

MADRONA NEWSLETTER

Monthly Meeting

Every First Wednesday at 7PM
EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST

LIVE, WORK, PLAY & CONNECT

Your source for neighborhood
news, events, and history.



Volunteer

Halfway Through 2026

“Thank you to everyone who has contributed their **energy, ideas, and enthusiasm.**”



Mayfair 2026 kids parade.

By Amy Glick, MNA President

Well, it's June—we're almost halfway through 2026, and what a time it has been in Madrona!

Together, we've accomplished so much already this year. We relaunched our neighborhood newsletter, rolled up our sleeves to clean up our community, hung our beautiful flower baskets, and celebrated a tremendously successful Mayfair. Each of these efforts reflects what makes Madrona so special: neighbors coming together, volunteering their time, and taking pride in the place we call home.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed their energy, ideas, and enthusiasm. Whether you attended an event, volunteered for a project, donated, or simply helped spread the word, you have helped strengthen the fabric of our neighborhood.

As we head into the summer months, there is much more to look forward to. Longer days, warmer evenings, community gatherings, and opportunities to connect with one another remind us how fortunate we are to live in such a vibrant and caring neighborhood.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our new **Summer Solstice Picnic at 4 PM on June 20th** at the Madrona Playfield. It's a great way to casually come together and enjoy the longest day of the year.

Here's to a wonderful summer ahead and to continuing all the great work we're doing together in Madrona!

One last note: There will be *no MNA meetings in July or August*. Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 2. Follow us on Instagram @madrona-neighborhoodassociation for updates in the meantime.

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Celebrate Interdependence Day Host a Potluck in Madrona

By Aaron Hurst

More than half of Americans report feeling lonely. Over half say they feel isolated, left out, or lacking companionship — and that was before this year. Research from the US Chamber of Connection finds that only 26% of Americans have a reliable third place to gather, and just 28% report having meaningful one-on-one relationships outside their immediate circle.

We're not just lonely. We're losing trust in each other.

That's why the Chamber of Connection, a national civic organization based right here in Seattle, is partnering with America's Potluck across all 50 states to help reach a goal of 25,000 neighborhood potlucks on Sunday, July 5th.

The idea is simple: bring a dish, meet your neighbors, share a meal. No agenda. No program. Just the people who live on your block.

Madrona is a natural fit. Want to host or co-host? Visit AmericasPotluck.org for a free toolkit with everything you need, or reach out to Aaron at aaron@chamber-ofconnection.org.



Advertise in the Madrona News for as low as \$125/month. Email us at newsletter@madrona.us for more info.

Each issue is mailed directly to over 2,600 addresses: 2,500 homes and 100+ local businesses.

Mayfair Recap

"Thank you for a wonderful Mayfair"

By Ramona Konitzer, VP of MNA

Thank you to everyone who came out for Mayfair! After weeks of watching the forecast and wondering what the weather had in store, we were grateful that the skies surprisingly cooperated and gave us a beautiful day to gather as a community.

It was wonderful to see neighbors enjoying the parade, pony rides, face painting, bounce houses, slides, booths, games, performances, food, and all the small moments that make Mayfair such a special Madrona tradition.

Mayfair is free to attend, thanks to community support. If your family enjoyed the day and would like to contribute, donations are always appreciated and help offset the costs of activities, permits, supplies, and entertainment.

Thank you again for showing up, volunteering, donating, and helping make Mayfair a joyful day for the neighborhood.



Wren the Juggler at Mayfair 2026

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Madrona Drive Improvements

Madrona Drive Improvement Coalition Leads to New Pedestrian Enhancements in Madrona

By Madrona Drive Improvement Coalition

In May, the Madrona Drive Improvement Coalition learned that more than 20 new pedestrian safety improvements (including marked crosswalks, all-way stop signs, daylighting, and other enhancements) have been approved and are moving into the design phase, with installation anticipated as early as summer 2027.

The coalition formed in response to longstanding concerns about pedestrian safety along Madrona Drive and 34th Avenue. These corridors are heavily used by families, students, seniors, runners, and cyclists, yet many areas lack adequate crossings, sidewalks, and traffic-calming measures. Coalition members worked with many of you, community organizations, elected officials, and city staff to advocate for safer streets and improved pedestrian infrastructure.

At last count, 396 individuals have signed a petition calling for additional safety improvements along Madrona Drive and 34th Avenue. While the recently approved projects represent meaningful progress, the coalition continues to advocate for complete sidewalks, additional traffic calming, and safer routes for all who travel through the neighborhood.



- 1 Marked crosswalk on north leg
- 2 Paint and post curb bulbs to square the intersection
- 3 Marked crosswalk on north leg
- 4 Daylighting
- 5 Multi-use path protected by flexible posts
- 6 Marked crosswalk on the east leg and daylighting
- 7 Marked crosswalk on the west leg and daylighting
- 8 Marked crosswalk on the east leg and daylighting
- 9 All-way stop signs and marked crosswalks on all legs
- 10 Marked crosswalks on north and south legs and daylighting
- 11 Marked crosswalks on north and south legs and daylighting
- 12 Marked crosswalks on north and south legs and daylighting
- 13 Marked crosswalks on north and south legs and daylighting
- 14 Daylighting
- 15 Marked crosswalk on the north leg
- 16 Marked crosswalk on the south leg and daylighting
- 17 Marked crosswalk on north and south legs and daylighting
- 18 Marked crosswalks on the south and east legs, and all-way stop signs
- 19 Marked crosswalks on the north, south, and east legs and all-way stop signs
- 20 Marked crosswalks on the north, south, and west sides and all-way stop signs
- 21 Marked crosswalks on the north, south, and west sides and all-way stop signs
- 22 Marked crosswalk on the east leg and daylighting

"Daylighting" improves intersection visibility by using paint, posts, or signs to prevent people from parking too close.

To read the petition and get involved, visit:

<https://www.change.org/p/improve-safety-measures-along-madrona-dr-34th-avenue>

You can also contact the coalition at:

MadronaDrImprovementCoalition@gmail.com

We are grateful to the neighbors, community advocates, and city staff who helped move these projects forward. These improvements are an important step toward making Madrona safer, more walkable, and more welcoming for everyone.

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Music in the Playfield Returns: Meet Your 2026 Lineup

By Kyle Parker-Robinson, Music in the Playfield Coordinator

Week 1, Tuesday, August 11

Miller Campbell

The season opens with the return of Miller Campbell, who last played Music in the Playfield in 2024 and left the crowd buzzing with her twangy, gritty, and extremely honest brand of heartland rock in the spirit of Tom Petty and John Mellencamp. A cousin of country legend Glen Campbell, Miller spent three years playing in a Seattle band before settling in Bigfork, Montana, where she now writes and records.

A lot has happened since her last Madrona set. Miller has released her self-titled debut album and is touring the UK and Europe this summer before bringing the band back home for opening night.

Mark your calendars and see you at the playfield! Concerts are free, family-friendly, and held rain or shine. Bring neighbors, bring chairs, bring kids, bring dinner. More info to come in the July newsletter and a complete guide in the August edition.

Week 2, Tuesday, August 18

Jacqueline Tabor

Anchoring the middle of the season is Jacqueline Tabor, one of Seattle's most celebrated jazz, blues, and swing vocalists. Jacqueline has won Earshot Jazz Vocalist of the Year four times and was recently inducted into the Earshot Jazz Hall of Fame.

What makes a Jacqueline Tabor performance memorable is not just the resume. It is the way her voice can quiet a crowd, even in a busy summer park. Her depth of skill, emotional range, and honesty pull every listener in, whether you came for the jazz or wandered over from the playground. Backed by her band, August 18 is the kind of evening worth bringing a blanket for.

Week 3, Tuesday, August 25

Frames in Motion

The series closes with Frames in Motion, a joyous five-piece indie folk-rock band from Seattle led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Jack Shriner. Jack's family lived in neighboring Leschi for a decade, and he still thinks of Madrona and Leschi as home, which makes this booking a bit of a homecoming.

The band fuses interlocking vocal, guitar, fiddle, and keyboard melodies with rhythms that tend to get people up and moving. The songs are reminiscent of classic pop-rock but forge ahead with a voice uniquely their own, and their live set is built to close out a summer evening on the grass.

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COLDWELL BANKER BAIN

Spotlight: Central District Farmers Market

By Angel Cetorelli

The Central District Farmers Market opened May 15 to excited shoppers undeterred by the gloom. In defiance of the bluster and gray, vibrant fresh fruits and veggies unequivocally sang spring, and the smiling faces of vendors and customers alike warmed the market grounds.

The story of the Central District Farmers Market begins in 2005. The market was originally named Madison-Capitol Hill Farmers Market—or “MadCap,” for short—for the various locations it occupied across the neighborhoods over the years. Then, in 2008, the market moved to its current spot at the Grocery Outlet parking lot on the corner of Union St and Martin Luther King Jr Way and rebranded as the Madrona Farmers Market.

For 18 years now, the market has been a fruitful collaboration between the Seattle Farmers Market Association and Steve and Deborah Mullen, owners of the Madrona Grocery Outlet, allowing customers to shop for their usual staples and discover some new seasonal favorites all in one place.

The market has now undergone its newest name change to the Central District Farmers Market, a change that Ben Chandler, the market's manager, hopes will expand the market's reach and encourage more people to experience the seasons through food.

“Rebranding as ‘Central District’ allows the market to more accurately reflect the full range of neighborhoods that shop here,” Ben says, “Madrona remains an important part of that makeup, as do Cherry Hill, Madison Valley, Leschi, Judkins Park, and many more. We hope that this refresh allows even more people to feel connected to this market and the wide variety of Washington State producers who vend each Friday.”

“We hope that this refresh allows even more people to feel connected to this market and the wide variety of Washington State producers who vend each Friday.”

Ben Chandler, manager of Central District Farmers Market

On offer at the Central District Farmers Market are fresh-baked loaves of bread, buckets of beautiful flowers, ready-to-eat foods like popsicles and New York style pizza, and—of course—a bevy of local fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, and more. Although some vendors cycle in and out the market based on the seasonality of their goods, the roster remains pretty consistent throughout the season, so you can return again and again to your favorite vendors. And you might even see some familiar faces: Many vendors at the Central District Farmers Market also sell at Ballard, Wallingford, Madison Park, and other markets. Now, they're just a shorter trip away.

The new phase of this market is a great opportunity to discover—or rediscover—the quality goods and that wonderful community feeling of shopping local, so be sure to pay the Central District Farmers Market a visit sometime this season. You might just find yourself coming back week over week.

You'll find the Central District Farmers Market in the parking lot of the Madrona Grocery Outlet, on the corner of Union St and Martin Luther King Jr Way. The market operates between 3 PM and 7 PM on Fridays, and will run through mid-October. Dogs are welcome but must be leashed.



MNA is looking for a Secretary

We are looking for a volunteer to record meeting notes, send monthly meeting invites, and generally help keep the Madrona Neighborhood Association organized.

Interested? Please contact Amy Glick at president@madrona.us

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People of This Place

Profiles from Madrona's Past and Present

Longtime anchors, newer residents, civic contributors, and neighbors whose mark remains. Through biography and interview, this section tells the personal stories that shape Madrona, connect generations, and give the neighborhood its character and sense of community.

By Diane Cotman, Editor and Writer

The Front Car North

On a morning in 1949, in the colored waiting room of the Illinois Central depot in Jackson, Mississippi, a 24-year-old named Sasarine Hodge sat with a shoebox of fried chicken on her lap and waited for a train she would not be allowed to buy a meal on. She had paid \$45 to be there - a sharecropping family's fortune, about \$620 in today's money - the price of leaving her momma, her daddy, and five brothers behind in Pochahontas. When the northbound train came, the conductor waved her toward the first coach, the one coupled right behind the engine, where the cinders blew back hardest and a wreck would arrive soonest. That was the Negro car. She carried her box and climbed aboard alone.

What she rode was the Main Line of Mid-America. A few miles north of Jackson the track runs through Canton, where, half a century before, a Black engine wiper named Wallace Sanders had cleaned the locomotives of this same Illinois Central and turned a fellow worker's death into "The Ballad of Casey Jones," one of America's greatest and most popular folk songs. Sasarine could not have known she would one day tell his story to Seattle's children. For now there was only the front car: woodsmoke and grit in the teeth, the no-heat cold, a toilet that emptied straight onto the rails, and the long hours of not being allowed to walk back to the dining car. She ate from the box. She watched Mississippi go by.

Then the train crossed the Ohio River at Cairo, into Illinois, and a conductor came down the aisle and flipped the little signs over the doors. The racial labels came down. Riders who had said "sir" and "ma'am" their whole lives were told, in so many words, that they could now sit wherever they liked. The people who lived that minute never forgot it. In Chicago she changed stations and climbed aboard the Great Northern's Empire Builder, and rode two more nights and some 2,200 miles - past the headwaters of the Mississippi, across the Montana plains, under Glacier's peaks, into the long dark of the Cascade Tunnel - in an ordinary coach seat. Like anyone.

She stepped off at King Street Station, under its Italian clock tower, into a city her older sister Celestine had reached four years before on the same rails out of the same Jim Crow. Seattle was booming then. Boeing and Bethlehem Steel had pulled thousands of Southern Black workers west, and Madrona - where the lake had once cradled the summer houses of wealthy white Seattle - had been split clean in two. Restrictive covenants and redlining penned Black families, Jews, and immigrants to the west side of 34th Avenue. This was the era of "separate but equal." And on its own side of the line it was wholly alive: block parties and backyard cookouts, children safe at Madrona Playfield, elders honored, neighbors who knew your name, and back doors no one bothered to lock.

At People's Institutional Baptist Church, under the Reverend Fountain W. Penick - preacher, organizer, early civil-rights leader - Sasarine found her footing. She met and married Felix LeCroix, a Seattle boy six years younger, schooled at Copernicus Grammar and Limblom High, who would serve six years in the Army through the Korean War era and spend some 35 years at Bethlehem Steel, making the rails and freight cars that stitched the country together. They settled at 826 30th Avenue and never left. Sixty-two years they were married, until she died on March 27, 2011. Like so many great loves, Felix followed her sixteen months later.

Madrona knew her as Aunt Dixie. Long before Madrona, as a girl in Mississippi, she had found Jesus and been baptized young - dunked under the brown creek water and raised up new - and that calling shaped every year that followed. She believed God had made her a Black woman on purpose and handed her a charge: to keep her people's story and give it back to them whole. So with her own hands she built hundreds of dolls and intricate dioramas - kings and queens, inventors, teachers, civil-rights leaders, the everyday heroes - each one made with dignity, each one a lesson. They traveled to schools and churches and libraries across the Central District. Her railroad scenes carried Wallace Sanders and Casey Jones, that song born on the very line that had once carried her north in its meanest car.

Now her railroad artistry is on view at the Douglass Truth Library, at 23rd and Yesler. Go see it. Stand in front of the work of a girl who once rode in the front car because she had to, and who spent the rest of her life making sure no child of Madrona would ever doubt where they came from, or how far a person can travel.

Know someone who should be profiled? Email newsletter@madrona.us



Photos courtesy of Calvin West



Sasarine and her husband Felix

“She stepped off at King Street Station, under its Italian clock tower, into a city her older sister Celestine had reached four years before on the same rails out of the same Jim Crow.”

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Kids Corner

THE ADVENTURES OF THE WIZARD AQUARIUS

Chapter 3, Part 1

The Wicked Little Kitten

By Megan Carol Haas

The comfortable and cozy castle that Aquarius lived in had a large kitchen, which always smelled like a just-baked apple pie. Unlike the rest of the castle, the thick wooden ceiling beams were low, which made the kitchen feel homey, and the floors were stone, worn and velvety smooth. Every pot and pan had its place, and every counter was scrubbed clean after use, because Mona didn't hold with a messy kitchen. The sun shone in through a long row of windows, and the breeze carried in the scent of herbs, fruits, vegetables, and flowers from the garden.

The great hearth stretched almost all the way across one wall. Far away on the opposite side of the room was an old table, made from a single, enormous slab of oak, perfect for family dinners. Behind this table was the doorway that led to Mona's tower workroom. (Yes, each member of the family had a tower workroom of their very own.)

Mona grew up in the castle and had known this kitchen all her life. When she settled down with Raul, Grammy Featherwing, who was Mona's mother, moved to a much smaller castle down the road, where she lives to this day.

Grammy Rhododendron Featherwing, by the way, is the most charming and delightful wizard, but we'll have to talk about her another day, because you're going to hear about someone else—and that someone was a kitten with the sensible and very uninteresting name of 'Socks.'

There were seventeen kittens who lived in the castle. And in front of the great hearth were seven-teen small velvet cushions, with fancy tassels on their corners. This was where the kittens loved to sleep for hours or play with the tassels on their cushions. They loved being scratched by Mona, especially around the ears.

They were allowed to explore the kitchen, and only the kitchen— this was because there were sometimes dangerous spells being worked on in the rest of the castle, spells that might transform a wandering kitten into something very unpleasant, like a raincloud or a basket of mushrooms. But the simple truth is, Raul was allergic to cats, and that's why the kittens were not allowed anywhere except the kitchen.

Life was peaceful and easy for the kittens until Socks moved in. Socks was delivered by bicycle one Sunday morning by the Wizard Alistair, who was not, in fact, a wizard. His real name was Mr. Brown and he lived in the castle up the road, wore a flowing blue cape, raised kittens, and taught children (including Aquarius) how to play the piano. He was very much loved by everyone he knew, and nobody minded that he called himself a wizard but wasn't one. He had an excellent sense of humor about life and loved living in a castle. Who wouldn't?

On that fateful morning, there was a knock at the door of Aquarius' family castle...

Stay tuned for the second part of Chapter 3 next month!

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

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*



Otis



Peter



Oreo



Tom



George



Ben



Sarah Crane O'Neill, LICSW

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From the Community

Madrona's Multicultural Night

Brings the World to School

By Christine Khosropour and Arti Desai, Madrona PTSA

Madrona Elementary's Multicultural Night on May 7th was a joyful celebration of vibrant cultures, traditions, and stories. With students and families representing 47 different countries, the evening highlighted the incredible diversity that makes Madrona such a special place. More than 400 students and family members filled the school for a night of food, music, dance, history, and community connection.

Families generously shared more than 30 homemade dishes from around the world, giving attendees the chance to experience flavors and traditions from many cultures. Guests sampled an

Vietnam, Ethiopia, Argentina, India, Germany, Eritrea, Italy, Kenya, and many more countries, including chà giò, empanadas, doro wot, brown masoor daal, mandazi, baklava, black beans and beignets, gumbo, and many other treasured family recipes passed down through generations.

The evening's performances brought tremendous energy and excitement to the event. Student groups from the University of Washington wowed the audience with a classical Indian dance performance and a lively Mariachi band. Madrona students also proudly showcased their own talents through spirited Bollywood dancing, clogging performances, beautiful clarinet pieces, and songs from the choir.

In addition to the entertainment and food, families explored educational displays and interactive activities throughout the school. Hallways were transformed with colorful class projects, an interactive world map, and a visual timeline highlighting the rich history of Madrona and Seattle's Central District. Educational sessions about Ramadan and the Black Panthers gave students and families opportunities to learn more about important cultural traditions and historical movements.

The event was a powerful reminder of the diversity, creativity, and sense of belonging that define the Madrona community. Thank you to the many families, students, staff, volunteers, and performers who helped make the evening such a meaningful and memorable celebration.

Interested in getting involved in future Madrona events? We'd love to welcome more volunteers and community support for future events and programs. Contact us at ptsa@madronaptsa.org.



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Scenic Wallpaper Kirstin Lamb

July 2–July 31, 2026

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Seattle Indivisible

By Victoria Allen, Seattle Indivisible

Seattle Indivisible is an effective, progressive, inclusive and persistent grassroots organization inspired by the nationwide Indivisible Movement. We are engaged in a struggle for the very soul of our nation. We envision a future where we have rebuilt the bridge between constituents and our government and have translated our grassroots energy into progressive electoral power. Our mission is to defend our democracy and build a just, equitable society.

We encourage all to join us and become involved as a volunteer with Seattle Indivisible. We have many volunteer opportunities, including helping with large rallies and marches, adopting a corner or train station to protect our vulnerable neighbors, and helping us to get out the vote in both our state and other states in this important election year. There are many ways to get involved, contact us today!



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MADRONA NEWSLETTER

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Add your voice to the neighborhood news!

Email newsletter@madrona.us to submit articles, feedback, or inquire about advertising.

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Upcoming Events

This Month

June 17

Last Day of School
Madrona Elementary

June 20

Summer Solstice Picnic
Madrona Playfield • 4:00 PM

June 27

*L'Arche Seattle BBQ & Picnic
Madrona Park • 12:00 PM

Upcoming

July 17

*Community Supra
Glassybaby • 6:00 PM

Recurring

First Wednesday

MNA Public Meeting
Playfield Shelterhouse • 7 PM

Every Friday

Central District Farmers Market
23rd & Union • 3 PM

Every Saturday

Run Club
Yoka • 9 AM

2nd and 4th Monday

Family Story Time
Madrona Library • 1:30 PM

Submit
your event!
newsletter@madrona.us



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

Mutt Matchup Answers: Ben & George, Peter & Oreo, Tom & Otis