

Madrona

NEWSLETTER

March 1990

Member of Central Seattle Community Council Federation

Reflections on Volunteerism in the Madrona Community

Marty Liebowitz, President Madrona Community Council

It's been about three years since I became involved with the efforts of the Madrona Community Council as a volunteer and truly what I have gotten back in terms of friendships, familiarity with the history of the neighborhood, and participation in shaping the neighborhood's future has been more than I ever anticipated. It's also been a lot of fun and not to mention rewarding to see positive changes happen right before my eyes. Volunteerism for me has been very, very good (like Pepsi, Cheeseburgers, and Baseball).

Our neighborhood is now at a crisis. We need volunteers to help with both Mayfair and the Madrona Home and Garden Tour. In past years, everybody remembers, Nora Wood would rally the troops at times like these, and before we'd know it, she'd have people volunteering for all sorts of jobs. With this being my first year as the President of the Madrona Community Council, I find Nora's absence very difficult. I've been told stories by past Council members of how good she was at motivating people to contribute their time for the betterment of the whole

community. Therefore, could we just imagine for a moment, that Nora has put out a call to her vast network of neighbors and friends....suddenly the phones start ringing....and we've got people willing to contribute some time to make these two community events as much fun as they have always been.

I'd like to welcome all the new Madrona families to the neighborhood, and invite everyone to the next Board meeting on April 3. On the agenda will be an update from the committees planning the Home Tour and Mayfair, as well as the regular business of the Community Council. It's a good opportunity to meet your neighbors and establish new friendships.

Already we have Deano the Clown scheduled to lead the Mayfair parade, and at least 7 homeowners have agreed to put their homes on the Home Tour. We need much more help, so please call. April and May are right around the corner. For the Home Tour call Audrey at 329-8775 and for Mayfair call Marty at 325-1224.

I look forward to seeing you.

MADRONA COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 3 Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	MADRONA COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD MEETING Group Health (Back Door)	April 10 Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	EAST PRECINCT CRIME PREVENTION COALITION C. A. M. P. 722 18th Avenue
April 7 Saturday 9:00 a.m. to Noon.	MADRONA PLAYFIELD CLEANUP 34th & Spring Bring Your Gloves. Parks Dept. provides the rest!	April 28 Saturday	MADRONA HOME & GARDEN TOUR See Article This Issue
		May 19 Saturday	MAYFAIR Madrona Playfield

Council Board Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month; General meetings are the last Tuesday every other month (they will be announced in newsletters). All are welcome at both.

Group Adopts Madrona Playfield and Sets Goals for Improvements

With the help of Christina Gallegos, Coordinator of Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation's Adopt-A-Park Program, Madrona Playfield has been officially adopted by a group of Madrona community members!

The group has set goals for itself. Some are easy to achieve, including a regular monthly clean up of the park and working with Parks and Seattle City Light to enhance the lighting. Some are longer term and more expensive, including obtaining additional playground equipment and reopening the little community center for a potential supervised playground site. And some goals require community support to achieve, including using the park for family and organized activities and, keeping visibility high by calling police to report suspicious activity.

The first clean-up was a huge success. It was well attended and the 12 workers accomplished a lot! Equipment and handtools were provided by the Parks Department, and some volunteers even brought their own tools including Dwight and Andy Pelz' unique device for screening glass out of sand.

Group members Reba Utevsky and Erica Pitre are working with the Parks Department to design and implement a playground equipment upgrade and Sally Alhadeff is working with Madrona Council President, Marty Liebowitz, to submit an application for grant funds to the Office of Neighborhoods.

You can help, too. Come and join the next clean-up scheduled for the first Saturday of the month, April 7, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

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1990 MADRONA HOME & GARDEN TOUR

April 28, 10am - 4pm

\$6 in advance, \$7 day of tour

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! Join your friends and neighbors and visit some very special homes and gardens. We are featuring an exciting range of unique homes for this year's tour. New this year, "Madrona's Nature Ways", is a walking tour featuring Madrona's natural and scenic beauties. In a little over a mile-long walk, you can see tree-lined walkways, panoramic views, backyard sanctuaries, wooded ravines, interesting streetscapes, urban wildlife and neighborhood parks.

The tour begins and ends at the Madrona Elementary School and wraps up with a post tour party for the volunteers at the Hi-Spot.

All neighborhood newcomers and long time residents...we need you to volunteer to do something! Call Audrey at 329-8775 and let her know what you can do to help. Or, if you just can't pitch in.....checks are gladly accepted! Since this event funds the newsletter and council events during the year, it is important that you help out. Besides, it's FUN! Come out and meet your neighbors and tour the neighborhood.

Here's what you can do to help...

1. Invite friends to share this fun event with you.
2. Take posters and flyers to your office and places you patronize. Pick up posters and flyers from Susan Stocking, 1430 35th, after April 5. Susan's # 324-9943.
3. Sell tickets. Wendy Crocker is the ticket chairman; her # is 324-7178. Tickets will be on sale at Bek's Books in Rainier Square, Madison Park Books in Madison Park, City People's Garden Store on E. Madison, the New York Deli on E. Madison and the Hi Spot on 34th.
4. Advertise in the tour program. Submit your business card and a \$25 check payable to Madrona Community Council to Emily Mohler, 1810 34th Avenue 98122. Questions: Call Emily at 325-2053.
5. Volunteer for the day of the tour to be a House Captain, Guide or Shuttle Driver.

Ridder Addresses Valuation Increases at Neighborhood Meeting

About 100 Madrona residents turned out for the February general meeting to hear Ruth Ridder, King County Assessor, explain the sudden increase in many property valuations in Madrona. Ms. Ridder explained that the county's bi-annual revelation showed a very significant rise in residential property values due to the boom in the local real estate market. Most of the attendees had already received their new tax assessments and were not surprised by this observation.

Ms. Ridder explained that the County, by law, must review real estate sales in each area of the county and use these sales to establish the value of comparable properties. This year the taxable value of all residential properties in King County rose over 30% from previous levels. This does not mean that taxes will go up an equivalent amount. All the taxes collected by the state, county, and city cannot increase more than 6% without voter approval. Thus, even a relatively large increase in valuation might not mean an increase in taxes; the assessor will simply recalculate everyone's tax rate to insure that no more money is collected than authorized by law.

Comments and questions from local residents indicated that for many this explanation was small consolation. Some residents pointed to an increase in valuation of 200-300%. This will undoubtedly result in a tax increase. Ms. Ridder pointed out that residents could appeal their valuation to the Board of Equalization. This body reviews appeals based on inaccuracies or mistakes in arriving at the valuation. Appeals must be filed by July 1, 1990 to impact the 1991 taxes. Those with questions should call the Assessor's office at 296-7300. Anyone can review their valuation at Room 807 of the King County Administration Building.

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MADRONA SCHOOL CORNER

By Margie Kates

A little over one year ago, I met Nora Wood. We spent a wonderful afternoon together talking about the Madrona neighborhood that she so loved. She shared with me the many fine memories that her family had of her daughter Jenny's years at Madrona Elementary. As we talked about these wonderful times, the history of this community, and her love of the environment, she shared with me her desire to start a special fund for the students at Madrona School. This fund, known as the Nora Wood Madrona School Environmental and Cultural Education Trust Fund currently has a balance of \$5,477.53.

Our students have already benefited from this fund. In January, Global Releaf presented an assembly about global warming and the importance of reforestation. This month we will begin making thousands of origami cranes, one thousand of them for the Opening Ceremonies of the Goodwill games.

We have a faculty committee who oversees the fund and its uses. Plans are currently underway for all our students to learn more about Japan, Kenya, and the Soviet Union. The trust fund makes these opportunities possible for our students.

Some of you have asked if donations are still being accepted. They are! If you would like to make a donation, please send a check payable to "The Nora Wood Madrona Trust Fund" c/o Madrona Elementary School, 1121 33rd Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122.

Madrona Community Council Board Members

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The Madrona Newsletter is published bi-monthly except for the summer months. Handwritten or typed copy for the newsletter can be submitted to Sally Alhadeff, 922 34th Avenue, Seattle 98122. Or leave a message on the machine, 324-9865.

Ads in the newsletter are \$6 per column inch, camera ready. Call Susan Roberts @ 329-7322.

IN BLOOM

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Block Watch Captain Training

Garfield Community Center recently sponsored a Block Watch Captain training class which was well-attended by Garfield and Madrona Community members. Members of the new Community Police team were on hand to introduce themselves and talk about new methods being used in community policing.

A Block Watch is a free program sponsored by the Seattle Police Department to help people organize on a block-by-block basis to prevent crime in their neighborhood. It is neighbor helping neighbor. Families on a block form a communication chain, aided by a block map of names, telephone numbers and addresses. They watch out for each others homes and

report suspicious activities to the police and each other to reduce the likelihood of burglary and other crimes occurring on their street.

Community Crime Prevention also provides tips on how to better secure your home, information on how to make your valuables traceable to you, protective window stickers, current crime statistics for your area through a free newsletter, and speakers for follow-up Block Watch Meetings.

Call Sonja Richter, Crime Prevention Division at 684-7717 or 684-7555 if you are interested in forming a block watch.

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