



# The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 131

October 2005

## Neighborhood Announcements

### Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, Nov 4th

Doors open at 6PM

MLK Elementary School



Great food, entertainment and most of all: YOUR neighbors

Please Volunteer NOW! See page 4 for details

### Next GMVCC Meeting

Wednesday, October 19th 7:30 PM

Speakers: Jane Fellner, School Board Candidate

Bring your questions and concerns!

Brain Walsh from WSDOT

Community traffic: problems and solutions

Trick-or Treat along  
Madison Street !

Participating merchants will be treating costumed children throughout Halloween day.

Monday, October 31st.



## One of Our Neighbors

### Greg Traveled the World to Find Home

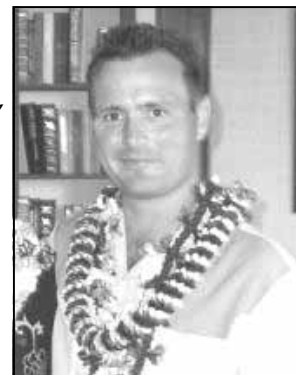
Greg Anderton spent ten years of his life on an intrepid adventure to discover himself. As a newly minted college graduate, Greg took his political economy degree and plans for a business career to Japan. During the next three years, he immersed himself in Japanese culture, honed his Japanese language skills and gradually realized that he didn't fit into this business world. He found himself at a crossroad and chose the path of discovery.

Greg had always harbored an insatiable interest in exotic places and he yearned to travel. His adventure began in Southeast Asia where he trekked for six months in the Himalayas. He met some interesting people who introduced him to new ideas of spirituality that greatly appealed to him. Until then, he had had little experience with Eastern philosophies. He met the Dalai Lama and became curious about Buddhism. His personal world was expanding.

Meanwhile, back in America, in the relatively conservative realm of Kirkland, Washington, Greg's parents were concerned. What was happening to their son?

*continued on page 7*

Greg, upon graduation from Acupuncture School in Hawaii.



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Council business, agenda requests, inquiries, concerns

\*

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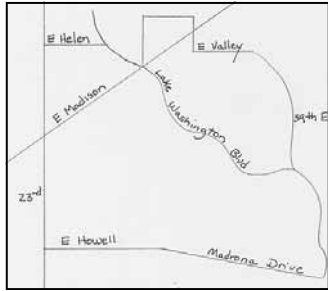
Email: [cjnunneley@yahoo.com](mailto:cjnunneley@yahoo.com) or 329-4083

Article submission, advertising, suggestions, volunteers

**GMVCC P.O. Box 22278 Seattle, Washington 98122**

# The Illustrated GMVCC

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# Community Council Minutes

GMVCC Meeting September 21, 2005

Vice President Charles McDade called the meeting to order at 7:30. A quorum was not present

**Treasurer's report:** The bills have been paid. The courtyard sale brought in \$850, and there is \$700 worth of advertising in the October Valley View.

**November Valley View distribution:** Charles will deliver November Valley View newsletters to the merchants.

**Spaghetti dinner:** Volunteers are still needed to help with the annual spaghetti dinner. Andy Goulding agreed to recruit someone from the merchant association to solicit door prizes.

**Martin Luther King Jr Elementary School update:** Principal Barry Dorsey reported that the school year is off to a great start. The Montessori program has begun, with a class of Kindergarten/1st graders. Another new program to come on line this year is Arts Corps. The Corps will do art blocks on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting in October. There also will be a MESA program--Math, Engineering and Science Achievement. The Open House is scheduled for October 14. There will be a general presentation, and then a chance to visit individual classrooms.

**Safe Routes to Schools:** Seattle City Light has agreed to move two power line poles that currently block the middle of the sidewalk on 32nd Ave E in front of MLK School. See Page 6 for an article with more details.

**Adopt a Street program:** John Lee from City of Seattle spoke about the Adopt-a-Street program. Begun in the 1980s, this program facilitates the adoption of streets by neighborhoods or businesses who agree to keep the streets clean. The city provides all clean up equipment, trash bags, and trash pick-up. Neighbors coordinate clean-up schedules and duties. Andy Goulding has adopted a mile-long stretch from Madison St to Montlake. He encouraged the community to adopt other stretches of the neighborhood.

**Madison Valley Logo:** Andy Goulding shared a logo design that he has developed for Madison Valley Merchant's Association and Community Council. Everyone liked the logo, but there was general agreement that the Merchant's Association and the GMVCC should have separate identities. We work together in many ways, and relations have been very friendly, but there are times when our interests are different, and the community should know and trust that its council will operate independently of the local business organization.

**History Wall at Homer Harris Park:** The Central Area Cultural Arts Commission has received a grant to move forward with an African-American History Wall at Homer Harris Park (24th and Howell). Participants will be selected from applicants between the ages of 12 and 18, and the commission is recruiting specifically from Garfield High School, the Nova School, and the African American Academy. (Other community children, or children with history legacies in the central area are welcome to apply---applications will be available at Garfield Community Center.) *cont. next page*

GMVCC minutes continued from previous page

Several local adult artists will also participate in the project. In addition to the Wall, there will be two game tables, whose squares will also incorporate art related to the history of the central area.

**Seattle Neighborhood Stewardship:**

The Stewardship program is starting up again, to update Neighborhood Plans in light of the recent development boom. Adrienne Bailey strongly encourages Madison Valley community members to participate. The Stewardship committee for the Central Area will meet the first Thursday of each month at 7pm at Garfield Community Center. For more information, please contact Ted Devina at the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

**Group email for the community:** It was suggested that a group email be set-up for the community, so neighbors can communicate more readily with one another. Meeting agendas also could be published there. Joanie Robertson agreed to set up a Yahoo group and Cathy will publish the access information in the newsletter. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

**ML King Elementary: A New Beginning**

The Montessori program started in September with one classroom of K/1stgraders under the tutelage of Ms. Anastasia Samuelsen. The first PTSA meeting of the year was held on Sept 12 and was well attended. Several new parents voiced their appreciation for the warmth and welcoming atmosphere at King.



Anastasia Samuelsen, the new Montessori teacher.

The 2004-2005 WASL scores demonstrate that MLK posted significantly improved math and writing scores--by more than 20 points each. Across the board in reading math and writing, their scores exceed or are within 1 point of the following peer schools in the central cluster: Gatzert, Madrona, Leschi, Thurgood Marshall, and TT Minor.

The Open House is scheduled for October 14th. Everyone is welcome. Come and see our revitalized school!!

**A Good Neighbor**

**Katrina Survivors Find a Friend in Madison Valley**

Molly Baird Van Nostrand, co-owner of **Fast Frame**, has been collecting goods for the nation-wide relief effort for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Her mother-in-law, Annie Strain, works at the Galveston Housing Authority and is responsible for finding accommodations for 3000 families. Molly has been collecting the goods and organizing them into kits: kitchen boxes, bath boxes, clothing boxes, etc. This organizational technique has been a boon for easing the distribution of supplies.

"Our goal is to lift them up", says Molly about the survivors. "We want them to have some nice stuff to retart their lives." The bulk of the contributions will be trucked to Texas in September but she will be accepting donations at least through the middle of November. They are especially in need of new bedding including pillows and African-American beauty supplies.

Want to learn more or help? Contact Molly at her website: [www.seattlefastframe.com](http://www.seattlefastframe.com) or call 568-1600.



Molly hard at work in her shop with boxes of donated supplies for the victims of hurricane Katrina.

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## Around the Neighborhood



What's been happening on Madison and 29th? No, it's not the planned crosswalk. These city workers are repairing a damaged sewage system.

**The Madison Lofts**, a new development in the empty lot across the street from City Peoples, is scheduled to begin construction mid October through the middle of 2006. The plan is for loft homes on top with retail on the street level. There will be no additional parking provided. Concerns or interest? Click on [www.madison-lofts.com](http://www.madison-lofts.com).

**The Madison Valley Merchant Association** is planning to have a trick or treat event on Halloween Day. The students at ML King Elementary will parade down the street. The merchants are also supporting the school's art program by sponsoring four art projects this school year. The annual food drive will take place in November.

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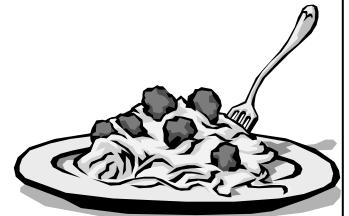
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## Annual Spaghetti Dinner

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
- Make Desserts



### **Day of the Event:**

- Decorate the tables (4-5 PM)
- Cook vegetarian sauce (can be done at home)
- Cook meat sauce at the school (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)
- Clean-up (8-10PM)

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# Our Community Access to Public Property at Street Ends: The Struggle Continues

## Lake Washington Belongs to Everyone

The following article appeared in a recent edition of *Real Change*

Water Wars By Adam Hyla, Editor

Summer may be just about over, but the heat at the intersection of 39th Avenue East and Mercer Street shows no sign of abating.

That's where Mercer Street comes to an end after its long adventure from the corner of Queen Anne Avenue all the way up Capitol Hill and east to Lake Washington where, instead of the usual blacktop, it ends in a sumptuously green lawn and a high hedge before disappearing into the waters of Lake Washington.

Though it's a public street, the public can't enjoy the lawn or the expansive view. This public shoreline is leased to two private homeowners for more than \$50,000 a year.

It's an arrangement born of citizen pressure against the city for private landowners' encroachments on public shorelines like this: small and not-so-small spaces where the street hits the water and where no public park was ever formally maintained. Over time, the owners of waterfront property next to the streets edged into - or simply built on - the public right-of-way.

A 1998 citizens' lawsuit found that the city was due fair compensation for these encroachments - hence the \$51,711 lease agreement. It also opened a public process for opening and maintaining the city properties.

But Anita Rowe says the Seattle Department of Transportation isn't doing that part of the job. Rowe wants at least part of the 120 feet of shore at Mercer Street as a public park much like the one a quarter-mile south, where she swims regularly. She cites a 1999 city ordinance that will make one of the city's 148 street-end shorelines - one-third of which are leased to private, mostly industrial, users - open to the public when people like her agree to do the upkeep and submit a design proposal. She's done so, with the backing of local community organizations who also want to see more public shore. She's not getting any traction. Instead, there's a competing claim on the city's attention: the tony neighborhood's ongoing complaints about misbehaving users of the public beach at Harrison Street.

SDOT street-ends manager Rich Richmire estimates that the city gets about 140 complaints each year from nearby property owners about drunkenness, raucous parties, and sex taking place at Harrison Street. As a consequence, he says Seattle Police routinely send patrol cars past the wooded lot that leads to the sandy beach. And, he says, SDOT won't consider opening the shore to the north until the complaints subside.

Rowe's application "is on hold until we figure out how to tackle criminal activity at Harrison Street," he says. Neighbors have called for a rollback of public access, closing the beach entirely. "There is a lot of pressure on the city to close East Harrison, especially from neighbors who've encountered vandalism and threats."

Venture capital investor Michael B. Slade, a contributor to the election campaign of Casey Corr as well as incumbents Richard Conlin, Jean Godden, and Mayor Greg Nickels, owns the home just north of Mercer and pays half the annual permit fee. Slade has filed an application to vacate the street and turn it over to private hands, says SDOT staffer Christie Santos. She says it's on hold "while we work to resolve the problems at E. Harrison St."

Absent those problems, it's unclear how SDOT would act. The Director's Rule setting out the procedures for reviewing both private permits and public petitions states that "the highest and best use of these street ends is for public use". Yet the scarcity of public money may be a stumbling block, says Richmire. SDOT set up the public street-end operation with a mind to get revenues (from private permit holders' leases) to fully fund expenses (the cost of building trails and installing signs and park benches at the open public spots). That sort of setup means ending a private permit would damage the program's ability to develop and maintain the public beaches.

Revenues from SDOT's street-ends permits are approximately \$146,000 - Mercer Street supplying more than one third of that amount. Expenses last year approximated \$96,000.

Early this month, SDOT renewed the Mercer Street private permit. Both public-use activists and city officials say the permit may be withdrawn by the city at any time.

John Barber of Friends of Street Ends, who has been opening up Seattle's public shores since 1992, says he's looking forward to that day. "It's a beautiful piece of property and a wonderful asset for the city, but the city is not exercising public control."

Rowe expresses her frustration at what she sees as SDOT's foot-dragging. "There's no law that says if one street end is unruly then you can't open others. It's like, what part of the public right-of-way don't you understand?"

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# Sidewalk Victory for the Bicycle Alliance and ML King Jr. Elementary School !!

## Good News!

By Andy Gouilding

City Light is cooperating to move two power poles in the sidewalk along 32nd Ave East, between Republican and Harrison Streets at MLK Jr. They have determined that the poles are in bad condition & leaking creosote, so there is no cost to the adjacent property owners.

The new poles will be smaller in diameter & located as close as possible to the concrete retaining wall, to allow 36

inches of sidewalk passageway between the pole and the inside of the curb. This new placement will promote safe sidewalk use by children and neighbors. For more information call & thank Bill Caldwell, City Light 206 615 0625.

When? Bill will let me know so we can celebrate.



Mocha shows her displeasure for a utility pole in the sidewalk on 32nd Ave E by the school. The pole's position makes it difficult for her to use her wheelchair. Her friends have difficulty walking and biking around the pole.

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*He Traveled the World to Find Home, continued from page 1*

His lifestyle was not within their experience and they expressed this bewilderment to him. They implored him to return home to the "real world" but, he resisted. They agreed to meet in South Africa. It was a difficult visit because there was no resolution to the opposing points of view. Disappointed, Greg's parents returned home alone and he happily continued his travels throughout Africa.

His experience with African life added another layer to Greg's perspective. Although the poverty-stricken Africans are mostly pitied in the West, Greg viewed the people as full of life and love for each other. Without material concerns and possessions, he felt that they were living a more fundamental and meaningful life. He pondered this observation and how it was impacting his fundamental views.

Greg next spent half a year in England visiting extended family and then was off to Patagonia in South America. He completed a 3000 mile bike trip, met scores of interesting people and then abruptly realized that after three years of continuous travel, he was ready to return home. Together with his time in Japan, Greg had been gone six years.

Back in America, Greg relished the availability of unlimited hot water, food and comfort. He became a business man—a "normal" guy. It didn't last. The work was unfulfilling and he knew something was missing. True to his nature, he took off to Mexico for some months of serious soul searching.

During his time in Mexico, Greg came to realize that he wanted to contribute to the world as a healer and planned to attend medical school. He took prerequisite classes while


working in a nursing home and hospital. It was during this time he met a MD acupuncturist who specialized in men's counseling. He had an epiphany. He understood that this type of service was his calling.

With newfound enthusiasm, Greg charted his course through four years of acupuncture school in Hawaii and studied traditional Chinese medicine. In Kona, on the Big Island of Hawaii, Greg met his most influential teacher, Dr. Chieko Maekawa, a Japanese master of Seitai Shinpo. Upon graduation, he returned to Washington and settled in Madison Valley to live and practice. After years of confusion and concern, Greg's family now is completely supportive of his life choices. This acceptance has been one of the highlights of Greg's life.

"When I lived far away and just visited my family for a week or two there was so much pressure. Living here is easy. I can just go over and see them whenever I want. In the end, I realized there is no substitute for a loving family."

Greg's current life is the sum of his innumerable cultural and introspective experiences. His acupuncture practice is fulfilling and living close to family enables him to conduct a meaningful life. He believes that the most important aspect of one's life is the love one has for others. After years of wandering, Greg returned to find "There's no place like home". He is finally content.

Greg practices acupuncture at Three Treasures Oriental Medicine in Madison Valley.



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*Love Gardens and our Neighborhood? Rolande Chesebro is seeking volunteers to help with watering and caring for the plantings at the triangle adjacent to Bailey-Boushay House at ML King Way and East Madison. Contact her at 324-1802 if you can help out.*

**THE VALLEY VIEW**  
P.O. Box 22278  
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Greater Madison Valley  
Community Council  
Member of the Seattle  
Community Council Federation

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The Valley View is published nine times each year.

**Deadline:** 15th of each month.  
Your submissions are appreciated!  
Mail to the address above.

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# The Valley View



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## Next Community Council Meeting

**Wednesday October 19th 7:30 p.m.**  
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### The Bailey-Boushay House

As one of our volunteers, *YOU* will have the opportunity to be a light in the lives of people living with AIDS/HIV.

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