



THE VALLEY VIEW

Newsletter of Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 140

madisonvalley.org

October 2006

Gardening Notes

Fall Color

By Kyra J. Butzel

By this time each year, front yards need revitalizing. When the yard looks tired, it can be tiring coming home to it. But giving it a boost is easy: pull leggy and fading summer annuals from the ground and replace them with a combination of fall annuals and perennials. Fall is a great time to rejuvenate both containers and the yard. Creating a lush and warm feeling with bright new plants helps us brace for the colder, shorter days ahead.

The easiest and most readily available flowering plant in fall is the ubiquitous chrysanthemum. "Mums" come in a fall palette of bronze, orange, red, yellow, pink, white, purple, lavender, and all the hues in between. Great as a colorful highlight amid foliage, or placed in big groups for a dramatic effect, mums will perform throughout fall until a hard frost. Place them in full sun and deadhead spent flowers regularly.

⇒ Please see *Fall Color* on page 5

One of Our Neighbors



Julie Parker

Julie Parker

By Ann McCurdy

A neighborhood is more than a collection of adjacent houses: it is the people who live there. What makes a neighborhood feel like home is the friendly "Hello!" and the warm smiles you encounter from its residents. Julie Parker is one of those people who al-

ways has a smile on her face, whether she's handing you a latte at her business, My Coffeehouse, or passing you on the street as she returns to her Madison Valley home.

Born and raised in Reading, Pennsylvania, Julie was the youngest of three sisters. Her father was a schoolteacher who drove a bread truck in the summers. Consequentially, the family never had the time for travel.

Even when choosing a college, Julie's parents required their daughters to be relatively close. Julie's alma mater, the University of Delaware, was just over an hour away. But it was there that Julie met other students from across the nation. She heard stories, saw photos, and made up her mind—after college, she would see the country.

After graduating in 1993, she chose to move to Seattle—

⇒ Please see *Neighbor* on page 6

GMVCC News

A Letter from the Council President

Greetings Fellow Neighbors,

I am honored to serve as your community council president during the coming year. I have been a Seattleite since 1976, and my wife Heather and I have been proud to call Madison Valley our home since the spring of 2003. I went to grade school and high school on Capitol Hill, and attended the UW for both undergraduate and graduate school.

It has been a pleasure to meet many of you at community council meetings, block watch parties, social gatherings, or even on the neighborhood Yahoo group. We have an eclectic mix of backgrounds that gives us a broader-than-average perspective of what it means to be neighbors.

I would like to offer a few thoughts I have for making our community an even better place to live, work, and play.

Active Participation

We hold community council meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in The Bush School's commons building. All residents are welcome to attend. These meetings provide an open forum for discussing current issues in our community (examples may include traffic revisions, land use proposals, or crime prevention) and also for brainstorming ideas for the future (such as fundraisers, social gatherings, or neighborhood improvements). I believe that significant

⇒ Please see *Council News* on page 2

Events Calendar

- Wednesday, Oct 18th at 7:30pm:
Council Meeting*
- Tuesday, Oct 31st from 2-5pm:
MV Merchants Trick Or Treat
- Wednesday, Nov 15th at 7:30pm:
Council Meeting*



* Council meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm at the Bush School Commons building (entrance on E Harrison St. and 34th Ave E). All are welcome to attend.

GMVCC ID Statement

The Valley View

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Council News *continued from page 1*

benefits will result from increased attendance at these meetings. There will naturally be more new ideas and more people to put those ideas into action. Woody Allen said that "Eighty percent of success is showing up." I say we can get that score up to at least 88%-92% by virtue of the old adage, "Many hands make light work!"

Financial Support

There are many ways to support our community financially. Of course, you are always welcome to make a tax-deductible contribution of any dollar amount to the Greater Madison Valley Community Council, a registered 501(c)3 organization. One tangible result of your contribution is ongoing support of the popular Valley View newsletter, which rests comfortably in front of your eyes at this moment.

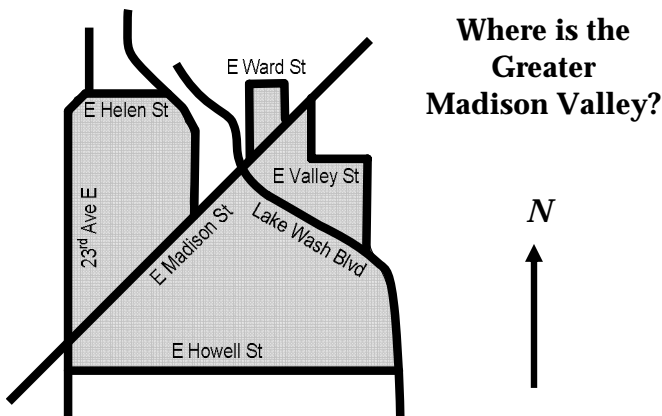
You also support our community when you spend money at Madison Valley businesses. These dollars circulate back into our community through employee paychecks, and merchants have been very generous with donations for our social gatherings. Strong ties between residents and merchants can also come in very handy when there are important issues that affect our area.

Celebration

One of the most important things we can do to build a better neighborhood is also one of the easiest: let's get together and feel all right [thank you Bob Marley]. We have traditionally held several "official" gatherings each year in Madison Valley: the Spaghetti Dinner, the Pancake Breakfast, and the newly-birthing Potluck Bar-B-Q. You are welcome and encouraged to make time for all of these events as an attendee, a volunteer, or both. There are numerous other informal ways to celebrate Madison Valley as well. Block parties. Block watch meetings. Dog walking groups. Progressive dinners. Backyard movie nights. Street cleanup crews. Car wash/yard sale fundraisers, etc...

Many of you will recognize some of the "suggestions" above as events you participate in on a regular basis. If, conversely, you find yourself wondering where the party is, please come to a community council meeting and ask, "Hey,

➡ *More Council News on page 7*



Recipes

Potluck BBQ Recipe Winner

Over the next six issues, *The Valley View* will alternate publishing recipes from the August 13th Potluck Barbeque winners with recipes from some of our merchants.

Broccoli Salad

First Place, Side Dish
Courtesy of Allison Ainslee

Note: Ainslee recreated this recipe based on her memory of a broccoli salad she tried at a party, and so the quantities listed above are approximates. Taste as you go.

Ingredients:

- 1 lb bacon
- 1 head broccoli
- 1 medium sized onion (preferably sweet onion)
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup raisins

Preparation:

Fry the bacon and chop it up. Cut the broccoli into bite-sized pieces (little sections of florets). Dice onion.

Mix mayonnaise, apple cider vinegar and sugar until smooth and to taste.

Put all ingredients together and mix.



Peter Triandafilou (in festive attire) and Council President Tom Scearce, two of the judges in our 2006 BBQ contest

CORRECTION


The *Madison Valley View* would like to acknowledge two very special people who were accidentally omitted from the list of Potluck Barbeque volunteers: **Heather Scearce** and **Tom Scearce**. Without their help, the Barbeque would not have taken place, as it was their idea to put on a summer fundraiser.

Thank you, Heather and Tom!



Heather Scearce with daughter Eva

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All the Best Pet Care

By Jennifer Karkar Ritchie

Last fall, my husband and I took a trip east to visit family and see the famed fall colors of the leaves as they transitioned into a new season. Two days into the trip, we received a phone call from our pet sitter that our cat, George, had ensconced himself on the couch and would not even get up to eat dinner, which was highly unusual. The sitter went to the drugstore to get George an electric heating pad to ease what she thought was kitty arthritis. While it seemed to help, we decided upon returning that we'd check in with a local pet store to find out if they had any other solutions for George that were less energy consuming and less of a fire hazard.



George : a satisfied customer.

My October find is **All the Best Pet Care**. Located at 2713 E Madison St., next to Bella Dolce, All the Best Pet Care really does offer "all the best" in pet nutrition, toys, beds, bowls, remedies and pretty much anything else your pet needs. When we visited the store on behalf of George, we presented our problem and the incredibly knowledgeable staff offered several suggestions, including an amazing pet bed that actually heats up when the pet lays on it, no plug required. Similar to an emergency blanket, it has a reflective layer in its core that reradiates the animal's body heat back in order to keep those achy joints warm.

For under \$20, we had a safe, viable solution that works for George. With fall just around the corner again, I thought of our great little neighborhood spot that caters to the wider community of pet lovers. All the Best Pet Care also offers free samples of pet food, and they consistently have the cutest kittens for adoption that I've ever seen.

See you next month with another great find!



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(Pre) School's Back!

By Kate Vaughan

September marked the beginning of the new school year, and the laughter of preschoolers enjoying their playgrounds echoes once more around Madison Valley. This year Madison Valley has a new addition, with the opening of a third branch of the Harvard Avenue School. Located at Martin Luther King Way and East Olive Street, the school accommodates thirty preschoolers in separate morning and afternoon programs.



Playground at the Harvard School

Andrea Losh, the school's director, operates two other schools in Seattle. After the recent closure of several local preschools, Losh's two programs on Capitol Hill and in Madison Park were flooded with applications. Recognizing the need of local parents and the vibrant nature of the location, Losh decided to open a Harvard Avenue school in Madison Valley. Having previously purchased a modest Madison Valley home as an investment, she realized that the house on Martin Luther King would make a perfect school, albeit after an extensive remodel. The property has a large backyard for outside activities, along with a covered porch with room enough for playing and creating art projects when the rain comes down. Losh knocked down walls, painted, installed new floors, converted a pond into a large sandbox, and added landscaping, lighting and art room sinks.

The Harvard Avenue School's philosophy emphasizes a strong grounding in academics, focusing on learning through fun. Each teacher is encouraged to add elements of their own specialties, such as geography and even Arabic. Spanish is also taught daily. With the remodel now complete, the Madison Valley location opened its doors on September 13th, with families enrolled from Madison Valley, Madrona, and as far afield as Queen Anne and Green Lake.

Losh is looking forward to a long residence in the Valley, and even has the option to expand the school onto an adjacent property at a later time. For more information about the school, go to www.harvardavenueschool.com.



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Fall Color, *continued from page 1*

Winter pansies and violets are also easy-to-find, colorful choices for fall. Buy a couple of flats of pansies in both the fall and the spring, and you can brighten up borders by interspersing them between perennials and shrubs. They will last well into winter, sometimes even peeking out through snow.

For fall foliage color, ornamental cabbage and kale can give you shades of pink, purples and reds. These plants need the cooler weather for their best color. Plant them in well draining soil, and do not over water.

In containers, a combination of perennials can have quite a strong presence. Evergreen grasses can be mixed by color and height for a sculptural design. Heuchera is a wonderful foliage plant ranging in colors from soft peach to 'Obsidian' black. The chartreuse heuchera, 'Lime Rickey,' adds a bright spot to any part of your garden and is visible in shady spots and in dim evening light. A tall, semi-evergreen holly fern paired with an apricot colored heuchera 'Marmalade,' and some trailing creeping charlie spilling over the sides makes for a container with interesting height, color, and texture contrasts.

While you are out there freshening the garden up, be sure to add some rich mulch around your plants. A good composted mulch will feed the plants during the winter and keep heavy rains from washing the nutrients out of the soil. It will also keep warmth and moisture in during cold, dry spells. With a new fresh layer of mulch and a few new colorful fall plants, your yard will be a pleasure to come home to.



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Neighbor *continued from page 1*

despite not having a job or knowing anyone in the city—because “It looked pretty.” Happy with the friendliness she experienced, Seattle has been her home ever since. All of her time here has been spent in or near Madison Valley. Her first apartment was on 18th and Madison, near the radio towers. This proved advantageous to someone unfamiliar with the city. “Whenever I got lost, I’d just head towards the radio towers.”

Finding it difficult to obtain a teaching job with her out-of-state degree, Julie took a job as a waitress at Taps ‘n’ Tabs, a now defunct bar in Kirkland. This was important for two reasons. First, this was where she met her husband, Curtis Parker, a contractor. On his day off he would take his laundry to a nearby laundromat, and then go to Taps ‘n’ Tabs for lunch where Julie would wait on him. Curtis and Julie were married in 1996.

The second reason Julie’s job at Taps ‘n’ Tabs was so important is the experience she gained. “It was a family owned business, which depended on its employees.” Because of this, Julie learned the business of running a restaurant inside and out. And she loved her job, even though she was on her feet all day long. “We were allowed to wear our tennis shoes to work, but we were still exhausted. When it was busy, it was like a competition.”

In 1997, the Parkers moved to their current Madison Valley home, and Julie got a job teaching 7th grade science. Two weeks after accepting her job, she discovered she was pregnant. Amazingly, she both taught and waitressed until their baby boy, A.J., was born in March. In June, she left teaching. “My paycheck would have gone directly to daycare,” she realized. Instead, she worked evenings waitressing, even when she was pregnant with their second child in 2001. “Ella was almost born at Taps ‘n’ Tabs,” she said. Her water broke at work, and Ella arrived 45 minutes later.

Opening My Coffeehouse was not a dream come true, claims Julie. “It was more of an ‘I can do that,’” she recalls. Taps ‘n’ Tabs had been sold, and her job there was no longer certain. The idea for My Coffeehouse “came out of my mouth” on September 11, 2003, and from that first comment the Parkers acted quickly. Seeing a retail space sign on Madison Avenue, they jumped at the chance to have a business within walking distance from their home. They bought it when it was “just cinder blocks and a cement floor,” and the Parkers remodeled it all themselves. Curtis, a carpenter, would work on the storefront evenings and weekends. They did all the architecture and permitting, and opened their doors on February 14, 2004. Julie says Valentine’s Day was very appropriate since “My husband must really love me to do all this.”

The idea of having a coffee house catering to parents with small children is an original one. “I would take A.J. to the play areas in Bellevue Square, McDonald’s, and Barnes and Noble. But they were never set up well.” Areas weren’t well enclosed, and did not enable parents to shop or relax. So Julie set up a play area that would be intellectually stimu-

lating for the kids—a train set, well-worn books, and a toy kitchen—in a big, enclosed area ringed by seats that included a huge rack of magazines for the parents.

After two and a half years in business, Julie is satisfied. “I’m not a business person,” she insists, “but it makes me happy to make other people happy.” This attitude affects how she makes decisions. Friends tell her to charge per child, or limit the play area to children eight and under, but she refuses. “What if somebody has two or more kids? It would be expensive. And A.J. couldn’t be there.” Her generous attitude applies to her employees as well. Some of her baristas have come from YouthCare’s Barista Training and Education Program. This program gives homeless and at-risk youth job skills, life skills, and support services, relying on businesses like My Coffeehouse that are willing to hire their program graduates as employees.

We are lucky to have a woman like Julie Parker in our community—hard-working, happy, generous, and committed to the neighborhood. And it’s so nice to know someone who always has a smile.



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Council News *continued from page 2*

where's the party?" I will stake my presidential legacy on you getting a satisfactory answer to that question!

Regards,

Tom Scearce

Greater Madison Valley Community Council President

Council Minutes: Wed., Sept. 20

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by the president, Tom Scearce. A quorum was present and introductions were made.

OLD BUSINESS

Summer Saturday cleanup was a success, with volunteers picking up litter around the Martin Luther King, Jr. School and adjoining streets. The first Annual Potluck BBQ was well attended, and \$300.00 was collected from donations and the sale of T-shirts. It was proposed to concentrate on such events as a bigger source of fundraising for the community council. The new web site for Valley news is www.madisonvalley.org.

NEW BUSINESS

Speed bumps for 29th and Republican were proposed to the City Dept. of Transportation. However, neighborhood volunteers were lacking to record license plates of speeders during a three-hour period to prove to the Dept. that there is a problem.

Valley View advertising has been raised from \$25.00 to \$35.00 per ad. There is still a \$400.00 deficit to breaking even on the publication. Cost cutting alternatives for publication are being investigated further.

The new president was initiated by volunteering his basement for the consolidation of file cabinet storage for a short time. Additional space is needed for the misc. supplies left

over from dinner events, etc. Additional file cabinets are needed for the storage, and anyone throwing out a file cabinet should contact Tom Scearce, first.

The Kiosk request/proposal for Martin Luther King Jr. Way and E. Madison is now being taken over by the Madison merchants, to be designed by Coyote Central. The Kiosk for 29th and E. John is still in the planning stage. Politics, design, and use of public space are the big issues.

The annual fundraiser, the Spaghetti Dinner in November, is in jeopardy. Martin Luther King Jr. School is closed, and the Bush School may not be available. Others question whether it should be replaced with some other kind of event or be scheduled for January. Members are exploring options and locations for an approximately 150 person event.

A Coldwell Banker Real Estate agent presented an ongoing Community Partnership program. Any referral and house closing brought to the agency will result in the agency giving a 10% fee back to the GMVCC after the close of the house sale. A review of the program with other recipients is underway.

A proposal from Peter Cadigan to convert the Martin Luther King Jr. School into a community center was put on hold until more information becomes available.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Kron, co-Secretary



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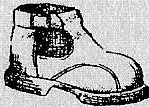
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