

MADRONA NEWSLETTER

Monthly Meeting

Every First Wednesday at 7pm
Playfield Shelterhouse

LIVE, WORK, PLAY & CONNECT

Your source for neighborhood
news, events, and history.



Volunteer

Mayfair Turns 50

“The only thing more consistent than bike decorating, fire trucks, food, and a mix of clowns, magicians, and entertainers is the last-minute scramble to find helpers.”



■ Madrona Playfield Shelterhouse during Mayfair 2025

By Zac Lee, Volunteer Editor

Mayfair is celebrating 50 years of parades, games, dancing, and fun this year! The only thing more consistent than bike decorating, fire trucks, food, and a mix of clowns, magicians, and entertainers is the last-minute scramble to find helpers. As Mayfair has grown, so has the need for volunteers.

Since we relaunched the Madrona News, we've received many heartfelt messages of gratitude from longtime

residents who have called this place home for almost as long as Mayfair has existed. Many of them have participated in the festivities, brought their kids to enjoy the events, and witnessed the neighborhood transform.

Whether you are new to the neighborhood, have lived here for decades, or have fond memories of decorating your bike at Al Larkins Park before zooming down 34th with your friends to the playfield for an afternoon of fun, we

invite you to get involved. As one previous editor aptly put it, “What are you waiting for? An engraved invitation? Get involved! Extra hands are always needed, and this is an easy way to get to know the people who live next door to you, whom you pass on the street every day, see in the parks, at the Hi-Spot, or while out walking their dogs.”

A full Mayfair guide, including ways to get involved, is on page 3.

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Cleanup Recap

“Thank you to the 80+ people who showed up”

By Cindy Krebs, Madrona Cleanup Day Coordinator

Thank you to the 80+ people who showed up to clean up on April 19. What a great day! We enjoyed meeting you and it was fun to learn why some of our newest residents and some of our longest-tenured neighbors love living in Madrona. The common theme was “Madrona has a strong sense of community” and that makes us happy because building community is what we’re all about!

We plan to host another Cleanup Day in the fall and hope to have a vendor on site for e-waste recycling. If you’re interested in that, please make a donation via our website to support the effort. And, please note that volunteering for Cleanup Day doesn’t require a three-hour commitment. If you only have an hour to spare, we’d love to have you join us. Every little bit helps.



Volunteers at the spring 2026 Cleanup

Letter From The President

By Amy Glick, MNA President

So here we are—May! Month five of 2026, and we’re settling into the longer (and brighter) days in the great Northwest. This month will also bring us a blue moon—the second full moon in a single calendar month. These occur about every 2.5 years, so it’s a special treat. Enjoy it! May 1 and May 31st!

We had a wonderful kickoff event on April 19, when Madrona neighbors came together to clean up our community. Dozens of neighbors showed up on Sunday morning—with friends, family, and even dogs—to grab bags and collect trash and other items that don’t belong on our streets. Together, we filled more than 40 large bags.

Thank you—and double thanks—to everyone who generously gave their time. A special shoutout to our cleanup captain, Cindy, who spearheaded and organized such a successful event.

One inspiring moment from that morning has stayed with me. I met a mother and her young son who were especially enthusiastic about the cleanup. She shared that they now go out every two weeks to pick up trash around Madrona. After last year’s event, they decided it was a meaningful

and enjoyable way to spend time together while giving back. Armed with their “borrowed” grabbers, they’ve made it a regular habit—observing the neighborhood, playing “I spy,” and taking pride in caring for their community.

That story has kept me smiling ever since. This is what Madrona—and being good neighbors—is all about.

I hope to see many of you at Mayfair on May 16 from 9:30–12:30. I’ll be at the MNA table—please stop by and say hello!



Amy Glick, President of MNA

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Zac Lee
Neighborhood Realtor
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COLDWELL BANKER **BAIN**

Your Guide to Mayfair

Saturday May 16th

By Ramona Konitzer, VP of MNA

We are excited to invite the neighborhood to this year's Mayfair on Saturday, May 16th.

We'll start at 8:30 AM at Al Larkins Park with bike and scooter decorating. We will provide streamers and decorations, so just bring your wheels and get ready to make them festive.

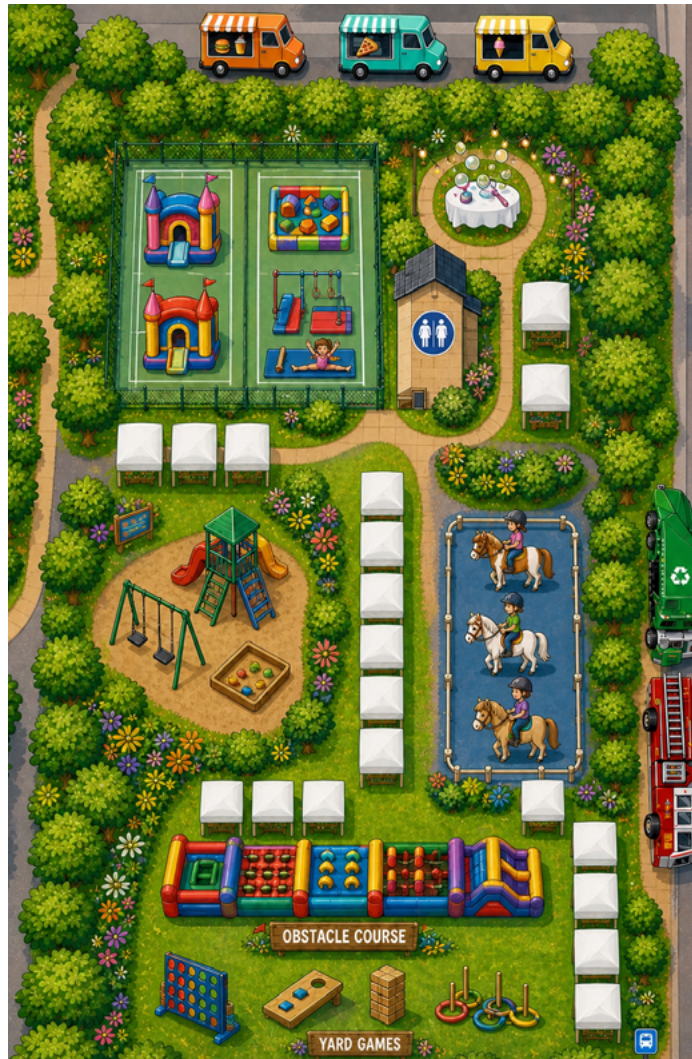
At 9:15 AM, the parade will line up, and at 9:30 AM we will head out together toward Madrona Playfield. The parade will be led by a Seattle Fire Department fire truck, along with dancers from Spectrum Dance Theater. Keep an eye out for a mascot joining at the front of the parade too.

Once we arrive at Madrona Playfield, the celebration continues with booths, activities like pony rides and bounce houses, and plenty of community fun. You'll also find Cambium's Cultivation Station, balloon creations from Bloon, and giveaways from the Seattle Sounders FC.

Admission and all activities are free. Mayfair is donation based. Food will be available for purchase from local food trucks, and tickets can be purchased at the MNA booth for cotton candy, popcorn, and water.

We need about 30 people to make this event happen. If you can help, even for a short shift, please sign up. We truly cannot do this without community support. High school students can earn their volunteer hours by helping us!

Admission and all activities are free. Mayfair is donation based.



Preview of Mayfair map. Final layout subject to change.

Street Closures

34th Ave (From Al Larkins to Madrona Playground) 9:15 AM to 9:45 AM

Spring St (between 34th Ave and 35th Ave) 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Booths & Food

B & B Ice Cream

Scoops and Novelties

Which Came First

Sandwiches

Dawg Eat Dogs

Hot Dogs

MNA Bake Sale

Homemade Baked Goods

Bloon

Balloons

Epiphany

Popcorn, Music & Crafts

Giddens School

Crafts

Cambium

Cultivation Station

Lakeview Kids Dentistry

Kids Items

Seattle Sounders

Branded Swag

Face Painters

Kids Face Painting

Recology

Die Cast Toy Raffle

Madrona PTSA

Shirts, Snacks, and Baby Food

Madrona Elementary

Info and Giveaways

Madrona Library

Free Books

Spectrum Dance Theater

Class Cards & Brochures

Bubble Table

MNA Sponsored Bubbles

Edward Jones

Info Table

St. Therese PTSA

Crafts

MNA

Neighborhood Swag & Info

Get Involved

Sign up for the task you would most enjoy doing or you can sign up for a general volunteer. We appreciate your time!

Setup and Break Down

- Friday Prep
- Setup 7:30 am Start
- Cleanup
- MNA Table
- Bake Sale Table
- General Volunteer

Activity Monitors

- Bike Decorating Station 8:30
- Bounce House
- Obstacle Course
- Parade Helper
- Inflatable Games

Volunteer for as little as 1 hour!



Scan to sign up

Business Feature: Nido

By Angel Cetorelli

The story of Rita Sheckler's boutique, Nido, is a story of small business courage, community support, and—of course—elegant, curated clothing.

Rita had been working at the Belltown boutique Baby & Company for 25 years when the owners decided to close their brick and mortar at the start of the pandemic. She had worked hard to build a community of customers who appreciated high quality, fabulous clothing, so she quickly decided that leaving it all behind wasn't an option.

Nido began in 2020 as a weekly Zoom event where Rita, sometimes alongside other personal shoppers, would showcase clothing and jewelry for boutiques who were struggling to sell their inventory because of pandemic stay-at-home orders. Many small clothing shops in Seattle and across the country didn't have online stores, and many unfortunately never reopened their doors, but some stayed afloat with the help of experienced sellers like Rita.

Clients from Rita's decades of selling fine clothes would learn about the Zoom events from her Instagram then tune in to see the week's offerings. If a client liked a particular piece, they'd arrange to have Rita drop it off at their doorstep, try it on, and make the purchase.

With many clients living in or near Madrona, the neighborhood was an obvious location when it came time to open a brick and mortar boutique of her own. The shop first opened in March 2021 across the street from its current spot as a sublet from a friend whose building had a sudden COVID vacancy. Soon, Rita stopped selling others' inventory and went to market herself, and Nido crossed the street to where you'll find it today, 1421 34th Ave.

The 34th-Ave location of Nido—which is Italian for “nest”—is a sort of homecoming for Rita, whose children attended Madrona Elementary. Returning to the neighborhood as a business owner means returning to a community that she's always found welcoming. “Relationships and community are everything to me,” Rita says, “I'm thrilled to be a part of Madrona.”

“Relationships and community are everything to me. I'm thrilled to be a part of Madrona.”

At Nido, you'll find women's clothing that rejects trends in favor of comfortable pieces made to last. Style-wise, the clothes at Nido tend toward the casual and oversized but with an elegance that can only come from skilled design and high quality construction.

Rita buys in New York, Milan, and Paris, so a lot of the garments at Nido come from family-owned European brands that design and produce their own clothing. As many of these small operations cut their clothes to order, she often must place her orders six months in advance, and there's no guarantee that the same styles will be available next year. But to Rita this is a good thing, keeping Nido's stock fresh and exciting to customers who keep coming back to explore what's on the rack.

So, next time you're looking for some timeless threads to add to your wardrobe, pop into Nido to see what's new. Rita and shop dog Juno—Rita's super friendly pit bull—would love to say hello.



Junio greeting newcomers to Nido.

1421 34th Avenue
Tues-Sat: 11am-6pm
Sun: 12p-5pm

nido

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Women...
AND MEN

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Madrona en Fleurs

By Anne-Sophie Ledieu,
Blossoms Coordinator

There's a special kind of joy that arrives each spring in Madrona, and this year it feels even brighter. Thanks to the generosity of our residents, local businesses, and friends of the neighborhood, we have officially reached our fundraising goal for the 2026 Blossoms program. We are deeply grateful for every contribution, large or small, that helped bring us to this moment.

The flower baskets will be installed on May 15th, just in time to welcome everyone to Mayfair. Come stroll through our little village, enjoy the blooms overhead, and take time to explore all that our local shops and restaurants have to offer. These baskets are more than decoration, they're a reflection of the care and pride we share as a community.

Thank you again for keeping this tradition alive and blooming.



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Neighborhood Voices

The “Why” and “Where Next?” for the Seattle Comprehensive Plan

By Dave Mentz

Seattle has experienced a severe housing shortage for many years, and without a significant intervention this imbalance and its effects have been forecasted to continue to accelerate. Following are a few of the effects of this issue:

1) Costs for both home ownership and rental housing have increased markedly over the years, substantially outpacing income gains since the year 2000. 2) Due to limited availability of housing within one's affordability range, forced relocations away from Seattle have become common. And an inability for many moderate and lower-income employees to find affordable housing within or near the city is prevalent these days. 3) Dramatic changes in neighborhood composition have continued to occur at a rapid pace. This is reflected in a marked decrease in the socioeconomic and ethnic diversity in many neighborhoods. This dynamic has created many winners, including a large number of existing homeowners in desirable neighborhoods. Meanwhile, it has made these neighborhoods very difficult to live in for most would-be buyers or renters. 4) By any measure, homelessness in Seattle is out of control. Through his research, UW Professor Gregg Colburn reached a conclusion that later became the title for his book, “Homelessness is a Housing Problem.” Addiction, mental illness, and other factors may afflict at least some of the unhoused—but these conditions are not primary causes of homelessness.

Analyses of Seattle's housing stock and future demand point to the need for a dramatic increase in housing supply to meet the current and future demand. Per a 2025 King County Housing Needs Assessment, 308,000 new housing units are needed by 2044 (a 33% increase from the current level), with 60% of these housing units being affordable for those below 80% of area median income (AMI).

In response, the state, county, and city have passed legislation aimed at increasing housing supply and affordability. Often, proposed legislation has met opposition from those in neighborhoods represented by predominantly single-family housing. A number of opponents indicate that they favor increased density and availability of affordable housing, but that their neighborhood is not the right place for this

change. The Seattle Comprehensive Plan, which represents the cornerstone of this legislation for the city, was approved in December, 2025, with refinements occurring now. A link to more information about the plan can be found within the MNA website: <https://madrona.us/oneseatle/>

Lawmakers—and all of us—face challenging crossroads as relates to this existential crisis. On the one hand, most of us want to preserve the qualities of our neighborhood that we value. Some feel that the new zoning regulations threaten the livability of the neighborhood as we've known it, while others believe that we can have both retain neighborhood quality of life and produce increased supply and affordability. There is clear evidence that we need more housing, greater density, more socioeconomic diversity, and ultimately, a willingness to change. How will we navigate our course during this opportunistic but potentially challenging time?



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Learn More

Joel Connelly The Dean of Northwest Journalism

By Diane Cotman

Joel Connelly didn't chase stories. He inhabited them—and fearlessly called out every hollow one.

Born in 1948 in Bellingham to waterfront worker Joe Connelly and the legendary journalist Dolly Connelly, he inherited two enduring gifts: a profound sense of place and the conviction that real journalism must defend it.

For nearly 47 years he wrote for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. When the paper went dark in 2009, Joel kept writing—for Post Alley, the Northwest Progressive Institute, and anyone who would publish him. He covered every



Photo Credit joelconnelly.com

Seattle mayor's race since the 1970s, interviewed four presidents, and chronicled nine presidential campaigns. He liked to say you could judge any campaign by what it fed the reporters. Reagan's cold bologna sandwiches on white bread earned his lasting scorn. Jimmy Carter's hot beef stew, fragrant with onion and bay leaf, won quiet respect. Joel smiled every time he told the story.

He was the insightful, straight-talking conscience of Seattle journalism. Allergic to spin, impatient with pretense, and constitutionally unable to let a bad idea pass. Leaders respected him because he knew the history, the trails, the backrooms, and the terrain better than they did. Governor Bob Ferguson called him “our state's premier political analyst.” Senator Patty Murray praised his shoe-leather reporting and integrity.

Madrona knew him as tireless advocate and beloved neighbor. For more than 30 years he lived at 1422 35th Avenue with his beloved partner, Michelle “Mickie” Pailthorp—a fierce civil rights attorney and passionate advocate for environmental and women's rights. That address was famous across Seattle's political world: a trusted sanctuary where sources from every side confided in Joel. Yet inside, the house brimmed with life—laughter from Mickie's three children, Bellamy, Melissa, and Aaron, two exuberant standard poodles, walls of books, and the warm chaos of family. Every Christmas they hosted the most coveted party in Seattle politics: jam-packed gatherings that drew a true who's who of officials, journalists, and neighbors

He held court at Tuesday breakfasts at the Hi-Spot Cafe with Madrona's thinkers and insiders. On Saturdays you'd find him at Café Soleil, slowly working through the New York Times over Ethiopian coffee. He mentored young journalists with genuine generosity. He loved his poodles, classical music, Notre Dame football, and the streets of Madrona he walked until neuropathy slowed him.

His good neighbor Carla Caldwell provided a neighborhood assisted living that kept Joel in his home—helping with the laundry and the groceries and preparing him the sumptuous soul-food cooking, especially the legendary sweet potato pie, he loved so much. It was assisted living the Madrona way: the steady, generous kindness of friends and neighbors. Only in his final months did he move to Horizon House.

Joel the conservationist hiked the Cascades like others read menus. He knew every peak, fought for the Alpine Lakes, Wild Sky, Arctic Refuge, Tongass, and Bristol Bay, and once stopped a logging threat at Larrabee State Park in just 48 hours. His Notre Dame faith grounded it all, making him a proud voice for the religious left and turning his journalism into a moral calling.

He published his last column on April 15, the day he died.

Joel Connelly lived the rarest kind of life: relentless in defense of what wasn't yet wrecked, relentlessly human. He defended wild places, held power accountable, and told the truth with heart and bite.

Joel Connelly: A Madrona Neighborhood Legend.

Kids Corner

THE ADVENTURES OF THE WIZARD AQUARIUS

Chapter 2, Part 2 Aquarius & the Moon

By Megan Carol Haas

Imagine what would happen if anything went wrong! What if he turned the moon into a human, and then she refused to go back into the sky? What would the world do without a moon? Even worse, what if he transformed her into a human, but his magic wasn't strong enough to change her back into the moon again? What a terrible thought. His parents would be extremely upset.

As Aquarius was considering what to do, the moon's silky voice turned sweeter and more delicious than his mother's ginger cake, spinning around him like a spider wraps her web around a fly. Aquarius found himself fascinated with the idea that he might be strong enough to transform the moon, after all. He longed to impress her with his powers and imagined them sitting and eating cake together in his tower room, sharing ideas and knowledge. He would tell her how the moon looks from down on the ground, and she would tell him how the earth looks from among the stars. What excellent friends they would make! He felt very special indeed. Yes, Aquarius knew that the moon was very sneaky.

But somehow, he found himself forgetting that now, which was just as the moon had planned. With her cold and captivating powers, she easily tricked Aquarius into feeling just how she wanted him to feel, so he would do exactly what she asked.

Aquarius moved to the open window, shifted his wand into a magnetic state, and pulled the moon down from the sky, right into the empty chair beside him. Aquarius was thankful that she had changed from a huge, round glowing disk into a laughing, innocent-looking little girl in a silver nightdress. Her gray eyes winked at him as her hand shot out for a slice of cake.

"Ah! Not so fast, there, madam," Aquarius said, coming to his senses for a moment. Pulling the cake just out of her reach, he pointed to the clock on the wall. "Tea-time will last one hour, and then it must be back to work for both of us. Do you agree?"

The moon did agree, but she was crossing her silvery fingers behind her back. And when all the tea and cake were finished, she begged, as children do, for just one more hour of tea-time. And then one more, and then two more.

When it became clear that the moon wasn't going to keep any of her promises, Aquarius stood up and made his voice stern, the way grownups do. But like any naughty child, the moon did not hesitate to run away. Looking for the quickest escape route, she threw herself out of the tower window, intending to streak like lightning across the fields and forests and remain a silvery little human for exactly as long as she pleased.

Aquarius knew then what a mistake he had made. Quickly, he transformed into a peregrine falcon, which is the fastest bird anywhere, and zoomed out the window after her.

It did not take Aquarius long to catch up with the moon, because she had forgotten all about being human. Humans cannot throw themselves out of tower windows without being hurt. The unhappy moon lay on a fortunately placed pile of straw in the castle courtyard, in the darkness, nursing a badly injured leg. She was shocked by the new feeling of pain in her body. Being human, it turned out, was not all about drinking tea and eating ginger apple cake.

Being human, the moon decided, was not for her. At that moment, all she wanted was to be comfortable and at home. Without a word, she looked at Aquarius and pointed a little silver finger at the dark sky above.

Just as silently, Aquarius picked her up and flew into the air. The further he went, the faster the moon flowed out of his arms and away from him in one long stream of light. Soon there was just one last moonbeam left, and Aquarius watched as it joined the others to form the shimmering ball above.

In that moment, the moon's silvery spell over him was broken.

He flew home, greatly relieved that this risky adventure had ended. Looking up at the dark windows of his parents' workshops, Aquarius was satisfied that his mother and father had not noticed anything, and he vowed to himself never to take such a dangerous risk again. **Stay tuned for another installment next month!**

Mutt Matchup

Who says people always look like their pets??? To play Mutt Matchup, match the people and their dogs. *The answers are on page 8*



Pippa



Heather - 32nd Ave



Luca



Dan - 30th Ave



Ezzie



Michael - 33rd Ave

About the Author

Megan Carol Haas lives in Madrona. Support a local author and purchase the full book at Madrona Family Dental! Or online at Amazon or Barnes & Noble, available in e-reader, audible, or paperback.

For more information about Megan and The Adventures of the Wizard Aquarius, please visit: www.megancarolhaas.com/aquarius

From the Community

Madrona Elementary's Garden Springs to Life

By Arti Desai and Julian Trowbridge Madrona PTSA

Madrona Elementary ushered in the beautiful spring with a series of fun-filled Garden Parties! The series kicked off April 4th with a garden refresh. Parents and kids joined forces to dig weeds, plant herbs, and flower seeds. After their job was done, the group hit the blacktop for an energizing Ethiopian dance party led by one of our parent volunteers. At the most recent event on April 26th, they planted a blueberry patch, dahlia bed and more flowers! Additionally, a new sign, painted by kids, is going up along the fence. The upcoming party on May 31st will feature transplanting pumpkins for fun classroom activities in the fall.



The school also successfully jump-started a new garden docent program led by two of our incredible green-thumb parents, Julian Trowbridge and Steve Dorsch. Students will participate in lessons tied to their grade level science curriculum. The learners will explore their relationship to plants, what plants need and connect this to their local environment. They will then have an opportunity to explore the garden using all their senses and get their hands in the dirt planting. Sessions are led by our amazing volunteers.

Community volunteers are welcome to participate in classroom lessons and will need to complete the SPS volunteer approval process.

Come check out our new garden sign, beautiful flowers, and blueberry patch! (On Spring Street between 32nd and 33rd). And feel free to reach out: garden@madrona-ptsa.org or check out the website at <https://padlet.com/MadronaGarden/grow>

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Local
Postal Customer

Upcoming Events

This Month

May 15

Michael Weinstein Exhibition
Domicile Gallery • 7:00 PM

May 16

Mayfair
Madrona Playfield • 9:30 AM

May 16

Mayfair
Madrona Playfield • 9:30 AM

May 17

Yumidesserts Pop-up
Yoka • 8 AM

May 20-24

Insidious Trilogy: A Theatrical Event
Spectrum Dance Theater -
On The Boards • 7:30 PM *

* Ticketed event. See business or organization website for more info.

Mutt Matchup Answers:

Dan & Luca - Heather & Ezzie -
Michael & Pippa

Upcoming

June 17

Last Day of School
Madrona Elementary

Recurring

First Wednesday

MNA Public Meeting
Playfield Shelterhouse • 7 PM

Every Saturday

Run Club
Yoka • 9 AM

2nd and 4th Monday

Family Story Time
Madrona Library • 1:30 PM

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