

Madrona NEWSLETTER

August-September 1991

Member of Central Seattle Community Council Federation

Open Letter to the Community

Madrona School's Future in Question?

Our neighborhood school, Madrona Elementary, faces an uncertain future. Here's why:

The school now has two programs in one building--the Early Childhood Model (ECM) program for children from the community, and the Accelerated Progress Program (APP), a program for students of exceptional ability who are selected on a city-wide basis. In Fall 1991, the APP program will be expanded by several hundred students. Next year the two programs will share the school building, with a total of over 650 students, making Madrona larger than any other elementary school in Seattle!

By December 1991, the Seattle School District will decide whether to keep local students in the Madrona building and move the APP program to another location, or to devote the building to APP use only. If the latter decision is made, children who live in the neighborhood will have to be sent to other schools.

The Madrona Elementary School Site Council, composed of parents, teachers, staff and community representatives, has been developing recommendations for the school's future to submit to the Seattle School District. The Site Council needs strong evidence of the Madrona community's support for a neighborhood school to include in its report.

Closing Madrona to neighborhood children would have a number of negative effects on our community:

1. *Children who now walk to Madrona would be sent to schools across town.* Madrona parents would lose the choice to send their children to a neighborhood school.
2. *The community spirit that comes with a neighborhood school would be lost.* Parents, local businesses, school staff and neighbors have been able to work together on park improvements, playground projects, library services, and community festivals such as Mayfair because our children attend a neighborhood school. The Madrona Community Council has grown in membership as a direct result of the presence of the school.
3. *Efforts to control crime and vandalism would be weakened.* Current efforts have involved Madrona staff, neighborhood crime watch groups and local parents of children at Madrona.
4. *The ECM program would be destroyed.* With the leadership of Principal Margie Cates and several outstanding teachers, the ECM program has been growing in excellence in its three years at Madrona. A three-year grant for teaching the early grades has been awarded to the ECM program by a national foundation, and would be lost if teachers and students were dispersed.

What can you do to help keep our school open to neighborhood children?
Sign the petition below to indicate your support for keeping the ECM program at Madrona Elementary.



Madrona Community Calendar

Tuesday, September 3
Board Meeting
Madrona Elementary, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, September 4
Hearing: Urban Trail Elements of Open Space; Improving Pedestrian/Bicycle Systems
City Council Chambers, 5:30 pm

Thursday, September 5
City Council Candidate's Forum
CAMP, 722 18th Ave., 7:30-9:00 pm

Saturday September 7
Madrona Clean-Up, 8:00 am

Tuesday, September 24
General Meeting
Madrona Elementary, 7:30 pm

Petitions can be mailed to Mark Weisman, 1718 33rd Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122, or dropped in the marked boxes at Roger's Thriftway, LeschiMart or the Hi-Spot cafe. If you have further questions about this issue, call Mark Weisman (328-1090), Virginia Sybert (328-6180), or Gray Pedersen (325-6156), evenings.

Thank you.

Parents of the Neighborhood Program

Petition To The Madrona Elementary School Site Council

I strongly believe that the ECM program must remain at Madrona Elementary School as an option to neighborhood children.

I am: _____ A parent/guardian of a children at Madrona
_____ Intending to have children at Madrona
_____ A concerned Madrona resident

Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Address _____

**Please Attend:
Workshop on Cultural Diversity**

Our community is characterized by a mix of African-Americans, Whites, and Asian-Americans. The focus of the September 24 General Meeting is to decide how we can ensure that all the neighborhood is being represented by the Madrona Community Council.

Garry Owen, Neighborhood Programs Coordinator with the Department of Neighborhoods will lead a workshop at the next General Meeting, to assess our collective issues relating to cultural diversity and present some of the issues related to diversity in the Central Area. Garry was born and raised in Seattle and is interested in the issues individually as well as a part of his Department. His work in the Neighborhood Program Division is to focus on organizational development. He assists organizations in assessing their strengths and weaknesses and designs appropriate remedies for them, including training and introducing them to new resources.

Garry will open the meeting up for general discussion and then propose some strategies or suggest some collaborative efforts with other Central Area groups. He will also discuss the consciousness building process and long-range planning as the first step.

Madrona Ravine Selected

We've always known it was special. And now, thanks to landowner Carolyn Geise, who worked closely with the Madrona Community Council and spoke on behalf of the acquisition at several City of Seattle Open Space Committee meetings, the Madrona Ravine located at 38th Avenue and East Spring has been selected as one of 12 sites throughout the city to remain as Open Space. The \$3.5 million Opportunity Fund generated over 130 nominations from Seattle citizens, which were reviewed in an extensive evaluation process by the Citizen Oversight Committee.

Thanks also to the Open Space Committee staff Bill Blair and Rae Tufts and Chairman James Fern. And special thanks to all you community residents who wrote and called and showed up at meetings. Our efforts were worthwhile ... the Ravine really is a jewel.

Committee Receives Money

The Madrona Wildlife Habitat Committee will continue to receive financial assistance from the Washington Department of Wildlife for its Backyard Sanctuary Program. Plans for next year include a demonstration garden at Sally Goldmark Library. Community input will be solicited. We'll keep you posted.

Council Has Summer Retreat

The Madrona Community Council gathered this summer at a mountain cabin to review the events of the past year and strategize and plan events for the coming year. It was also a time to welcome new board members and our new President, Jill Gordon. You'll be hearing more from Jill in the months ahead in a regular column in the newsletter. The council looks forward to another exciting year and hopes you will choose this year to become active.

As part of on-going efforts to better represent and hear from the entire neighborhood, a new council position, Neighborhood Representative, was created last year to represent the four quadrants of Madrona. Representatives elected at the last general meeting are responsible for bringing the views of people in their section of Madrona to the council. Draw an imaginary line north/south on 34th Avenue and east/west on Union and you have your four quadrants. They are: *Northeast*, John Ewald, 328-1749; *Southeast*, Ed Munoz, 328-0615; *Southwest*, Monica Lake 329-5539; and *Northwest*, Orlando Nuckols 328-0795. They'd like to hear from you.

This year's programs include one on gardening, emphasizing drought tolerant plantings and composting, a Candidate's night cosponsored with Leschi, an expanded Mayfair and more. Stay tuned.

Neighborhood Clean-Up Scheduled for September 7

The famous annual event is here again! The neighborhood clean-up is scheduled for September 7. Just place your goodies on the curb before 8:00 Saturday morning. The old-timers say the best part about the clean-up is the scavenger hunt the night before as one person's garbage becomes another's gold.

Appliances, furniture, mattresses, building materials and old water heaters are accepted. Not accepted are yard wastes, toxics, tires, batteries, concrete and ordinary household garbage. If you'd like to help, call John Capps at 324-6847. If you need more information about hazardous waste disposal you can call 296-4692.

Madrona Community Council Board Members

- President:* Jill Gordon
 - 1st Vice-President:* Sally Alhadeff
 - 2nd Vice-President:* Shirley Solomon
 - Treasurer:* Susan Stocking
 - Secretary:* Dorothy Grant
 - Blockwatch:* Dave Black
 - Business Community Relations:*
Amanda Wood/Michael Kingsley
 - Education:* Michael Pitre
 - Historian:* Betsy Darrah
 - Land Use:* Monica Lake
 - Library:* Nancy Pew
 - Newsletter:* Sally Alhadeff/Susan Roberts
 - Open Space/Habitat:* Curt Miller
 - Site Council:* Gray Pedersen/Michael Pitre
 - Transportation:* Kathy Gordon
 - Neighborhood Representatives and At-Large Members:* Jerry Arbes, John Capps, John Ewald, Monica Lake, Ed Munoz, Orlando Nuckols and Barbara Stenson
- The Madrona Newsletter is published monthly except the summer months and December. Submit handwritten or typed copy for the newsletter to the editor, Sally Alhadeff, 922 34th Avenue, Seattle 98122, 324-9865. The deadline is the first Saturday after the Board meeting. Call Susan Roberts regarding newsletter ads, 329-7322.

Central Seattle Community Council Federation
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