



The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 131 September 2005

E-mail: gmvcc@hotmail.com

Neighborhood Announcements

Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, Nov 4th

Doors open at 6PM

MLK Elementary School



Great food, entertainment and most of all: YOUR neighbors

See page 3 for details

Next GMVCC Meeting:

Wednesday, Sept. 21 7:30 PM

ML King School Portable on the playground

East Republican and 32nd Avenue East

Guest Speaker:

Richard Conlin, Seattle City Council

Transportation issues in our valley

The Election is Coming!!

Candidates Forum September 8th

Mt Baker Community Club 2811 Mt Rainier Dr S

For information: Mark Melroy: 372-5178

One of Our Neighbors

He Leads a Double Life

During most of the year, Gary Carlson lives what most of us would deem the "usual" life. He goes to work, comes home to his family and enjoys the benefits of life in Seattle. However, when May rolls around, Gary and his family pack up and move to Alaska for the summer months. He sheds his city persona and dons the accoutrements of a wilderness explorer.

For the past 14 years, Gary has worked as a kayak guide for Spirit Walker Expeditions in Alaska. His love of the outdoors was nurtured by many summers at Tema-game Canoe Camp in Ontario, Canada. As the years went by, he developed an expertise guiding canoes and kayaks through watery byways. He felt bonded to the peaceful serenity and wildlife encounters.

Educational pursuits brought Gary west. He studied

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GMVCC Contact Information

Council Affairs: Gary Emslie, President

Email: gary.emslie@bush.edu

Council business, agenda requests, inquiries, concerns

*

Valley View Newsletter: Cathy Nunneley

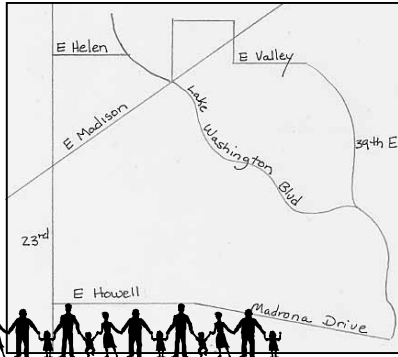
Email: cjnunneley@yahoo.com or 329-4083

Article submission, advertising, suggestions, volunteers

GMVCC P.O. Box 22278 Seattle, Washington 98122

The Illustrated GMVCC: Our Boundary

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PLEASE support our generous advertisers from the Madison Valley business community. Without their support, it would not be possible to bring you *The Valley View*. Thanks a bunch!

Support *The Valley View*

The Valley View staff cheerfully works countless unpaid volunteer hours to bring you this newsletter. The printing and postage costs are over \$700 per month. We must have financial support from the community to continue the newsletter. **Please** make a contribution or place an ad with us. Everything helps!

Thank you so much!

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Thanks a bunch to all our wonderful contributors whose donations support your newsletter.

Advertising in *The Valley View*

We have a circulation of 2500.

Approximately 2 X 3 inch ads or announcements:

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Contact the editor: Cathy Nunneley

329-4083 or cjnunneley@yahoo.com

Community Council Minutes

June 15th, 2005

The community council President Gary Emslie called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. A quorum was present. The minutes from May were approved.

Treasurer's report: There was a deficit of approximately \$500.00 for last month. We continue to review other newsletter options to reduce costs.

The annual Garage sale is scheduled for June 25.

A motion was approved that the GMVCC supports the installation of the proposed crosswalk across Madison Street near 29th as depicted in last month's letter.

The current slate of elected officers of the GMVCC was approved for another year. Officers are as follows:

Gary Emslie, President

Charles McDade, Vice-President

Eli Stahlhut, Treasurer

John Coldewey and Larry Kron, Co-Secretaries

A volunteer rep from MLK discussed ongoing challenges with the school.

Neighbors reported a suspected drug house near Dewey and 30th. The neighbors are drafting a letter to be sent to the homeowner living in Tacoma. They will work with the existing block watch at 29th and John.

Madison Valley Flood Victims report updated letter from SPU. Condemned houses have No Trespassing signs for increased police vigilance.

Jerry Sussman volunteered to organize a speakers bureau. We will have guest presentations each month with topics of interest to the community. Contact Jerry with your ideas for interesting speakers. 325-6308 **See page 7.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.



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Courtyard Sale 2005

Perhaps it was the dreary weather, the new location or the revised venue, but in any case, attendance at the 16th annual GMVCC rummage sale was at an all time low this year. 15 individuals and businesses participated in the sale by selling their own rummage and services. The quality of merchandise was far superior to past sales since people were selling rather than donating. There were wonderful bargains to be had.

Joanne Corsi of **Bella Dolce** was on hand offering her famous baked goods. **Theresa Harris** of **Monart Drawing School** had a print making art project for kids. Coffee was donated with proceeds from its sale designated as a support for *The Valley View* by **Julie Parker** of **My Coffee-house**.

Many thanks to all the hard working volunteers. A post sale review led to new ideas to enhance the sale next year. We will continue to offer individual sales together with direct donations to GMVCC.

Any ideas or comments from our readers would be greatly appreciated.

On a positive note, we did make over \$850 which is enough to pay for 2 issues of the newsletter. Hurray!



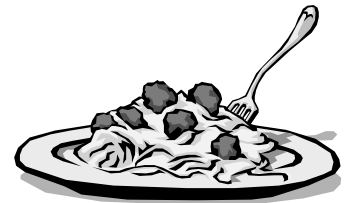
Taking advantage of the no-charge policy for young entrepreneurs, **Ciera Baldwin** offered her own home baked brownies for sale. Her friend, **Drew Kron** helped her out. They both enjoyed the art project offered by Monart Drawing School.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner

The annual spaghetti dinner will take place as usual on the first Friday in November (**Nov. 4th, this year**) at the ML King School. We have several opportunities for **YOU** to be a part of this fun community event. Here are some ideas:

Before the event:

- Contact last year's volunteers for availability
- Shop for the groceries at Costco
- Organize door prizes
- Arrange for entertainment
- Prepare garlic bread
- Sell tickets to neighbors



Day of the Event:

- Decorate the tables (4-5 PM)
- Cook vegetarian sauce (can be done at home)
- Cook meat sauce (begins about 3:30 PM)
- Cook spaghetti during the dinner (begins about 5 PM)
- Prepare salad at the dinner (begins about 6 PM)
- Sell tickets at the door (begins about 5:45)
- Serve the dinner (begins about 6:15 PM)
- Master of Ceremonies (6-8PM)

We have been doing this for 16 years and have all the info you need to work. We are **always** open to new ideas.

Call: GMVCCC President, Gary Emslie:
home: 324-7139
work: 326-7749
gary.emslie@bush.edu



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We Remember Scottie



Neighborhood icon Scottie Tatum passed away in the late spring this year. Those of us who walked by his porch can recall waving and calling out a greeting as he sat observing the world going by.

Scottie was born in Nashville, Tennessee and made his way to Seattle after high school. He worked at Bethlehem Steel and was a member of the Firebuff Society.

Scottie Tatum January 25, 1937—May 30, 2005

Around the Neighborhood

ML King Elementary will open it's first class of the new Montessori Program this year. The program begins with a K-1 classroom. A new Montessori teacher has been hired.

The East Mercer Street End Committee continues its battle for the opening of public land at street ends. There are many examples of private owners paying the city for the privilege of using this land for themselves. GMVCC opposes this practice.

The Madison Valley Merchant Association has elected a board to oversee activities. The newly elected president is **Susan Gartner**: susan@ehirealestate.com. The merchants supported the community effort to install a new crosswalk at 29th and Madison. **The Association has changed its meeting time to the 2nd Wed, 8:30 AM at Café Flora.** All are welcome.

The 29th and John Blockwatch is working on installing a traffic circle at E. Thomas and 29th Ave E and dedicating it as a memorial to **Scottie Tatum**.



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Neighbors Celebrate Community Spirit



Every summer the City encourages residents to host block parties as a means to build cohesiveness in the neighborhoods. This year's events were particularly successful in our East Precinct. Congratulations to those community leaders who have dedicated their energy to this worthwhile event. **Thanks a bunch!**



The 29th and John Block Watch Party

By Abi Minion

29th & John Block Watch had another successful block party this year, with around 60 residents from a ½ mile radius attending. The bouncy castle, BBQ, and water fights kept adults and kids entertained for hours as they celebrated the one night in the year when everyone in the neighborhood gets together. Wonderful homemade desserts were quickly gobbled up, like ice-cream and chocolate cake.



The big surprise was from the Fire Fighters who not only visited but also washed down the street (and some willing residents) with their hose. Other visitors to the neighborhood included the new east precinct

police captain, Department of Neighborhoods Director, Yvonne Sanchez, and the Community Police Crime Prevention Coordinator Sonja Richter.

Sonja Richter reported 50 block parties in the East Precinct, of which three were in Madison Valley. Richter felt it was very inspiring to see neighbors joining together and was really pleased that the police could join the community celebration rather than responding to crime in our area.

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What Can YOU Do For Your Community? Some Suggestions



Opportunities to Become Involved in *YOUR* Neighborhood

Many of you in the community have expressed a desire to become more involved in neighborhood issues. After all, by joining together, our voice can be heard in the Seattle City Council and other Seattle offices. The GMVCC suggests that you may want to focus your energy on an issue which is important to you. By narrowing your enthusiasm to one or two goals, it will be easier to follow through with your commitment and not jeopardize your already busy life. We are pleased to offer the following suggestions:

* **The Sidewalks of Madison Valley**

Work with the **Bicycle Alliance** to clear and maintain sidewalks and thereby promote walking and biking. The goal especially pertains for the journeys to schools.

Contact: Andy Goulding: argoulding@aol.com

* **Neighborhood Block Watch Program**

Work with neighbors to eliminate crime through vigilance and cooperation.

Contact: Abi Minion: afm2@u.washington.edu

* **Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School**

Work with school personnel and volunteers to support the neighborhood elementary school.

Contact: Barry Dorsey, Principal

bdorsey@seattleschools.org or 252-2905

* **Harrison Ridge Greenbelt**

Work with student volunteers to maintain our green space along 32nd Ave E through pruning and removal of invasive vines. Contact: Jerry Sussman 325-6308 or jacksus@msn.com

* **Madison Valley Flood Victims Association**

Work with neighbors to cooperate with city officials for the solution to the valley flooding. Help with the decision for use of subsequent empty lots when condemned houses are removed.

Contact: Barbara Lynn bblynn@standproductions.org

* **Open Street Ends at Lake Washington to the community:**

Homeowners have taken over public land for their own use.

Contact: Anita Rowe rowenw@cbcomputer.com

* **A tunnel from the neighborhood into the Arboretum.**

Open a tunnel from East Dewey Place, under East Madison into the Arboretum.

Contact: Jerry Sussman 325-6308 or jacksus@msn.com

* **Madison Valley Community Spirit**

Work with *YOUR* neighbors on various community-wide events. For the following events, please contact the GMVCC president, Gary Emslie: 324-7139, 326-7749

gary.emslie@bush.edu

* **Pancake Breakfast on Neighborhood Appreciation Day**

Early February

* **Spring Art Walk**

The Saturday before Mothers' Day in May

* **Courtyard Sale—Community Rummage Sale**

Summertime

* **Spaghetti Dinner**

First Friday in November

see this month's article on page 3

* **The Valley View Newsletter**

The monthly community newsletter welcomes contributions for news items and suggestions. Tax-deductible cash donations are always appreciated and vital for the newsletter. Please consider becoming a member of our newsletter staff!

Contact: Cathy Nunneley, editor

329-4083 or cjnnunneley@yahoo.com

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Contact: David Pavlick
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philosophy at Reed College in Portland. While there, met his future wife, Ilana. After graduation, Gary realized that there was a current shortage of philosopher jobs and became a tech support consultant. Currently, he works as product manager for a computer start-up company. As always, Gary makes it clear that his employment commitment is for nine months with summers off. (WOW!)

In addition to guided camping trips, Gary teaches the craft of kayak building. He explained that there are two basic types of kayaks. The first type, "skin on frame" is probably the one most of us associate with the watercraft of Alaskan natives. A wooden frame is constructed and covered with waterproofed nylon or canvas. In the past, circumpolar people built the frame from driftwood and willow branches. Seal skin covered the wood and seal oil was used for waterproofing. Another type of kayak may be constructed from plywood using either a custom design or a kit. In this case, paint or oil-based floor sealer provide waterproofing.

This year, Gary will teach an outdoor leadership class at a college in Sitka, Alaska. First, the students will build their own kayaks. Upon completion, the students will take to the water in their newly minted boats for a five-day paddle and camping trip out of Glacier Bay National Park. Wow! You don't see that type of course in your everyday college catalog!

After a few years, Gary and Ilana bought some Alaskan property and built a 12x16 foot cabin near the town of Gustavus. In just minutes they are able to paddle to open water from their home. In true "wilderness" fashion, they collect

rainwater and visit the communal sauna for a weekly bath. Gary described a freedom largely unknown to Seattle neighbors: people don't lock their homes or cars in Gustavus.

When asked to recall some exciting adventure while kayaking in Alaska, Gary seemed a bit perplexed. There were no tales of ferocious bear encounters or gigantic biting insects. No stories of life threatening storms at sea. Instead, a bit shyly, Gary recalled, "Well, it's pretty exciting when I'm paddling along and a whale breaches along side the kayak. It happens quite frequently and we have to be alert to stay out of their way. There's wildlife everywhere." Well, that does seem pretty exciting.

Gary and his family relish their Alaskan summers and life's abrupt change of pace while living there. Their love of Alaska is deeply engrained. Ilana will begin guiding some trips this year and although too young today, baby Mia will soon be paddling the waters of Southeast Alaska herself.

Good luck, Gary and family! We wish you calm seas, blue skies and gentle breezes.



Check out: www.seakayakalaska.com for information on Spirit Walker Expedition's premium guided kayak excursions in Southeast Alaska.

Please let us know about your interesting neighbors! With their permission we will feature them in an upcoming issue of *The Valley View*! We all benefit from learning about our community.

Speakers' Bureau Comes to GMVCC



The GMVCC has voted to spice up our monthly meetings with half hour presentations on topics of interest to the community.



We are beginning our new effort with a visit from our **Seattle City Councilman, Richard Conlin**. Mr. Conlin is currently the chair of the transportation committee of the City Council. He has addressed the council previously on such issues as parking, traffic concerns and the 520 bridge revisions. Mr. Conlin advised us regarding the application for a new crosswalk at 29th and Madison. Come to the September 21st meeting and he will attempt to address your concerns.



Here are some other suggestions for other topics of interest to our community:

- Paul Dorpat: Local history
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Native Plant Society
- Overview of Living Wills and Advance Directives
- Politicians
- Urban planning for long term goals
- Bicycle Alliance
- Police Community Officer
- Fire Fighters: fire safety



Please let us know if you have suggestions for other topics or are able to provide a presentation. Contact: Jerry Sussman 325-6308 or jacksus@msn.com

THE VALLEY VIEW
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Community Council
Member of the Seattle
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Your submissions are appreciated!
Mail to the address above.

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Secretary - Larry Kron &
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The Valley View



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