground, but one possible great use of that space is new housing for those soon to be flood-displaced Madison Valley residents in the heart of the Valley--by tearing down the school, which is not only decrepit now, but a poor design from the start. The city can pay for these new homes instead of compensating flood victims for their old ones, and build whatever retention pond (and maybe a playground?) in their place. They can even recycle the various landscaping plants around the school in the homeowners' new yards. Eureka!

Heidi Randall

Letters to the editor may be sent to editor@madisonvalley.org or to our address listed on p. 2



Holiday Extravaganza With Soul

Friday, December 14
3pm – 9pm



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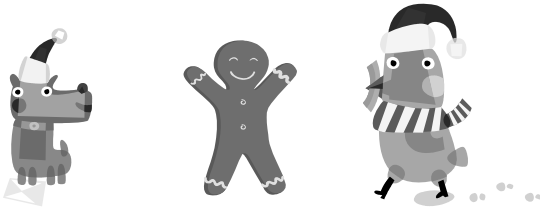
PUT OUR KNOWLEDGE ON YOUR SIDE

What's Up on Madison?


by Ann McCurdy

Designed Dinners (511 28th Ave. E.) is looking for a new owner! Current owner Shana Perrina enjoyed the business, and the amazing freedom it gave her to stay home with her 11-month-old son in the day. But with a second baby due in April (Congratulations!), her hands will be full. Interested in the business? Let her know! Let's hope the new owner is as supportive of community as Shana, who has donated time and prizes to various Madison Valley events...

The old **Izilla** location (2840 E. Madison St) has a new tenant! Opening in the next couple of months will be **Lavender Beauty Salon and Spa**. 



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Tails from the Valley

by Linda Becker and Peter Costantini

Our cat, Diva, hasn't come home since October 21. If her name sounds familiar, it may be because we've put a poster in your mailbox as we walk an ever-expanding radius around out little corner of the Valley. We call her name as we go, and Linda yodels "Kitty, Kitty, Kitty," consequently attracting many of our feline neighbors.

Have you seen Diva?

- 8-year-old female cat
- long slate-grey hair with red highlights
- white throat and paws


She hasn't come home since early Saturday October 21, so we're worried about her.
If you see her, please contact Peter or Linda at:
• 206-324-1321 (please leave a message)
• 131-31st Avenue East (south of John Street)
• jpetercostantini@comcast.net
Thanks for your help in finding her.



Our search has extended the community we've found among our neighbors here in the bottom of the valley. We've explored new corners of our urban refuge full of greenbelts and gardens. With greenbelts come coyotes—Peter saw a young one two blocks from our house—and herds of raccoons.

We adopted Diva out of foster care from the Seattle Animal Shelter in 1999. She had been separated from her mother and was very sick with feline herpes. So Diva is a survivor.

Called Diva because of her coloratura yowl, she's also known as "Air Diva" because she habitually tries to go to the highest place in any room and she flies through the air chasing anything on a string. She comes running when she hears us pull out the dental floss. For a small cat, she is fired by large passions.

We are moved by the response from our neighbors. Strangers phone to say they saw a cat that looked like Diva, or to report a "found cat" poster. We haven't found Diva yet, but we're keeping a light on the stairs and a scratcher full of catnip. 

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Flood, continued from p. 8

Efforts to mitigate construction impacts should include:

- Community meetings plus meetings with the Madison Valley Merchants Association prior to the start of construction;
- Subsequent meetings with the residential and business communities to take comment on construction impacts and develop mitigation measures appropriate to the neighborhood;
- A construction mitigation plan to be distributed to the neighborhood prior to construction start as well as periodic meetings in the neighborhood during the construction period to review and comment on plan implementation.

The NW Diversion option will expand the existing detention pond at 30th Avenue East and East John Street and may add above-ground detention to the southeast corner of the Washington Park Playfield, which serves at present as an informal off-leash dog area. Above ground detention at 30th and East John Street can provide a community amenity that

- Includes preliminary storm water treatment;
- Provides passive recreation space and wildlife habitat;
- Supports City of Seattle priorities such as the Urban Forest Plan.

Above-ground detention at Washington Park can recognize and contain existing off-leash activity.

In order to support development of community amenities in Madison Valley, we suggest:

- Creation of a board/steering committee of Madison Valley residents and business people to work closely with SPU in the design, creation and management of the storm water detention areas. (Board/steering committee membership should be open and ongoing, and board will work with SPU until project is complete. Resident board and SPU will identify landscape architect(s) to design detention facilities);
- Community meetings plus meetings with the Madison Valley Merchants Association to solicit comments on the amenity aspect of detention pond design;
- Allocation of an appropriate amount of the total flood control construction budget to design and construction of community amenities—the dollar amount allocated to design and construction to be based on the recommendation of the Madison Valley board/steering committee;
- Creation of a design document to be distributed to the neighborhood prior to construction start.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We trust that SPU will continue to work closely with and support the greater Madison Valley community in the development of a flood control measure that is both effective and attractive.



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Remove The Floodwater, Not Our Residents!

by Wallis Bolz, GMVCC President

Note from the editor: This is a copy of a letter sent on November 27 by Wallis Bolz to City of Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, Council Member Richard Conlin, and SPU representatives Chuck Clarke and Linda De Boldt.

The Greater Madison Valley Community Council wishes to express its support for the NW Diversion & Stormwater Storage in Washington Park option, one of two preferred alternatives Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) has put forward to address the issue of chronic flooding in Madison Valley.

Our support for the NW Diversion option as a flood remedy is based on information presented by SPU that indicates the option

- Can be implemented faster than the second preferred alternative— 200 Block Above Ground Storage;
- Solves a range of problems within the watershed, including flooding on East Madison Street, flooding in the Mercer Bowl and flooding at 30th Avenue East and East John Street;
- Meets the Mayor's criteria for a flood control remedy, including cost and performance. (We have been told that the Mayor will allocate \$33 million to a flood control remedy in Madison Valley; at a cost of \$18 – 28 million, the NW Diversion option falls within the budget.)

Our support for the NW Diversion option rests also on the fact that it can be implemented with significantly less disruption to the greater Madison Valley community and does not entail demolition of existing housing or displacement of our neighbors.


In addition to expressing our support for the NW Diversion option, we wish to comment on the issue of **construction mitigation** and the development of a **community amenity**.

The Northwest Diversion option will include construction work on East Madison Street, a busy neighborhood arterial.

Construction mitigation should address the Madison Valley neighborhoods and the Madison Valley business district. Neighborhoods within Madison Valley will experience varying levels of construction-related inconvenience.


Construction will affect travel into and out of the neighborhoods along East Madison Street; to and from the business district; and to SR 520. Construction may affect resident, business and patron parking on East Madison Street and in adjacent neighborhoods. Construction noise, dust and heavy truck traffic will affect nearby residents as well as businesses on East Madison.

⇒ Please see **Flood** on page 7




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Karrie Baas, owner

Thank you to the Madison Valley residents for their continued support over the past 12 years



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