

MADRONA

November 2005

Issue No. 179

NEWS
WWW.MADRONA.US

Congratulations to Friends of the Ravine in Madrona (FORM)

By Linda Hanson, Madrona Drive

Despite early November’s persistent rain and wind, FORM members gathered for an end-of-the-season event to congratulate one another and celebrate completion of the fourth phase of work in the open space ravine adjacent to Madrona Drive. Everyone shared a mutual pat on the back for their commitment and support of the restoration of this significant visual open space area. Participants viewed the mock-up of the plaque that will be installed next to the Pine Street Pedestrian Bridge to commemorate four years of “Ravine Revival”.



Members of the EarthCorps crew were also on hand to first enjoy the celebration, and then to spend the rest of the day using ropes and pulleys to safely access the ravine’s steep slopes. As one wet but happy stalwart volunteer commented, “We always have a wonderful time while getting good work done. This is the best way to meet new friends and learn what is going on in the neighborhood”.

The two-acre Madrona ravine is adjacent to Madrona Drive, below the historic Pine Street Pedestrian Bridge. FORM first gathered as an informal coalition of community members in 2002. They responded to a call to “Help Save our Trees” from the invasive

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MCC President’s Corner

Monthly Neighborhood Update

by Bill Hansen, 32nd Avenue

We held our annual Madrona Community Council (MCC) elections November 1st and all the current officers were re-elected. I will continue on as president, Steve Orser as treasurer, Nathan Goderstad as secretary, and Laura Yurdin and Mark Melroy as our vice presidents. Laura and Mark, who were elected a year ago, have been a welcome addition to the MCC. Also it is great that Nathan has moved into the new condos on 34th right across the street from the shelterhouse so he will never EVER miss an MCC meeting. Our newsletter editor Kim Herber and production editor Christine Bender will continue to produce our fabulous *Madrona News* each month. Many thanks to all.

Wade Morlock, who has purchased the property at 1120 34th Avenue, attended our November meeting and advised us that removal of the existing structure and construction of a 3-story office building with store front businesses is the best use of the property. He thinks he has found a company that will disassemble and salvage as much of the old house as possible. He is very much interested in having the rooftop of the new building open for public use, perhaps as a garden. Laura Yurdin and Wade will explore various options.

Many thanks to Didi Burpee for organizing our annual Halloween party at

(continued on page 2)

Madrona Moms Save the (Holi)Day!

By Lucy Homans, 36th Avenue

I recently encouraged some friends who live in Whistler, BC, and were headed to vacation in Florida, to visit our family here in Madrona on their way. I offered to drive them to the airport, and suggested they leave their car at our house. They thought that sounded like a grand plan and I envisioned spending a day seeing the sights and then waving good by as they jetted off to the beach. And that’s exactly what happened—just with a little more excitement than we’d planned.

The night our friends arrived, they parked their van on quiet 36th Avenue and within a couple hours, it had been stolen! I felt terrible but there was some good news—there was a witness. A Madrona dog-walker saw five young men jump into the car and drive it away without turning on the headlights. It was so suspicious that she came right to our door to ask if the car might be ours. Looking at the empty parking spot, we were in a state of shock. We called the police immediately and our good neighbor left us her contact information and offered to give a report to the police. It was then that it really hit us that all of our friends’ luggage—including

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FORM (cont'd from page 1)

and aggressive ivy and clematis plants that were damaging the native trees within the ravine. Since then, the community has continued its restoration work by removing invasive weeds and planting native species. Today the ravine is an important neighborhood open space and a thriving habitat for birds, bats, and butterflies.

FORM has benefited from great support from the Madrona Community Council, positive energy and enthusiasm from The Bush School, a productive partnership with EarthCorps crews, a generous combination of grants matched by individual contributions, and—most important—a dedicated group of community volunteers who have always turned out ready to work, rain or shine. Although FORM members will continue to host stewardship events to control invasive plants in the ravine, we do not anticipate pursuing additional grants or matching grant funds.

In the 2005 grant award letter, Mayor Greg Nickels wrote, “Your project illustrates how engaged, passionate neighbors, coupled with City [and other grant] resources, can result in improvements that provide a wonderful benefit to the community. Citizen Involvement is key to building strong and healthy communities.” Congratulations and thanks to FORM members and to all participants and supporters of FORM’s Ravine Revival.

President’s Corner (cont'd from page 1)

the shelterhouse, and to Burke Shethars, proprietor of the Madrona Ale House & Eatery, for hosting a musical block party to benefit the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. Both October events were smashing successes.

Also, a special thank you and congratulations to Linda Hanson and the Friends of the Ravine in Madrona for all their efforts. Take a walk across the Pine Street pedestrian bridge near Madrona Drive and see how nice the ravine looks these days.

Remember to stop by Grocery Outlet and check out all the bargains and say hi to our new neighbors Steve and Debbie Mullen. I have found that Grocery Outlet has some great items for a quick dinner in their frozen food section. The store at MLK and Union is open every day from 8:00am to 9:00pm.

We are still very interested in getting additional projects started in our neighborhood and do have seed money to get them underway. If you have a favorite idea or pet project, please share it with us at the next MCC meeting on December 6. We meet in the shelterhouse in Madrona Playfield at 34th and East Spring Street starting at 7:15 pm.

Ben Chotsen
paste-up

Madrona Moms(cont'd from page 1)

their children’s teddy bears—has been in the car. It was a bad night.

Instead of the planned tour of Seattle the next day, we glumly shopped for a few replacement clothes and flip flops, and spent hours on the telephone with insurance adjusters. Fortunately, we did squeeze in a trip to the Pike Place Market before we put the happy group on the night flight to Orlando.

Yes, I said they were happy when they left and how they ended up that way is a very interesting story. You see, unbeknownst to us, our eyewitness was a member of what has to be a jewel in Madrona’s shining crown: an egroup called the Madrona Moms. She was so angry over what had occurred that she went right home and emailed the story—complete with description of the stolen car—to the 500+ members of the group. What happened next usually only comes true in our imagination. Early the next morning, another Madrona Mom read the email and wrote back to our eyewitness to report that our friends’ car was abandoned on her street! The eyewitness called the police, who called the tow truck.

But wait! There’s more! As we were gloomily returning from the Market, we drove past the street where the car had been abandoned. Our friend’s thirteen-year-old son suddenly yelled out that he saw their car being loaded on a tow truck and we HAD to turn around. His parents were skeptical but nothing ventured, nothing gained, so we went back to investigate. We were all totally amazed that it really was their car! When we zoomed to a stop and the kids burst into tears at the sight of their precious teddy bears, the tow truck driver was so touched he let the car back down. The car didn’t even seem damaged so we drove it carefully back to our house, locked it safely in our garage, and went to answer the doorbell.

There on the porch were the police with most of our friends’ stolen luggage!

After 24 hours of shock and tears and stress, our Canadian friends left for Florida agreeing with this 25-year Madrona resident that Madrona is the best neighborhood in Seattle—and probably anywhere. Our friends returned from their trip a week later, tanned and rested, to find a clean, repaired car. At least to the parents, Madrona is just as magical as Disney World and as a thank you, we will be making a donation to the charity of our watchful Madrona Moms’ choice.

From this experience we have learned that dog walking is not only an essential part of Madrona life, but also that in this neighborhood someone always really does have your back. Thanks Madrona Moms from all of us; you rock!

NOTE: To find out more about the Madrona Moms, contact the group moderator Janet Walsh-Helton at planet58@quest.net.

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Spooky Fun at Halloween Party

By Didi Burpee, 34th Avenue

The Madrona Community Council hosted another successful Halloween party in the shelterhouse this year, with many young trick-or-treaters visiting despite the scary weather. Many enjoyed having their pictures taken with the strange fellow in the corner and decorating Halloween cards.

Izilla's Toys on Madison Street generously donated prizes for all of the great costumes. Here are this year's winners:

- **Best Homemade:** Milo Bradley, Eli McClintock-Shapiro, Jaz Mitchell, and Quinn Sullivan
- **Silliest:** Cooper Clark, Roslyn Elbert, Jayla Harris, Camila Sandi, and William Thomas
- **Scariest:** Basant Apyrva, Cole Johnson, and Ted Khacajturyan
- **Most original:** Ari Bancroft, Nadia Fox, Demeiko Parker, Shanise Perry, and Peter Ustyugov

Thanks to all of the volunteers!

Jerry Arbes, Brenda Bancroft, Tom Beierle, David Drum, Christi Hanson, Ann Hollar, Maggie Hooks, Krista Hudson, Nikki Lunden, Mickey Oh, Leslie Rugaber, Ginger Segal, Katie Stelt, and Craig Vierling. Special thanks to Eric Hoff, outreach coordinator for Amara Parenting Services, who not only helped set up for the party but also delivered a delicious selection of snacks donated by Amara.



Bode & Will

*Rath Law
paste-up*

Madrona Musicfest

by Burke Shethar, 32nd Avenue

It was fun, not too loud, and the kids had a ball with the straw bales.

Dressed as a trappist monk, the kind that makes lambic beers like Chimay, I made the rounds through the 100 Madrona neighbors who gathered to enjoy some live music and give to a worthy cause.

On October 29, Union Street was closed between 34th and 35th avenues and five live bands played terrific music from 3:00pm to 10:00pm. The eclectic mix of songs ranging from roots rock to alternative country was wonderfully presented as afternoon turned to evening and the sky



Great Masks!

stayed clear and calm, defying the weatherman. The Madrona Musicfest was held to raise funds for the Red Cross, and to allow the Madrona community to reflect and be thankful for our good fortune.

Besides the City of Seattle, which hustled our Special Event permit through in third the normal time, I'd like to thank the following parties for making this a success:

- John Healy for organizing the music.
- Issaquah Grange, who brought the straw bales and donated the pumpkins.
- Chris Martin of Cleanscapes who lent us the barricades and street signs.
- John Platt and Paul Butler of St. Clouds for the heaters and sound equipment.
- Audrey Seale and Frank Baldessari for donating costumes, wigs, and masks (I enjoyed a rocker mullet for a while...)
- The five bands that played for free:
 - o Toad Jam
 - o Madrona Social Aid and Pleasure Club
 - o Underdog
 - o Forgotten Sol
 - o Hurricane Ridge

Contributions at the date of this writing total \$3,100, with half coming from patrons who donated directly, and half from neighborhood businesses, including: décor on 34th, Dulces, Complete Fitness, the Madrona Company, the Hi-Spot Café, Ewing & Clark, the Madrona Eatery, Wormwood Hairworks, Café Verite, Kismet Salon, St. Clouds, and the Madrona Community Council. I think this is pretty good for the spur-of-the-moment inaugural event!

Madrona is a great neighborhood and I am proud to be part of this community. I look forward to doing this again next year, although I hope the Red Cross will be tending to fewer disasters than this year.

Keep the Cash in Madrona

This time of year, many of us participate in United Way or other fundraising campaigns at work. As you complete your United Way paperwork, remember that you can designate your dollars to ANY 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Just tell United Way where to send your contribution and they will distribute it to your organization(s) quarterly. To ensure that your donation is processed correctly provide the group's tax ID number on your contribution designation form. Madrona has many worthy non-profits that would love your on-going financial support. To name a few:

- Amara Parenting & Adoption Services: 91-0577487
- Central Area Senior Center:
- Community Day School Association: 91-0987650
- Coyote Central (formerly Coyote Junior High): 91-1444797
- East Cherry YWCA: 91-0482890
- Friends of Ravine in Madrona (FORM):
- Epiphany School:
- Genesis House: 91-0874756
- Global Visionaries: 71-0872239
- Lake Washington Girls School:
- Madrona Community Council: 94-3202136
 - o Madrona BBQ
 - o *The Madrona News*
 - o Friends of Madrona Woods
 - o Madrona Blossoms Flower Baskets
- Madrona K-8 PTSA: 91-1229255
- Meredith Matthews East Madison YMCA: 91-0482710
- St. Therese School & Parish: 91-0577134

Kids Soak up Language at Sponge

By Jackie Friedman Mighdoll, 32nd Avenue S

Sponge, a children's language center, is set to open this month on 31st Avenue South in the Leschi/Mt. Baker Ridge neighborhood. Sponge offers classes in French, Japanese, Mandarin, Spanish and ESL for young children zero to four years old, and their parents.

The idea for Sponge started with news from the UW about the impact second language acquisition has on babies. Research showed that even a small amount of Mandarin exposure had a significant impact on the brains of 9-month old, English-speaking babies! After a year of research and planning, which included trips to language centers in the Bay area, Chicago and the east coast, the language and culture-rich Sponge program was born.

Sponge classes are 55 minutes long, with the first 45 minutes completely in the target language. Each class offers several fun activities, songs, a story, music and movement that teach both language and culture. In the older classes, snack and art are integrated into the learning. The last 10 minutes of class provide an opportunity for parents and caregivers to talk with the teacher in the language they prefer and to talk with each other.

The Sponge teachers—Catherine, Wenxin, Etsuko, Michelle, Lorena, and Jackie—are a diverse group with a common passion for teaching young children about language and culture. Their goal is to make classes fun for children and interesting for adults.

For more information on Sponge classes, see www.spongeschool.com While you're there, sign up for the Sponge newsletter to keep up with Sponge news.



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Who Is Your Child As A Learner?

Who is my child as a learner?

How does my child learn best?

How do I make decisions about her schools and teachers?

How can I support my child at school in a meaningful way?

Former Seattle Schools administrator Lael Williams, and former McGilvra Elementary teacher Stacy Stark, have pondered these questions with parents so often they came to realize that such questions are at the core of what concerns parents about learning. Their passion for children—and compassion for struggling parents—led them to start a business that supports parents in understanding these key questions and finding the answers.

These two experienced educators are now enthusiastically offering a workshop called KnowMore. They spent the last 18 months developing their workshop based on their practical experience and expertise, plus the latest brain and learning research. In the KnowMore workshop, Stacy and Lael will fully engage all participants in discovering how extraordinary their children are, and better understanding their needs as learners.

Stacy and Lael know that each child has a “secret life” as a learner. They recognize that Jillian who dances her numbers, Justin who must stand while hearing a story, and Jackson who isn’t the first to raise his hand, all have unique learning characteristics. In the KnowMore workshop, Lael and Stacy help parents identify their child’s multiple intelligences profile, learning styles, life skills development, and issues that create the learning individual they are. Parents develop the language and skills needed to communicate with anyone regarding their child’s learning needs.

Madrona is lucky to now have a resource for parents as they make decisions and navigate through their child’s educational experience. The KnowMore workshop is “one of a kind” and parents who have attended say it was a phenomenal experience! To learn more about upcoming KnowMore workshops, contact Stacy and Lael at www.parentsknowmore.com or 276-0249.

Play Madrona Mutt Match-up

By Hannah Ditty, 35th Avenue

Sometimes it seems like everyone in Madrona has a dog and some people have two! All of these dogs lives in my neighborhood. To play Mutt Match-up, pick which dog lives with which owner by drawing a leash to connect them. The answers are on page 10.



Beckett & Echo
Favorite treat: Everything!
Age: 7 & 9 years



Jan
Favorite color: Green
Lived in Madrona: 27 years



Georgia
Favorite treat: tennis balls
Age: 9 years



Grace
Favorite color: Red
Lived in Madrona: 13 years



Charlie
Favorite treat: Milk bone w/ peanuts
Age: 3 years



Amy
Favorite color: Blue
Lived in Madrona: 6 years



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Creek Daylighting Moves Forward

By Judith Starbuck, Grand Avenue

The Madrona Park Creek daylighting and restoration was approved by the Seattle Parks Board October 27. The Board recommended to Superintendent Ken Bounds that the project go ahead. Thanks to all of you who testified at the Parks Board hearing on October 13 or sent letters in support of the project.

This puts us on track to begin construction in the spring. We will be working with Friends of Olmsted Parks to find a good balance between creating optimal habitat for salmon and other wildlife while maintaining views from Madrona Drive and Lake Washington Boulevard. Fisheries specialists have said the shaded wetland cove and ponds on both sides of Lake Washington Boulevard will provide excellent rearing opportunities for young salmon making their way along the shore of Lake Washington to Puget Sound. Several permit and grant applications are in and awaiting decisions.

But we're not waiting for spring to get going. We received two grants to help with the environmental education aspect of our restoration. One from Seattle Public Utilities and King Conservation District bought \$1000 worth of native plants. A grant from "Small Sparks," Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, bought gloves and shovels. The November work party is scheduled to begin planting along the edge of the ravine in the Woods.

School children from St. Therese, Madrona K-8, and the Seattle Girls School have begun work in plots in the creek watershed. Work parties from the Seattle Girls School have accomplished a lot in their five weeks working in the Woods. We could use more adult volunteers to help out when students come to the Woods to clear and plant. To volunteer to work on Wednesdays with the 6th Graders from St. Therese, contact Penny McCormick at 937-5586 or pmccormi@sccd.ctc.edu. To work with the Madrona K-8 6th Graders this spring, contact Deirdre McCrary at 325-9035 or jaymccrary@juno.com. This is a good way to learn about restoration and introduce young people to the need for it.

If you'd like to find out more about the daylighting project, contact Peg Gaynor at peggy@gaynorinc.com, or Parks Department rep Cheryl Eastberg at cheryl.eastberg@seattle.gov. To donate money or find out how to get otherwise involved, contact Joan Scott at 324-6468 or jmscott@seanet.com. For general news and announcements, look for a new Madrona Woods website soon at www.madronawoods.org!

In Case of Emergency, Break Bread with Neighbors

By Suzanne Edison, 37th Avenue

On November 5, a group of 10 neighbors from 35th to 37th avenues discovered that Disaster Preparedness meetings can actually be fun. As Block Watch captains for 37th Avenue between Pike and Pine, John Mellana and I served up coffee and muffins along with Mark Solomon of the Seattle Disaster Aid and Response Teams (SDART).

Mark, who is part of the Seattle Police Department's South Precinct Crime Prevention and Emergency Preparedness unit, came armed with an informational video, brochures on Personal and Neighborhood Preparedness, and a sense of humor. He led us in discussions of individual, family, and neighborhood needs if there is a natural disaster such as a large earthquake. He gave out information sheets listing the items people need to survive for at least 3 days without local emergency services. Three important tips included:

- 1) Most injuries occur from people stepping on broken glass, so make sure you have a pair of shoes with hard soles under your bed and your kid's beds.
- 2) Leave your emergency boxes near the door you will exit and
- 3) Standing in doorways is no longer suggested during earthquakes, hug the side or hide under the bed or nearby table instead.

By the end of the meeting Mark had convinced everyone present to sign up to be on one of the seven Disaster Response Teams our area will likely need. Our teams will get further specific training from SDART. We will role play possible scenarios and tour the neighborhood together to plan how each team might "resolve events at disaster scenario sites." Our teams are:

1. Block Coordination
2. First Aid
3. Light Search & Rescue
4. Safety & Security
5. Sheltering & Special Needs
6. Communications
7. Damage Assessment.

If you—as an individual or with a group of your neighbors—want to learn more about getting prepared, contact SDART at 233-7123 or www.cityofseattle.net/emergency_mtg. Our group really enjoyed working with Mark and highly recommend asking for him specifically; he is very responsive and will contact you directly.

I strongly encourage every one to do this, for yourselves, your families, and for each other.



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Neighborhood School News

Girls Rule at this School

By Cary McRae, Director of Admissions

Where will you find 49 middle-school girls practicing martial arts one day, writing original plays the next, and volunteering for community service many hours in between? At the Lake Washington Girls Middle School, a dynamic but little known school with an unusual focus on social justice. Not to be confused with The Seattle Girls School on Jackson St., this private, all-girls' middle school is located at 511 16th Avenue S. The Lake Washington Girls Middle School is committed to a diverse and creative student body full of future leaders. Our motto is Strong in Mind, Body and Voice.

Here in our charming three-room schoolhouse with creaky wood floors and soaring windows, "Grrls Rule!" It was started in 1998 by a group of parents who didn't want to send their kids to a large, impersonal public middle school, or an elite, private one. They had a vision for something more personal and dynamic for their daughters, during their impressionable middle-school years.

So, what started with a bake sale is now a bustling schoolhouse with 49 girls in grades 6 through 8. Although the Lake Washington Girls Middle School is a "private" school, it's also a non-profit with an unending drive for diversity, social justice, and responsibility. Tuition is half that of most other private schools, and all students must complete up to 15 hours of service learning each year.

Each girl begins this journey in 6th grade with a visit to migrant farm workers in Yakima. By 8th grade, most students can write and speak Spanish confidently. The girls also create and perform their own drama productions, and participate in the Rainier Valley Youth Theatre's Young Playwrights program. That's in addition to learning martial arts, playing soccer, writing poetry, and building science experiments.

We could go on and on, but it's best for you to come see for yourself! Lake Washington Girls Middle School will hold an Open House at 1:00 on January 8 at 1:00pm. Visiting our school is the best way to learn about our strong academic record, emphasis on leadership, and commitment to a diverse and dynamic student body. The second best way is to talk to someone who is involved with the school and Madrona parent Kirsten Rooks at 320-9172 or kwrooks@comcast.net would love to share her experience. You can also contact the school at 760-1526 or www.lwgms.org.

Bush School Paste-up

Grand Opening = Grand Support for Madrona K-8

By Leslie Olson, Madrona K-8 Panther Partners

When Grocery Outlet opened its doors for the first time in the Madrona on October 7 and 8, it demonstrated its solid commitment to Madrona community by sponsoring the Panther Partners' hot dog stand. During the two-day Grand Opening, the Madrona K-8 Panther Partners PTSA raised \$1,100 by selling \$1 hotdogs and sodas. Grocery Outlet contributed all of the food, sodas, condiments, paper goods, and set up. Dedicated Madrona K-8 parents and teachers provided the organization, labor, and sales force. Parents and community members bought hot dogs at a tremendously supportive rate—one parent bought and ate five hot dogs right before our very eyes!

By the end of the hot dog fest, 567 hot dogs were sold and \$567 earned. Grocery Outlet matched the sales dollar for dollar and Madrona K-8 got a much needed infusion of cash for teacher support, music, and other important projects. Thank you to everyone who made this possible: Madrona K-8 parent Michelle Manion who spearheaded the project, all of the parents and teachers who worked slinging dogs and making sales, everyone who bought a hot dog, and most of all to Grocery Outlet. Welcome to the neighborhood!

Making Music at Madrona K-8

By Sarah Westneat, 35th Avenue

Madrona K-8 is building a music program! The Arts Committee needs your help to provide instruments for 4th through 8th grade students who do not have the means to rent or buy one. Music classes have already started and students who don't yet have an instrument attend to listen and learn.

We would like to thank the following members of the Madrona community for their kind donations: Sheri Pewitt, cash and organizing Epiphany School parent donations; Shannon Moller, flute; Kim Bishop, new saxophone; Heather Hughes, cash; Sharon Eiler, flute, and Kathi Webster, cash.

We specifically need trumpets but if you have any instrument that is not being used, please consider donating it to Madrona K-8 and this great cause. We are also accepting tax deductible cash donations. For more info, contact me at westneat@highstream.net.

*St. Therese paste-up
paste-up*

New Student Officers Elected

By Marcus Harden, Student Council Advisor

This year, over 25 students campaigned in a school-wide election for grade-level representatives for grades 5 through 8, and the newly created seats of Madrona K-8 Student Council. Candidates wrote a short essay on why they'd like to be on Student Council and what they would do if elected. They then had a week to create a campaign complete with signs, handouts, and word of mouth to win over the student body. The campaigns were filled with creative and fun democratic competition. Slogan highlights:

2 Johns always make a right

with pictures of 5th Grader John Jones and John F. Kennedy.

5th Grader Patrice Carter went with a more traditional rhyme:

If you like free dress than vote for the best.

After the candidates spoke in front of the entire student body to try and swing the vote their way, the ballots were sent out and the votes cast. The result included a deadlock tie for 7th grade representative, and a presidential race separated by only 25 votes. CONGRATULATIONS to all who earned a seat on the 2005–2006 Student Council!

President: Nyles Austin, 6th Grade

Vice President: Dameiko Parker, 6th Grade

Secretary: Adrianna Williams, 8th Grade

Class Representatives:

- **5th Grade:** Katie Wilson, Freechauch Kennebrew, John Jones, Tashaun Byrdwell
- **6th Grade:** Roniesha Savannah, Phina Carroll, Aiesha Baker
- **7th Grade:** Latrice Byrd, Roger Garrett, Laquan Anderson-Ridenour, Otieno Stephens-Terry
- **8th Grade:** Whitney Wilson, Isolina Campbell, Austin Butler

Giddens School

St. Therese Opts for SAT

Every spring, a rite of passage for all St. Therese students is to take the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT). The SAT is a standardized fill-in-the-bubble test that measures student achievement in reading, writing, math, and social sciences. The results are in and St. Therese is proud to report that, overall, students in each grade level perform at or above average.

Why do we take these tests? First of all, we want to monitor the progress our students' progress. If they do not improve from one year to the next, we want to know why. The SAT results allow us to zero in on specific skills (reading, language, math...) and measure how well a student has mastered each. For example: Language Mechanics and Language Expression comprise the two parts of the Language test on the SAT. If a student performs below grade level average on the Language test, we can pinpoint exactly why and where.

What do the tests tell us? Standardized testing provides us with valuable information needed to help address the academic needs of an individual and/or entire grade level. While these tests to help us determine individual student progress from year to year, we also use them to determine the effectiveness of our overall school program. The SAT results provide teachers and staff with a picture of each grade level's performance on the test, spotlighting strengths and areas of potential growth.

How do we use the test results? For starters, we look at each individual child to better understand his capabilities. While standardized tests provide a small glimpse of how the child performs on a given day, we can look at her previous test scores to understand how well she is progressing in specific areas like the Mechanics part of the Language test. Teachers pay extra attention to those students who repeatedly perform below grade level, and may recommend tutoring, small group work, curricular adjustments, or referrals to outside support. Then, as a school, we use the results to determine which curricular areas need revision or updating.

How are we doing? The overall results from this past spring show that each grade level performs at or above average, and that some individual classes are performing a full grade level above their tested level. Well done, St. Therese!



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our website at www.communitydayschool.org

Madrona Toys for Tots Drive

For the second year in a row, Barbara Banon, the local Edward Jones investment representative, is supporting the U.S. Marine Corp Toys for Tots program, and using her office in the Bowling Green building as a drop off location for donations. Madrona residents are encouraged to help needy children by delivering new, unwrapped toys any time during regular business hours beginning November 21.

“With the holiday season around the corner, we are all getting ready for the festivities,” says Barbara. “As this is the season of giving, now is a great time to remember the less fortunate in our community.”

Edward Jones offers clients a variety of investments, and investment advice. Visit Barbara at 3304 E. Spring Street or call 323-0440.

Christmas Ships December 22

It's a Madrona tradition not to be missed. This year the Christmas ships will float by Madrona Beach on December 22. The Con Brio Columbia Women's Choir will be aboard the lead ship when it leaves the Kirkland waterfront at 7:00 p.m. The fleet motors first to Luther Burbank Park (7:50-8:10pm), and then heads to Madrona. The ships are scheduled to be off Madrona Beach from 8:40 to 9:00pm and the city will provide the usual blazing bonfire—provided the weather cooperates. In years past, there has also been hot cocoa, holiday songs, and plenty of friends and neighbors to mingle with. It should be fun this year too, as always. But don't be late—the ships have to be back in Kirkland by 9:40pm.

Conrow Paste-up

Conrow Porcelain Studio Hosts Holiday Show

Save the date!

Ginny Conrow's Porcelain Studio will once again light up with new treasures for the holiday season as part of the citywide craft tour, Seattle Sampling. Her studio at 1429 34th Avenue will be open to the public on December 2 from 4-9pm, and on December 3&4, 10 & 11, and 17&18 from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Three talented artists will join the show, offering an array of porcelain, glass, jewelry and fabric art. Kate Beck, who moved three years ago to New Orleans, has temporarily relocated in Portland and will be part of the show, exhibiting new work, with more painted silks than usual...something she can do in her more limited studio space! She will be here in person for the second weekend of the show, December 10 and 11. D'Arcie Beytebiere will show a variety of new glass work, from small trivets to large platters, her themes both floral and fauna, as well as her fabric-oriented overlaid glasswork.

Ginny Conrow continues her explorations of crystalline glazes, inspired by her participation as a speaker at the September international crystalline glazing conference in Kansas City, where she gave a talk about her unusual glazing techniques and met many of the leading international figures in the crystalline glaze world. Susan M. Goodwin's work, with new gems and designs for this holiday season, glitters invitingly, rounding out this fine collection of holiday gifts.

Don't miss meeting these artists and seeing their newest work, while enjoying the holiday season close to home in the Madrona area! Guitarist Erie Jones will play throughout Friday evening's opening, a delightful musical addition to the evening! Other stores along 34th Avenue will be open late to help you with your holiday shopping.

For additional information contact Ginny at 324-0734 or www.conrowporcelain.com.

Barbara Bannon
paste-up

Medgar Evers Pool

500 23rd Ave / 684-4766

Swim lessons now available!!!

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All ages instructed-All strokes taught.

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A bargain at \$4.50 per ½ hour lesson*

*Sold in sessions of 6-12 lessons.



Neighborhood Congrats

Wow, can you believe the stuff our neighbors do? Kudos and congrats to these Madrona folks for getting involved, making a difference, and doing what they love.

Wendy and Matt Carroll for showing off their incredible “Mara Hari Lounge,” complete with purple and red walls, pinball machine, and View-Masters full of pictures from their wedding.

Roy McMakin who was featured *Puget Sound Business Journal* story that told the tale of when a teenaged Roy replaced the dining room table and chairs in his parents home with a Mission-style set he bought with money earned from selling his landscape paintings one night when his parents were out for dinner.

Cindy Monte of 33rd Avenue for writing a wonderful story that ~~was just published in a short story collection called~~ *Lit the Third*. Get a copy at the Weaving Works in the U-District.

Former Madrona resident and current Madison Park gal **Lee Rhodes** whose glassybaby super-votive candles are getting press everywhere, especially after Lea appeared on the new Martha Stewart show.

Richard Silverstein for speaking out on KBCS is 91.3 FM on the dial and encouraging people to support 1-190, the anti-smoking initiative.

Candidates for office **Brian Thomas**, Metropolitan King County Council District 2, and Seattle City Council **Richard Conlin**. Win or lose, it takes guts to put yourself out there for all to see and judge.

Seattle Times writer **Danny Westneat** for bringing attention to a car accident victim whose insurance company was threatening not to pay her medical expenses. Thanks to public pressure—and the fact that they were wrong—Farmer’s Insurance is now taking care of its policy owner.

*Hidden Spring
paste-up*

Madrona Computer pasteup

Delicious Food—Prepared in Your Home

Wouldn’t you love to sit down in the comfort of your home with family and friends to share a meal, deliciously prepared by a personal Italian cook? Imagine...you savor the aroma of garlic gently sautéing in your kitchen as Michael prepares authentic Italian ethnic dishes from the freshest, highest quality seasonal ingredients; each dish prepared exactly as you like it.

“Some people live to cook, some cook to live; I combined both and created Michael’s Cucina”, says Michael D’Ambra. After working for years in the Insurance industry and relocating from Chicago to Madrona, Michael recently turned his life-long passion into a new business.

His love of cooking stems from childhood when his second generation Italian mother, Filomena, prepared wonderful “peasant” Italian meals for her husband and four sons. The D’Ambra home was always full of fresh Italian foods. As an adult, Michael experimented with spices and ingredients to create his own variations of traditional Italian meals. Over the years, family and friends have gathered at Michael’s home for many special meals. During the holidays, Michael celebrates in typical Italian tradition by serving fish for Christmas Eve, ham and white foods for Easter, and sausage-stuffed turkey for Thanksgiving.



Friends have always wondered why Michael didn’t open a restaurant. For him, it’s important to feel the personal impact of his cooking, and so instead of a restaurant that left him in the kitchen and his “guests” in the diningroom, Michael christened his in-home cooking business, Michael’s Cucina. This way he can personally create an “interactive” cooking experience for people in their own home. He gathers everyone together and prepares an Italian feast as the hungry crowd observes, helps, and has a chance to “watch and do”.

“I get to cook all day long and make people happy and that makes me happy!” says Michael.

This very affordable, unique experience provides an outstanding, stress-free meal. Italians do this all the time and now the people of Madrona can enjoy the traditional Italian spirit. What could be better than good food with family and friends gathering together to *feel the love of food*.

Are you hungry yet? Contact Michael J. D’Ambra, proprietor and cook of Michael’s Cucina at Michaelscucina@aol.com, www.michaelscucina.com, or (425) 223-5350. *Mangia!*

Mutt Match-up answers: Jan & Charlie, Grace & Georgia, Amy & Beckett, Echo

Leschi Senior Center in Crisis

By Diane Snell, The Leschi News

Once word got out that the Central Area Senior Center is in deep financial trouble, the Leschi Community Council (LCC) hosted an unusually large number of concerned neighbors at its November meeting. Most came prompted by fear—fear that the Center might close and of course, the underlying fear that the city might decide to sell this prime property at 30th Avenue S and King Street with the multi-million dollar view. Anyone who has participated in the exercise class knows the wonder of stretching and flexing with a spectacular view of Mt. Rainier.

The Central Area Senior Center has had a deficit for the last three years. It faces an even larger budget gap next year when its umbrella agency, Senior Services, plans to cut its funding in half to just \$50,000. Center Director Linda Jones explained to the audience at the meeting that it costs \$19,000 a month to operate the Center, and that annual \$15 memberships, facility rental fees, and community fundraisers simply do not cover these costs. Any grants that the Center receives from local businesses or other groups are administered by Senior Services, which takes 28% off the top. Senior Services also prohibits the Center from approaching large corporations because major corporate donations are reserved for the umbrella agency.

Seattle City Council members David Della and Tom Rasmussen attended the meeting and tried to allay the fears. They reported that other Senior Centers are also experiencing funding shortfalls for this year, and said that the City Council will look at ways to address this common problem. They recognize that long range plans to put all the Senior Centers on a solid financial base are needed. One idea being considered is to turn the Senior Center into a Community Center that offers programs for all ages.

Another serious issue for the Center is a lack of volunteers. Some Centers, such as the more affluent Northshore Center, have hundreds of volunteers who can staff the reception desk and handle other tasks that the paid staff does not have time for. In the past, the Central Area Senior Center had two full-time and one part-time staff members but the staff is now down to 1 and one half persons. This lack of support means the Center Director is frequently called away from her usual duties to answer the phone and greet visitors. One bright spot at the neighborhood meeting was when local resident Gary Rossen offered to help maintain the grounds. He will need a crew of helpers as the lack of regular grounds maintenance has left some areas in serious need. If you wish to help, call Gary at 722-6318.

There are plenty of other volunteer opportunities. If you can take a four-hour shift as a receptionist, help in the kitchen, or drive a van for senior outings, call the Center at 726-4926. Hosting day trips was producing some income for the Center but the outings had to be curtailed due to a lack of volunteer support. One simple thing that everyone can do to help is to join the Center. You do not need to be a senior and the annual fee is only \$15 until January 1, 2006, when it goes up to \$20. It's a small price to pay to keep this jewel in our community.

If you have never been to the Central Area Senior Center, the Diversity Committee of the LCC invites you to visit and enjoy the annual community Holiday Party on December 3, from 6:00 to 9:00pm. LCC sponsors this annual event to encourage dialogue between people of various races in our community and everyone is most welcome. Meet your neighbors and celebrate! Bring a side dish and enjoy the food, piano music by Johnny Lewis, and children's activities. For further information contact Flora Cole at 322-5869. Thank you for your support.

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YMCA paste-up

Fryfuel Co-op Update

By Nikola Davidson

Biodiesel is here in Madrona to stay! The Madrona Biofuel Co-op has been officially launched and will start serving its members on December 1. In October, the local group of biodiesel enthusiasts met with Dan Freeman, of Dr. Dan's Alternative Fuel Werks, who shared general information about the benefits of biodiesel and answered specific questions about how to run a biodiesel co-op effectively. At a subsequent meeting, the group decided to cap membership at 20 and each member committed to invest \$100 to cover initial co-op start-up costs. Tom Flood, who owns Madrona Automatic, has generously donated his time, labor, and space to create and house a mobile shed to store the pump and biodiesel tank.

Madrona residents have been so enthusiastic about the co-op that that the cap of 20 members has already been reached and there is now a waiting list. The members picked December 1 as the day that the co-op will be fully operational. This will allow enough time for Tom time to build the shed, and the steering committee to draft bylaws for the group. In keeping with the co-op philosophy, members will rotate administrative duties and work together to make sure operations run smoothly. The biodiesel will be delivered to Madrona Auto by Dr. Dan's on an ongoing basis.

For more information—or to get on that waiting list—contact me at nikola@stickywicketcrafts.com.



Madrona/Leschi Citizens Against the War (MCAW) gather on October 26, 2005 at 23rd and Union to commemorate the 2000th American Death in Iraq.

*Dentist
Paste-up*

Fall Dining & Sipping for Fun

It was a great night for the 14 neighbors who gathered around a long table at Dulces Latin Bistro to enjoy friendships, wine, and delicious French food.

From biking barge trips in England and Holland and St. Bart's, to favorite movies at the Central Cinema or the Northwest Film Forum, the group discovered a world of connections and shared interests. Residents who have been in the neighborhood since 1976 swapped stories with those who had been in Madrona less than a month. Books and movies were critiqued, advice about kids and pets shared, and who knows exactly what those three guys at the south end of the table were talking about?! The group all wished the runner at the table's north end best of luck in the New York City marathon.

In other words, we had another great night and we'll gather again after the holidays. We hope you all will be there on January 26 for the next Madrona Dining & Sipping Society. It's a great way to start the New Year so put it on your calendars now!

Library Seeks Homework Volunteers

The Seattle Public Library is seeking volunteers to help tutor students at several neighborhood libraries, including the Madrona-Sally Goldmark branch at 1134 33rd Avenue.

Homework Help volunteers help students understand homework assignments, provide guidance in solving math problems, and improve study techniques. If you are interested in volunteering for the Homework Help program, contact Anne Vedella, Seattle Public Library volunteer-services coordinator, at 386-4664.

*Leslie Lucas
paste-up*

MADRONA Community Calendar



It's calendar time again! Check below and online for events in your neighborhood. If you have events to add to the on-line or want to have them included in the printed calendar in next month's *Madrona News*, please send an email to Erika Shaffer at Erika@sutherlandgold.com

- TUESDAYS – THURSDAYS 7-9pm, LIVE MUSIC – Dulces Latin Bistro, 322-5453
- WEDNESDAYS 10:30am PRE-SCHOOL STORY TIMES—Madrona Sally Goldmark Library, Lynn Lorenz 684-4705
- WEDNESDAYS 9:30am, MADRONA MOMS RUNNING GROUP - meet at 36th and Pine, Nikki.lundin@comcast.net
- WEDNESDAYS 8-10:00pm, PICK-UP BASKETBALL FOR ADULTS—Madrona K-8, \$3 to benefit the school, SteveOrser@yahoo.com
- THURSDAYS 7:30pm, AA/ALANON MEETING— Epiphany Great Hall
- THURSDAYS — MONDAYS 8:30pm LIVE MUSIC—St. Clouds 726-1522, calendar of performers at www.stclouds.com/NewFiles/music.html
- FRIDAYS 7:30am, MADRONA/LESCHI CITIZENS AGAINST THE WAR—Demonstration, corner of 23rd and Union
- SATURDAYS 9:30am, MADRONA MOMS RUNNING GROUP—meet at Madrona Beach Parking Lot, Nikki.lundin@comcast.net
- SATURDAYS 10-11am & 3-4pm FAMILY SWIM—Medgar Evers Pool 684-4766

- Nov 1 – Dec 15 Pre-registration and Sibling Enrollment for Seattle Public Schools – www.seattleschools.org
- Nov 19 Madrona Woods Work Party! - 10 -2 PM, Meet at 38th and Marion, Deirdre McCrary, jaymccrary@gbronline.com
- Nov 19 National Adoption Day Celebration, “My Heart’s Story” 10AM – 1PM, Amara Adoption Services (corner of Union and 34th), (206) 260-1710 or eric@amaraparenting.org
- Nov 21 Madrona Toys for Tots Drive Begins - Edward Jones office at 3304 E. Spring St., Barbara Banon 323-0440
- Nov 24 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
- Nov 25 No school
- Nov 29 Neighborhood Academy at Safeco Open Book Discussion: *When Broken Glass Floats* by Chanrithy Him— 23rd & Jackson, 7:00-9:00pm, FREE
- Dec 1 Neighborhood Academy Classes at Safeco— Relax with Reiki with Eileen Wurst, MA, 23rd & Jackson, 7:00-9:00pm, FREE
- Dec 2 Conrow Porcelain Studio Open House—In conjunction with the 2005 Seattle Sampling citywide craft tour, 4-9PM, 1429 - 34th Avenue, 324-0734 or www.conrowporcelain.com.
- Dec 3&4 Conrow Porcelain Studio Open House—In conjunction with the 2005 Seattle Sampling citywide craft tour, 10AM-5PM, 1429 - 34th Avenue, 324-0734 or www.conrowporcelain.com.
- Dec 6 Neighborhood Academy Classes at Safeco— Festive Fabric Origami with Fern Lam of the Fernacity Group, 23rd & Jackson, 7:00-9:00pm, FREE
- Dec 6 Madrona Community Council Meeting - 7:15 PM, Madrona Playfield shelterhouse, Bill Hanson, 322-3450
- Dec 8 Neighborhood Academy Classes at Safeco— Felt for the Holidays with Madrona’s own Nikola Davidson of Sticky Wicket Crafts, 23rd & Jackson, 7:00-9:00pm, FREE
- Dec 10&11 Conrow Porcelain Studio Open House—In conjunction with the 2005 Seattle Sampling citywide craft tour, 10AM-5PM, 1429 - 34th Avenue, 324-0734 or www.conrowporcelain.com
- Dec 17 Benefit Concert for Powell Barnett Park—Two shows featuring local artists Darren Motamedy, 1:00 PM and 2:30 PM, Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, 104 17th Ave. S, 684-4757
- Dec 17&18 Conrow Porcelain Studio Open House—In conjunction with the 2005 Seattle Sampling citywide craft tour, 10AM-5PM, 1429 - 34th Avenue, 324-0734 or www.conrowporcelain.com
- Dec 21 Homeless Cooking—St Clouds Restaurant, 9 – 12PM, 1131 34th Ave, 726-1522
- Dec 22 Christmas Ships at Madrona Beach—Enjoy a bonfire and caroling on the beach, 8:40-9:00
- Jan 8 Open House— Lake Washington Girls Middle School, 1:00PM, 511 16th Avenue South, 760-1526 or www.lwgm.org.
- Jan 26 Madrona Dining & Sipping Society—Community dinner at Dulces Latin Bistro, 6:30, RSVP to Audrey Seale at audreyseal@qwest.com

December						
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