



The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 92, March 2001

E-mail: madisonvalley@juno.com

President's View

by Gary Emslie

Thanks to all who joined in at the Second Annual Madison Valley Free Pancake Breakfast! We had a great time, with visits from the Mayor, who handed out free compact fluorescent light bulbs to help save electricity, and good representation from the City Council.

This year's breakfast seemed to herald an early return to spring. Many of us are now coming out of the winter hibernation, blinking in the sunlight and soaking up the warmth. A great place to get outdoors and stretch your muscles is the freshly cleared site for the Madison Valley p-patch, at the end of 30th Ave E., at Mercer. Sarah Trethewey and her able assistant Andrea Dafforn are spearheading an effort to get the site ready for spring planting. As noted in our article on page 2, Saturday work parties are underway to build sheds and

landscape. Rain or shine, meet at the site every Saturday morning at 10:00 am from now until April 21. For more information, call Andrea at 425/885-6723 or Sarah at 206/325-3734.

The sunny weather does bring more kids out onto the streets. When driving, please join me in taking a little extra care to make sure that our kids keep safe.

Good driving practices are especially important given how many more cars seem to be plying our neighborhood's streets these days. Traffic safety and congestion have been a big concern in this neighborhood for many years, but with every passing day the problem seems to get worse. All throughout our community we see neighbors trying to puzzle through ways to limit the number of cars, or at least calm the way that so many drivers behave. At our last Council meeting we were fortunate to be joined by one neighbor who has been working through some solutions for the traffic that burdens

the very narrow stretch of Dorffel Drive between Lake Washington Blvd and Maiden Ln. E. Many of the efforts, such as one-way streets and additional stop signs, are aimed at making this route less appealing to through-traffic. If you can't stop commuters from treating our neighborhood streets as arterial access to the 520 bridge, perhaps you can make it just a bit less attractive. Of course, each time one street raises the bar, the risk is that the problem simply migrates to another street. Seems that

(Continued on page 4)

In This Issue

President's View.....	1
Earthquake and Mardi Gras.....	1
P-Patch Work Parties!.....	2
Gardening with Native Plants	2
YWCA Emergency Housing Benefit	2
GMVCC Minutes.....	3
Resource Referral: Central Area News.....	3
Announcements	4

Earthquakes and Mardi Gras

by Jerry Sussman

Will the Earth let us carry on, or will it give us another drubbing, much worse than this last one? We all shared the sensation of the ground rumbling and moving for a terrifying ten or twenty seconds. The sound was ominous: did that noise come from deep below or from the houses and bricks bucking and jerking about? My wife was outside to mail letters when the mailbox on the lightpole began rearing up. People stumbled out of their houses and hugged each other in the street. We saw cars bouncing in the air and overhead wires stretching and waving. Nearby four or five brick chimneys shook their old mortar loose and came down.

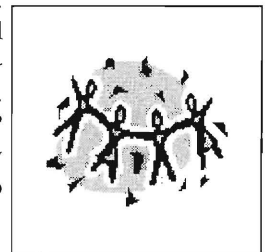
We got off lucky, friends. If this winter had brought forth its normal rains and that twitch of the Earth had lasted a half minute longer, we'd have seen a great disaster. Seattle's hills and slopes are old glacial heaps that won't stay put with vio-

lent shaking.

If you want information about making your home safer, call the Phinney Neighborhood Center at 783-2244. They provide workshops, lend tools, and answer questions.

What can we make of the fighting and beatings that marred Mardi Gras the night before the earthquake? The exemplar carnivals of Brazil and New Orleans seem to be real celebrations in which people strive to entertain each other. The crowds in Pioneer Square represented a narrow age group: it was not a party for the whole town, and many were intent on drinking and brawling. There were no costumes, no grand floats and music, and little joy. Criticism now lands on mayor and police. What would we have them do? Should they stand back and allow mob behavior, or move decisively to head it off?

The missing ingredient in our Mardi Gras is a community theme that we all want to celebrate. Can we rise to our better nature and keep this event alive?



P-Patch Update

Saturday Work Parties Seek Volunteers

by Sarah Trethewey

From now until the end of April we will be having Saturday morning work parties from 10:00 till noon.

Following is a list of dates and projects.

March 10: Spread top soil and meet with City p-patch rep.

17: Spread top soil and rototill beds.

24: Build shed and construct raised beds.

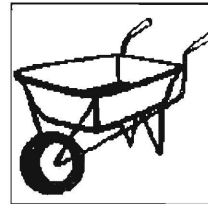
31: Build shed and construct raised beds.

April 7: Spread wood chips and build fence.

14: Build fence and landscape.

22: Landscape.

It's not too late to help out! If you have any special skills (particularly in construction and carpentry), we could sure use your help. We could also use people to provide snacks for our work parties. Let me know how you can help by calling 325-3734. Thanks! ▼▼



Upcoming Events

First Annual Charity Dinner for East Cherry St. YWCA is Coming!

by Christina Forbes

The charity dinner for the YWCA Emergency Housing is being put on by Madison Valley resident Christina Forbes, and sponsored by Epiphany Church Social Action Committee. This is her senior project, a requirement for Franklin High School's Humanities program. The date of the event is **Saturday, March 17, 2001** from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Great Hall at Epiphany. To RSVP for this exciting event, you can either call (206) 323-5438 or come to the Great Hall. This is a tax-deductible event, with all of the money collected going to the Emergency Housing Program. Signups are recommended because there are only 100 spots available. Come enjoy the food, the neighbors, the entertainment, the raffle, and help out a good cause. Cost is \$6 (\$5 for seniors and students).

Donations are gladly accepted. If you can't attend, support the program and buy a raffle ticket from me.

The YWCA Emergency shelter program helps homeless families whose needs are great. We will be collecting food donations to be given to the families. The money will be used for basic needs and provide the families with the essentials for when they move into permanent housing. This program deserves our support. It will also be a chance to visit

with old neighbors and meet new ones.

The Franklin Humanities Program challenges the students in their senior year to do something that is meaningful for

Spaghetti Dinner to Benefit YWCA Emergency Housing

March 17, 2001, 6 - 9 p.m.

at Epiphany Church

\$6.00 (\$5.00 seniors and students)

Please bring a can of food for the food drive

them individually, or in their community. I have always wanted to do something for the Emergency Housing to let those families know that we care. I hope you can join me in making this an annual event. ▼▼

Gardening with Native Plants

Irises

by Cathy Nunneley

Tiny, bright green shoots emerging from the once barren winter soil signal the beginning of the spring bulb parade. We are fortunately able to count the much beloved irises among our northwest natives. The native species of irises are known as "grass irises."

These irises thrive in gardens typical of our Puget Sound climate. They prefer cool weather and are partial to full sun in well-drained light soil. They are especially suited to rock gardens but may be used in drifts with perennials, among grasses, and in the sunny areas of woodland settings. Propagation may be easily accomplished by seed or by carefully harvesting off shoots.

In general, these irises are low growing clumps of thin, reed-like leaves with the beautiful flowers suspended from wands about 12 to 18 inches tall. In the wild, they are found among dry forest trees in lowland situations west of the Cascades. Here are the most well known cultivars.



iris douglasiana

I. douglasiana: The easiest to grow with slightly broader evergreen leaves and flowers ranging from cream to reddish purple. The stems are 1-2 feet high and each may bear several flowers. Once established, this cultivar can take summer drought.

I. innominata: Again, this cultivar offers clumps of evergreen leaves with a variety of yellow flower colors. The golden yellow variety is considered the loveliest.

I. tenax: Shorter, thick clumps of deciduous leaves with lavender and purple flowers. This is the most common variety seen in the Northwest. ▼▼

Community Council Minutes

GMVCC Meeting of February 20, 2001

The meeting was called to order by Gary Emslie at 7:40. A quorum was present and the minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Energy Assistance. Our first guest was Robin Chiles from the Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP). This group is federally funded to help low-income families pay electric bills, as this is a particularly big problem this year. CAMP has \$3.5 million to be used in assisting families with

Community Resource Bulletin

Central Area News

by Miriam Roskin

Here's another website well worth visiting: <http://www.eastunion.org>. This destination offers a good newsletter and also serves as a clearinghouse for all kinds of neighborhood information. The Summer 2000 issue, for example, offered a really interesting article about the history of the Colman Building. The Colman Building is that long red brick two-story that runs along Union Street between 23rd and 22nd Avenues, with a bit of a dip in the middle. You've probably seen it a hundred times and wondered what it's all about. Here's a chance to find out.



Colman Building

The site also offers links to an array of information of interest throughout our community including:

- Information on 11 community councils in our area: including Miller, Madrona, Leschi, Spruce Park, Squire Park, and our very own Greater Madison Valley Community Council. (Once you go to the GMVCC site, however, all you find is a "Check back for updated information!" – getting the GMVCC on the web sounds like a nice bit of work for any cyberwriters out there....)
- Links to neighborhood resources, such as the Department of Neighborhoods' home page, the Central Area Motivation Program's home page, and the Central Neighborhood Service Center.
- Volunteer opportunities in the Central Area.

The Central Area News website is designed, produced, and organized by the Central Area Community Development Corporation, which is alternately known as MidTown Commons. The group can be reached at 322-1162. In the meantime, do check out its website and maybe give a thought as to how our own community council might have more presence on the web as well. ▼▼

their heat-energy bills; electric, gas, or wood. Assistance can be requested at low interest for weatherizing as well as for repairing and cleaning heating apparatus. Many people can be eligible for assistance from CAMP, especially if they are disabled, elderly, or with children, even if the situation is not one of crisis. For more information on CAMP or for tips on lowering your power bill, call 328-2356. The CAMP office is located at 722- 18th Avenue in Seattle.

Public Art. Our second guest was Karen Daubert, a representative from the Central Area Development Association (CADA). CADA has been in business for the past seven years and their main projects are around 23rd and Jackson, such as their recent purchase of the former Welch's Hardware. The latest project of CADA is a new art project, to be in the form of a throne-like chair covered in "story panels." The chair will be playful, good for sitting and photo ops. Submissions are very much wanted! Anyone with stories or pictures, which will be etched into metal, should send these in to: Central Area Development Association, Attn: Tricia Barana, 2301 S. Jackson St. #101-D, Seattle 98144. For more information, call Tricia Barana at 328-2185.

P-Patch. The Madison Valley p-patch is really getting started! The formal agreement with the city was settled and funds are available for an immediate start on the garden. Work will begin Saturday, March 10th and all are encouraged to join in!

Pancake Breakfast. The free pancake breakfast had a nice turnout. We've found that pancake baking is a very economical way to make a great breakfast and we plan to continue this tradition in the future.

Traffic. One of the biggest subjects on the agenda for the meeting concerned the traffic issues around Dorffel Drive. Jonathan Drachman, our third speaker, discussed this continuing concern, noting that even with a relatively new traffic circle, these small streets are still very busy. In fact, around 2,000 cars per day traverse Dorffel; it appears that most users are from outside the neighborhood and are inappropriately using these streets as an arterial. Proposals include extending Mud Park to force all traffic to the west of the existing traffic island at Harrison or making Maiden Lane E. a one-way street going south. However, funneling the cars to 32nd could cause chaos at the intersection with Lake Washington Blvd. The proposals to the City require a 60% neighborhood approval to pass.

New Community Center. In accordance with a past plan of creating a community center at Washington Park, which could be shared as meeting space for both Madison Valley and Madison Park Community Councils, Jerry Sussman moved to form a committee to work on the project. The motion was seconded and passed. Jerry, Gary, Miriam, Sally, and Adrienne volunteered to serve on the committee. Vera noted that Madison Park may have other priorities at this point, but it was decided not to delay this project.

Arboretum. For all interested in the progress of the Arboretum Master Plan, there is a Joint Park Board hearing at City Council Chambers on March 28th at 5:30 p.m. All wishing to listen and discuss are welcome. ▼▼

Minutes prepared by Claire and Miranda Levy, GMVCC Secretaries.

THE VALLEY VIEW

2802 East Madison St., Box 184
Seattle, WA 98112

Greater Madison Valley
Community Council

Member of the Seattle
Community Council Federation

Newsletter Staff

Amity Lumper

Cathy Nunneley

Miriam Roskin

Eli Stahlhut

Jerry Sussman

The Valley View is published 10
times each year.

Deadline: First of each month.

Your submissions are appreciated!

Mail to the address above.

2000-2001 Officers

President - Gary Emslie

Vice President - Charles McDade

Secretary - Miranda and Claire

Levy

Treasurer - Angel Chaffin

Site Council Rep. - Adrienne

Bailey

E-mail: madisonvalley@juno.com

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Seattle, WA

Permit No. 6873

Next Community Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 20, 2001, 7:30 p.m.

Martin Luther King Elementary School Portables

3201 E. Republican Street

(parking available on playfield)

Advertisements and Announcements

SUPPORT THE VALLEY VIEW NEWSLETTER

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Address: _____

Donation Amount: _____ I don't receive the Valley View; please
add me to the mailing list.

Please contact me for mailing parties, writing, reporting, artwork, or
other. My interests are:

GMVCC ▼ 2802 E. Madison Street, #184 ▼ Seattle, WA 98112

President's View, cont.

the only real solution is fewer cars, but our
society still seems a long way from
achieving that objective.

There are lots of important issues out
there, and I hope you can join us to discuss
them at our next Council meeting on March
20. Till then, enjoy the early spring! ▼▼




CAFE FLORA

2901 EAST MADISON
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
98112

(206) 325-9100
(206) 324-9783 (fax)

The Bush School
thanks you
for a successful
OPEN HOUSE
on February 13th!

*It was great to see
so many neighbors!*



The Bush School
405 - 36th Ave East
Seattle WA 98112

MUSIC
BERAROVA
PERFORMANCE
HALL