

# MADRONA NEWS

February 2001  
Issue No. 130

## East/West Tunnel Through Madrona?

What's the best way to get from Madrona to the Eastside? I-90? 520? What about a mid-lake crossing somewhere between the two bridges? That's just one possibility being considered by the Trans-Lake Washington Project, a consortium of government agencies currently studying ways to improve mobility for people and goods on 520 while minimizing negative impacts to neighborhoods and the environment. The Washington State Department of Transportation, Sound Transit, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration are the lead agencies for the project. This summer they will decide which of the proposed alternatives will be developed and evaluated in more detail in an environmental impact statement. This study will help the agencies select a preferred alternative for implementation in 2004.

Current proposals include:

- Take no action—preserve the 520 bridge and replace the floating portion when necessary
- Minimum footprint—maintain four lanes, with improvements to transit and HOV access
- Add one HOV lane in each direction
- Add one general purpose and one HOV lane in each direction

- Add one bus/vanpool lane in each direction
- Add high-capacity transit in the 520 corridor
- Add high-capacity transit in the I-90 corridor
- Add high-capacity transit in a mid-lake corridor (between the current bridges)
- Implement strategies to reduce transportation demands
- Implement land use strategies

The proposed mid-lake crossing would be a high-capacity transit route only, and not open to personal vehicles. This corridor might consist of a tunnel from downtown Seattle to downtown Bellevue—under Madrona and Lake Washington—or some sort of above ground transit structure, perhaps for rail or high-speed buses.

Several Open Houses are scheduled in March to allow community members to learn about this project and its many possible solutions. The most convenient meeting for Madrona residents will be on March 6, from 5-9 pm, at the Museum of History and Industry. For more information, including dates and locations of other public meetings, contact Amy Grotefendt at 269-5041 or visit the project on the Web at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/translake>.

## Red Apple Market Update

We would like to take a moment to thank Shelley Huestis for the recent article in the Madrona News. As owners of the Union Street Red Apple Market and members of the community, we feel it is important to support the different programs in the area. We also feel that support be extended to us as a business. There have been rumors circulating since the article was published that the store may be forced to close if sales did not increase by 10% as of February 1, 2001. This comment is not true. The truth is that we as a business need the community's support in order to be considered for a loan for the extensive remodel we would like to see for our neighborhood. With that remodel, we will be able to offer a more modern grocery shopping experience for all that shop our store. If sales do not increase, that project will be placed on hold. The final paragraph of the article said it so well, "...do the store, school and the community a very big favor and shop as much as you can at the Union Street Red Apple... Together we can easily increase business to support a local grocery store..."

Looking forward to serving you. Thank you.

Lenny & Laurie Rose

## MCC President's Corner

Congratulations to Madrona Community Council president Bill Hanson on his recent retirement after 30-something years as an accountant for the Federal Government. As any good new retiree should, Bill is taking a little time off and spending some family time in Montana. But he'll be back in Madrona soon and ready to chair the next MCC meeting on March 6.

## Neighborhood Appreciation Day

by Jim Melillo

The hard working people who made improvements to Madrona this past year were honored on February 10. Marie Doyle and the Friends of Madrona Playfield won the Unsung Hero Award for their astonishing vision and ability to raise hundred of thousands of dollars to literally rebuild our playfield. Mary Holm won the Nora Award for her long-standing contributions to the Woods project, including the waterfalls, plantings and walking paths. Tom Flood was honored as a Local Hero. Besides running Madrona Auto, Tom dedicates a lot of time to children. His art classes for kids cover everything from building Soap Box Derby racers to raising money for local schools.

Thanks to everyone who came and made this event a success. Special guests at this breakfast extravaganza included County Executive Sims, Mayor Schell, State Representatives Tip Tokuda and Sharon Tomiko Santos, City Councilmen Richard Mciver and Richard Conlin, and our National Representative Jim McDermott. An extra hearty thanks goes out to Burke Shethar, our host at the Madrona Ale House for his time, building, refreshments, and ability to get one of the best garage bands around, Underdog to entertain. Finally, thanks to Laurel Price and her efforts to publicize this event by phone and e-mail. It was a great morning and we look forward to seeing everyone there again next year.

## In this Issue

- 2 ..... Thanks for Your Contributions
- 3 ..... Free Classes
- 4 ..... Trees and Woods in Madrona
- 5 ..... Madrona School PTSA Report
- 6 ..... Bulletin Board

# Thanks to You Sponsors

If you believe, as we do, that a neighborhood newsletter is an important tool for building and maintaining community, please consider a contribution to keep the Madrona News afloat. Each month we depend on our advertisers, and lots of community members who support the newsletter with donations. Thanks again to these recent contributors:

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# Playfield Planning & Planting

The light is at the end of the tunnel and the grass is green on the field as the Friends of Madrona Playfield gear up for the final phase of the playfield renovation project. If you enjoy the fruits of their labors so far—and who doesn't?—consider joining in to help raise money or donate sweat equity. Anyone who can help with grant writing, community communication and outreach, project management, and general organizing and actualizing tasks is most warmly invited to attend a planning meeting on February 26 at 7:00 at the shelterhouse.

If you'd rather play in the dirt, the next playfield planting party is March 3 at 10:00. Bring your shovels, trowels, gardening gloves and energy and help put in plants and small shrubs along 34th. So tote along your kids and your smiles and help bring Madrona an early spring. For more info or to RSVP, call Marie Doyle 326-6128.

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# Pawns, Performances & Other Happenings at Madrona School

by Rickie Malone, Principal & Antoinette Sabarots, Assistant Principal

Chess is king at Madrona right now. Since January, the students have had the option of playing chess instead of going out to recess. And you know what? Many of them choose to do just that. The response to chess club has been so overwhelming that we need more volunteers to come play chess with our students. If you have an interest, please call the school.

Musical artists from Bakra Bahrat, a group that melds talents from throughout Trinidad, worked with our middle school students three hours a day for two weeks during January. The students learned to play steel drums, create festival masks, make costumes, and choreograph a dance. This intensive performing arts project culminated in a incredible performance by the students.

As the school year comes to its mid-point, we now have the official word that Madrona students will spend next year at Lincoln High School in Wallingford. This will be our temporary location while the Madrona School undergoes a huge renovation and expansion. We expect to be at Lincoln for one school year and are already looking forward to returning home to our renovated school in Madrona, which will include a new building for our middle school program.



2nd grader Hu'Lena Jackson hones her chess skills with assistant principal Antoinette Sabarots

## Free at Neighborhood Academy

A variety of classes are being offered at Jackson Street Center (23<sup>rd</sup> & Jackson). The classes are provided gratis through SAFECO's Neighborhood Academy, a body chartered to provide a friendly environment where neighbors can gather to consider the virtues of neighborhoods and appreciate the art of neighborliness. For more info, call 521-1100 or visit [www.safeco.com](http://www.safeco.com). Upcoming courses are:

- How to Take Advantage of the Neighborhood Matching Fund, 2/24 10-noon
- Book Discussion *The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell, 2/27 7-9pm
- Retirement Planning Seminar, 3/8 7-9pm
- Be an Entrepreneur and Start Your Own Business, 3/12 7-9pm
- Bring Your Vegetable Garden to Life Organically, 3/22 7-9pm
- Book Discussion *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt, 3/27 7-9pm
- Keep Your Neighborhood Safe with Block Watch, 3/31 10-noon

## 3-on-3 B-Ball Tourney

The Meredith Mathews East Madison YMCA is now taking registration for a 3-on-3 double elimination basketball tournament. Players must be at least 18 and registration is \$60 per team (3 to six players). The tournament is February 27 and winners receive t-shirts and/or other prizes. For more info, call Jon Trussell 322-6969.



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# I Think That I Will Never See...

from Olga Stewart

As the trees in Madrona age, it's a sad fact some will have to come down. Trees shade and cool our streets and buildings, creating beautiful pillars to soften the harsh urban environment. A big tree can provide a day's oxygen for four people. Trees contribute to a community's sense of being. They increase property value. They provide shelter for wildlife and reduce erosion from storm water runoff. They help conserve electricity and reduce storm water overflows. They embody the spiritual and physical structure of the neighborhood.

Also, if they stand on a public right-of-way area, such as a parking strip, they require anyone planning to prune or remove them to first obtain a permit from the City Arborist's office. Before that permit will be granted, an arborist will visit the area to see whether the tree really should come down. It's also best to let your neighbors know your tree-removal plans and with luck get their concurrence. Simply removing trees because they are nuisance is NOT allowed.

A permit for tree removal costs \$68, plus a \$285 deposit that will be returned once the work is completed to the city's satisfaction. Many tree service companies already have standing permits with the city to remove trees from right-of-ways and if you hire one of these services to prune or remove a tree, even the \$68 permit fee is waived. What you can not do is hire a contractor that has no street use permit. Should you ever encounter such a service at work in your neighborhood, call the police immediately!

We love our trees in Madrona. If you are considering removing a tree, contact the City Arborist (684-7649) for more information and a permit request. Or, better yet, attend the March 6 Madrona Community Council meeting and chat with City Arborist Nolan Rundquist. The meeting starts at 7:15 on the second floor of Madrona Plaza.

# Springtime in Madrona Woods

by Judith Starbuck

There's lots of good news in Madrona Woods!

The Indian plums are sprouting their tantalizing green leaves, which means the skunk cabbage and trilliums won't be far behind. Bird-song already fills the air on the many sunny days we've been having.

We completed the work under our Department of Neighborhoods Grant 2000, ending the year with almost \$22,000 over what we had committed as our neighborhood match, thanks to our many work parties and the school children who have nearly restored their little plots. The end of February should bring EarthCorps back to the Woods to upgrade the trail (including a few more of their beautiful steps) near the Spring Street entrance. They will also remove laurel trees along the upper Spring Street ravine in the Woods and in the adjoining Madrona Woods Ravine.

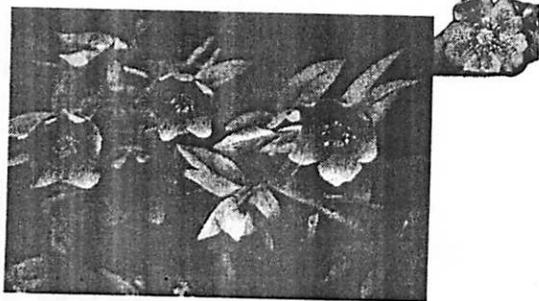
We'll be directing our energies this year to finishing up our many projects and planning for the future daylighting of the stream in the Woods and Ravine. We'll be having regular work parties throughout the spring to finish planting and mulching in areas exposed by the clearing of invasives and trail construction, with a BIG party in May to celebrate our success. Watch the kiosks at the Woods entrances to see the announcement of that event and the work parties 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the third Saturday of each month.

Check out the Madrona Woods web site at [www.madronawoods.org](http://www.madronawoods.org) for the latest photos, news, and announcements. To talk to someone about the Woods or take a tour, call Mary Casey 328-5508, Mary Holm 329-9739, Joan Scott 324-6468, Ann Bucher 323-8325, or Judith Starbuck 322-2640.



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## WANTED: Home Tour Chair

Do you love to explore Madrona's tree-lined streets? When a house goes on sale on your block, are you first in line at the open house? Is home decor or gardening your passion? If so, imagine the fun you'd have planning and organizing the Madrona Home and Garden Tour, a fund-raiser for the Madrona Community Council set for June 16. To help organize the event or to put your home and/or garden on the list of potential sites, contact Suzanne Melillo 324-5389.

## Library Fun for Big & Small

The Madrona-Sally Goldmark Library continues with story time for toddlers Wednesdays at 10:30 am. February 28th will be a special celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday. The Douglass-Truth library celebrates Black History Month by presenting Living Voices: The Right to Dream on February 28th at 10:15. This compelling story of the struggle and sacrifice for civil rights is best suited for adults and teens. For more info, call 684-4704.

Both libraries encourage EVERYONE participate in "If All of Seattle Read the Same Book," an event to build community building and common ground. The February book is Fooling with Words: A Celebration of Poets and Their Craft by Bill Moyers. Bill will moderate a discussion of the book on February 20. For more information on upcoming books, call 684-4705.

## Last Picture Show at Trapeze

For the past three years, Tracy Lang has brought art to Madrona through her wonderful Trapeze Gallery. However, the gallery will soon change hands and Tracy will retreat to her studio on Capitol Hill to continue her painting high above the Elysian Brewery. The last show at the current Trapeze Gallery, a display of recent northwest landscapes by Eric Eschenbach, runs through February 25th.

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## Madrona PTSA Meeting Minutes February 8, 2001

by Jennifer Durrie

The new Volunteer Coordinator, Felicia Brown, was introduced. Welcome Felicia! Her goals are to bring in more volunteers; increase the number of parents involved in the community and in the school; raise the necessary money; and get information into the community newspaper. She brings much experience in working with volunteers at her church, and through her work as a counselor. Anyone who would like to help the teachers pack up their rooms to get ready for the move to Lincoln, please contact Felicia.

Two fund-raising projects were discussed: the Nestle/ Kathy Beich fund-raiser and the Student Art Gift Cards. The Nestle kickoff last Fall netted \$6500. Janet Lee has agreed to head it this Spring, and to increase advertising about the event outside the school. A number of questions were raised about how the Student Art Gift Cards project would be run. Issues include: 1) how many students could be involved, 2) should we hold a contest to decide what art work is used, and 3) should we use one of the card designs as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation invitation. The funds to start the project will be around \$300 and we still need someone to head it up.

**Upcoming Events:** February 15 is the Sock Hop and February 16, from 1:30 until 3 pm is the Middle School Dance - this event could also use more chaperones. There is also the Stars Party to honor students whose behavior and academics merit recognition and celebration. The money for this event comes from a grant. Principal Malone is organizing a Student of the Week (selected by individual teachers), Student of the Month (selected collectively by the staff), and Student of the Year program. A Soul Food school event is planned for March 8, probably during school hours as an assembly. Anyone interested in participating in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation planning, please contact Felicia Brown.

**Student Service Projects:** The Coat/ Food drive is still in progress; please contact Coralyn for information or donations. Susan Cohen, Middle School Coordinator, is organizing the Madrona Beach/ Woods clean-up. Ms. Frank, 3rd grade teacher, was recommended as someone likely to be interested in having her class participate. Another idea is to have a Scavenger Hunt where the children clean up the park and then paint the garbage cans.

Next Madrona Elementary School PTSA Meeting: Thursday, March 8, 2001; 6:00 pm Executive Meeting/ 7:00 pm Full PTSA. To volunteer at Madrona, call 726-6690 or a-mail asabarot@cks.ssk.k12.wa.us

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# MADRONA NEWS

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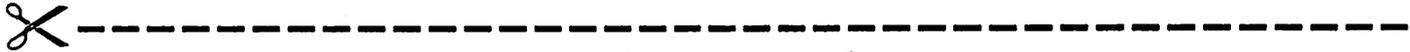
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## Bulletin Board

- Feb. 18, 10:00pm MADRONA WOODS WORK PARTY--Madrona Woods, Judith Starbuck 322-2640
- Feb. 19-23, MID-WINTER BREAK FOR SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS--no school
- Feb. 26, 7:00pm PLAYFIELD FINAL PHASE PLANNING MEETING--playfield shelterhouse, Marie Doyle 326-6128
- Feb. 27, 12:30pm 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT-- Madison YMCA, Jon Trussell 322-6969
- Feb. 28, 10:15am LIVING VOICES: THE RIGHT TO DREAM--Douglass-Truth library, 684-4704
- Feb. 28, 10:30am DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY PARTY--Madrona-Sally Goldmark library, Maire Thompson 684-4705
- March 2 & 3, 8:00pm THE PLEASURE AND THE PAIN OF REMAINING UNAWARE, with Drs Ben Wong and Jock McKeen Alki room, Seattle Center CrisMarie Campbell or Susan Clarke 985-9618
- March 3, 10:00am MADRONA PLAYFIELD PLANTING PARTY-- Madrona playfield, Marie Doyle 326-6128
- March 6, 5-9pm TRANS-LAKE WASHINGTON PROJECT OPEN HOUSE--Museum of History and Industry, Amy Grotefeldt 269-5041
- March 6, 7:15pm MADRONA COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING-- Special Guest, City Arborist, NOLAN RUNDQUIST, Madrona Plaza, Bill Hanson 323-3450
- March 7, 7:00pm MADRONA SCHOOL PTSA MEETING, Madrona School Library Merrily Wolf 324-6773
- March 9 DEADLINE FOR MARCH MADRONA NEWS, Kim Herber 325-9923 or christine@conversation.com
- March 18, 10:00am MADRONA WOODS WORK PARTY--Madrona Woods, Judith Starbuck 322-2640
- April 3, 7:15pm MADRONA COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING-- Madrona Plaza, Bill Hanson 323-3450
- April 12, 7:00 pm MADRONA SCHOOL PTSA MEETING--Madrona School library, Merrily Wolf 324-6773
- April 28, 8:00am-3:00pm MADRONA COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE--Madrona Plaza, Kim Herber 325-9923