

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.



Join the
Team

One Summer Evening

Last summer, a simple chat at **Neighborhood Night Out** sparked the return of this newsletter.



29th and Pike, Neighborhood Night Out 2025

By Zac Lee, Madrona News Volunteer Editor

Four summers ago, my husband and I moved to Madrona. We started with hellos on the sidewalk, meeting neighbors along the way. Before long, we realized something rare – people here actually know their neighbors! When Neighborhood Night Out came up, I asked if our block was planning anything. Someone said the tradition had faded during COVID. The long-time organizer had stepped back. So, like the eager new kids on the block we were, we raised our hands to help bring it back. Two summers later on the first Tuesday in August, chairs lined the street. Kids raced scooters

between neighbors trading travel stories, gardening advice, everyday stuff.

A neighbor named Daniel mentioned the old Madrona newsletter, prompting someone to ask, “Whatever happened to that?” Others joined in, and nobody had the answer, but I was curious. That curiosity led me to my first neighborhood association meeting. I thought maybe I could lend a hand somewhere. Before long, I found myself helping relaunch the newsletter. I had no idea what I signed up for, but today we’re publishing our fifth issue of the re-launched Madrona News.

The response has been larger than anything I imagined. A ton of you have told me you look forward to reading it. Businesses have stepped up. New volunteers have brought their energy and creativity. And when I think back to that circle of chairs on a summer night, it feels fitting. Community isn’t built by newsletters, (but they do help!). It’s built by conversations, by pulling up a chair and staying awhile. As we gather again this year for Neighborhood Night Out, and Music in the Playfield, please join us. You really never know where one conversation might lead.

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A full guide to this year’s festivities.

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Business Spotlight: Poppie

By Angel Cetorelli

Release the balloons, drop the confetti, and give a cheer for this celebratory new addition to the Madrona neighborhood! July 25th marked the launch of Poppie, the newest business from long-time Madrona-based photographer Christina Shires. Joining her photo studio Smallish at its 34th Avenue location, Poppie promises to amp up the festivities on the Ave with balloon bouquets, vintage candy, and other fun party paraphernalia, plus a party rental space complete with a photo booth to capture those merry memories.

Introducing this new business is a wonderful expansion of the studio that builds on the curated, connection-focused space Christina has worked to create since she originally opened Smallish in February 2017. Back then, she noticed a lack of studios in the area and decided to start her own, one that would offer portraiture sans props so that the subject truly shines. A temporarily toothless smile, that silly pose they're always making, the giggle you can hear just by seeing it—these are the things that matter when it comes to family photography, not over-stylized set dressing that imposes its own personality on the picture.

Now, with Poppie, Christina's bringing even more joy to the Madrona neighborhood. The balloon bouquet boutique and nostalgic candy counter, featuring throwbacks like Mary Janes and Satellite Wafers, is sure to have you coming in whenever you're party-planning—or even for the party itself, once the second-floor rental space opens in January 2027.

As for how the two businesses will work together in their shared space, Christina puts it simply: "Smallish preserves the moment. Poppie celebrates it."

With Poppie, Christina continues to center the people who come through her doors, which will soon be open Wednesday through Sunday, 12pm to 6pm, for shoppers to come in without appointment to discover the delightful surprises in store. The kids of the neighborhood will especially like Penny Candy Day—weekly on Thursdays—when you can get a bag of assorted candies and a balloon for just \$1! (Don't worry, adults too can join in on the fun.)

The expansion of hours and offerings that Poppie will bring to the studio space complements other small business openings at the southern end of 34th Avenue, growing our little community hub with more fun places to pop in and explore. It's also growing the team at the studio, with Christina hiring two employees to help out with the retail and party rental responsibilities.

Like community, celebration and the people we choose to party with are so important to our lives, and together Poppie and Smallish keep them close to heart. For Christina, what it all comes down to is this: "Life is precious."

Poppie cut the ribbon and opened their doors on Saturday, July 25. You'll find it at the same location as Smallish Photo Studio, 1113A 34th Avenue. Wednesday to Sunday, Noon to 6 PM.



“Smallish preserves the moment. Poppie celebrates it.”

- Christina Shires, photographer and owner of Poppie and Smallish.





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MADRONA

YARD SALE DAY

Saturday, August 8th

9AM - 2 PM

Join us for Madrona's annual Community Yard Sale Day

If you have items to sell, register your yard sale to be included on the official neighborhood map. It's a great opportunity to declutter, meet your neighbors, and give your unwanted items a new home.

Looking for great deals instead? Visit madrona.us/yardsale to view the yard sale map and plan your shopping route through sales across the neighborhood.

Madrona businesses will be hosting a sidewalk sale following the yard sale day!





SIGN UP

VIEW MAP

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

Junius Rochester: One Last Appearance

Every Sunday of his boyhood, Junius Rochester sat with his family in the third row, left side, of Epiphany Episcopal Parish at 1805 38th Avenue. So when a car struck his dog, he grabbed him and made a beeline for the church door, expecting a miracle. The Reverend Elmer B. Christie told him, simply: it was too bad, and there was nothing they could do. It was a blow. He lost his dog that afternoon, and a faith with him. Junius was, by constitution, a boy who trusted plain facts. Indignant, he vowed never to set foot in the church again. That's the story everyone knows. Perhaps, the truer version came years later. Junius and Janice had a happy, active family: Steve, Julie and Tommie. Then young Tommie got leukemia and began fighting for his life. As his boy struggled, getting sicker, losing the fight, the anguished father asked. Begged. For a miracle, for a change of course. The miracle did not come. There was nothing they could do. Tommie died just after his tenth birthday. Junius vowed never to set foot in the church again. He kept his word.

Which is why what happened on Friday, March 13, 2026, seemed supernatural. Some 150 friends, family, and neighbors had filled the Epiphany sanctuary for his memorial service when the power went out across the entire neighborhood. It was Lent; the windows were covered; the room went dark, very dark. Folk singer Libby Roderick had come from Alaska to sing for her cousin. Her gentle voice needed a speaker. Speakers need electricity. Candles were hurriedly found and lit.

Perhaps it was when the vestments caught fire that we all looked at one another and wondered whether Junius Rochester was making one last appearance from beyond the grave. It certainly made Madrona history. Junius was a storyteller, and he would have loved this one — for the mischief (anyone who knew him could see it in the twinkle of his eye) and because it is a story about people. History, for Junius, was neighbors, madronas, and the faint clang of streetcars still echoing in memory.

A Walk With Junius

Born and raised in Madrona, Junius could tell you the story of nearly every house and rail — the Queen Anne Victorians, Craftsman bungalows, Seattle Box foursquares, Tudor Revivals, and Ellsworth Storey's Arts and Crafts landmarks. A walk with Junius was a Madrona adventure: the 1904 Victorian on 34th where the Hi-Spot now serves breakfast, its storefront the old neighborhood bakery, the cinnamon rolls worth the walk; the Peaceable Kingdom in front of the library; Madrona Beach, the first integrated beach in Seattle, where he swam. It was Junius who taught me why the madrona tree matters and why the neighborhood carries its name. He was eagerly preparing to tell Madrona's whole story in his own voice for the Madrona Beach Project, its concrete wall becoming a mural of turn-of-the-century Madrona. But now, who can re-create a lifetime of memories?

Three Generations Deep

The Rochester roots ran deep — three generations deep. His grandfather, Judge George Alfred Caldwell Rochester, came from Kentucky in the late 1880s, landed smack in the Panic of 1893, and built a solid life anyway. His father, Alfred "Al" Rochester, sliced bread as a 14-year-old at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in 1909, served on the Seattle City Council from 1944 to 1956, and — over lunch at the Washington Athletic Club — tossed out the idea of a world's fair. That casual spark became Century 21, the 1962 Seattle World's Fair: the Space Needle, the monorail, and all.

Junius was born into that legacy on April 21, 1934. Garfield High all-city hurdler, Whitman College, University of Washington history, Harvard Business School; an international career — the U.S. Department of Commerce, MacMillan Bloedel — then his true calling. Ten books, among them "The Last Electric Trolley: Madrona and Denny- Blaine," our story from the ice ages to Kurt Cobain. "Eminent Seattleites" in Seattle Weekly. A hundred vignettes read weekly on KUOW. A shelf of honors, including the David Douglas Award. But mainly, Junius was a family man. "He lived a long life with many adventures," wrote Joanne, his beloved wife of 35 years. He did. He thought of each of his children and grandchildren deeply and particularly — the right book, the right adventure, uniquely theirs — always reaching out, always offering, and then watching, delighted, as they chose for themselves. Each one has a story: children Steve and Julie; granddaughter HoneyMae; Joanne's children Shannon and Barry; grandsons Finnegan and Tennessee.

The Neighbor on the Porch

Madrona knew him best on foot, in conversation. Joe Martin, his neighbor on the same block, remembers porch talks of history and politics — and great times at the Madrona Arms. Joe calls him the "genius loci" of local history. On Tuesdays he held court at the Hi-Spot with Madrona's thinkers — David Brewster, Roger Sale, Bobbi Spaeth, Richard Conlin, and fellow chronicler Joel Connelly among them. On Saturday mornings he read the New York Times at Cafe Soleil. He hiked with the Mountaineers, crossing the Olympic range in nine days in his mid-60s, and attended the Seattle Symphony two days before he died. Junius died peacefully at home on November 18, 2025, at 91, beside Joanne — and with him went 90 years of Madrona memory.

He was Seattle's keeper of itself — one who understood that a city's character lives not in monuments but in the particular lives of particular people, told with care. As Junius always said, "Madrona: the roots run deep."



Photos by Joanne Rochester

“That casual spark became Century 21, the 1962 World's Fair: the Space Needle, the monorail, and all.”





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MADRONA Music IN THE Playfield

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD • YOUR MUSIC • YOUR PARK

FREE TUESDAY CONCERTS IN AUGUST!

6 TO 8 PM • MADRONA PLAYFIELD • 917 34TH AVE, SEATTLE

Welcome back to Madrona's annual tradition: Music in the Playfield. We're taking over the Madrona Playfield for three Tuesday evenings this August with concerts by artists with local connections. Bring blankets, lawn chairs, a picnic, and the whole family for an evening of music and community.

All three concerts are free and all ages, and the series runs rain or shine. A calendar note: there is no concert on Tuesday, August 4. That night belongs to Seattle Night Out block parties, so enjoy your block and we will see you the following week.

The series is organized and run entirely by Madrona Neighborhood Association volunteers with help from local sponsors and donations from neighbors like you. To contribute or volunteer for an hour or an evening, email Kyle at musicintheplayfield@madrona.us or stop by the booth at any concert.



EACH TUESDAY

- | | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|----------------|
| 5:30 | Gathering opens | 7:00 | Intermission |
| 6:00 | METER Music School | 7:15 | Music resumes |
| 6:15 | Main band on stage | 8:00 | Closing Thanks |



THE LINEUP



Three Tuesdays, three bands with local ties

AUG 11



MILLER CAMPBELL

Miller Campbell 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.

Since then she 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.

AUG 18



Photo: Lisa Hagen Glynn

JACQUELINE TABOR

Jacqueline Tabor is one of Seattle's most celebrated jazz, blues, and swing vocalists. She 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.

AUG 25



FRAMES IN MOTION

Frames in Motion is 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's show channels Jack's tightly crafted original songs, fusing interlocking vocal, guitar, fiddle, and keyboard melodies with dance-inducing rhythms. Dive-In Magazine praises "the multi-layered warmth of this band's elemental sound."

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P O P P I E
THE BIRTHDAY BOUTIQUE

Kids Corner

THE ADVENTURES OF THE WIZARD AQUARIUS

Chapter 3, Part 2

The Wicked Little Kitten

By Megan Carol Haas

Mona opened it and there stood Alistair Brown, wearing his midnight-blue cape and his favorite peaked hat covered with twin-king gold stars. His cherry-red bicycle was leaning against the castle wall. He smiled widely at Mona and presented a small basket. "Special delivery," he said in his deep voice.

Mona peered into the basket and saw a kitten, black, mostly, with the sweetest whiskers and a rumbling, ragged purr. "Oh! How delightful!" Mona held back her long hair as she leaned in to enjoy the purring.

"I call her Socks," Alistair pointed out, picking up the kitten so Mona could see the adorable white paws. "Socks! Yes, how perfectly practical," Mona agreed.

She thanked Alistair, who insisted he could not stay for tea because he had two more kittens to deliver that morning.

Mona brought Socks back with her into the warm, light-filled kitchen. She took a new velvet cushion out of an old wooden chest by the hearth and set it next to the other cushions. The seventeen kittens of the castle watched with great interest as Mona put Socks down next to her cushion and explained the rules.

"Dear little Socks," Mona began, "I hope that you will love living here in our beautiful castle. This is your cushion, and these are your friends. We only have one rule in this castle. Kittens stay in the kitchen, and only the kitchen. In a moment, I will bring you a bowl of delicious fresh milk, and some fish. Now run along and get to know everyone!" She gave Socks an encouraging smile and a little scratch under her chin.

Something that happens to a lot of plant wizards is that they get distracted, and Mona was no different. She had been in the middle of making an apple tart when Alistair had knocked on the door, and she needed to check the oven. And there was an enormous butternut squash she'd been hollowing out for dinner. A pan of peppercorns had also been waiting on the counter for her to finish telling them the most entertaining story, which was causing them to turn from black to pink, like they should. Therefore, it was some time before Mona remembered to bring the new kitten some milk and fish.

When she finally approached the hearth, Socks the kitten was not on her velvet cushion. Socks was nowhere to be found. Mona looked at the seventeen kittens. "Where is your new friend?" she asked, raising one black eyebrow. The kittens suddenly became distracted by cleaning their sixty-eight sooty paws.

Mona searched under the sink and in every cabinet. She peered behind the huge glass jars of black beans and dried cherry tea, stopping every few minutes to glance back at the kittens, who were still busily cleaning their paws. Pausing for a moment to look at the cooling apple tart, she noticed that the doorway that led upstairs to her workroom tower had been left open just a crack.

Mona's tower had several passageways that connected it to the rest of the castle, which meant that Socks could be anywhere. Rushing up the winding stairs, she began to search each passageway and room, until she finally found little Socks in Aquarius's tower, curled up in a basket of clean laundry, sleeping soundly, or pretending to. Mona picked up the little kitten. "Are you going to be a troublemaker, Socks?" Socks just purred harder and nuzzled Mona's shoulder.

Socks may have had that rumbling, ragged purr, and the sweetest pounce, but she was not like the other kittens. She did not want to stay in the kitchen, and nobody could make her. Yet, she was so adorable and clever that everyone eventually gave in to her cunning nature, and they agreed, without speaking about it, to allow her wandering ways. The little kitten continued to roam, exploring all over the castle until she knew every room except one: Raul's tower workshop. Of course, it soon became Socks' favorite place to wander to, and the cause of her worst behavior. **Stay tuned for more of The Wizard Aquarius in Chapter 4 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*

Photographed and organized by Chloe Shively



English and Walter



Yitayal



Oreo



Grace



Sabrina and Fiona



Karl and Leslie

Submit your ideas, art & stories for Kids Corner to newsletter@madrona.us

From the Community

Madrona Elementary: A Look Back at its Roots By Arti Desai and Christine Khosropour, Madrona PTSA

And that's a wrap! Madrona Elementary celebrated its final weeks with a packed, fun-filled agenda including an energetic Field Day, a beautiful 5th-grade graduation ceremony, an exciting Kindergarten promotion ceremony, and a dynamic Glow-Up party! A special thank you to all our dedicated teachers and staff, Principal Carter, and the many family volunteers who helped make the '25-'26 school year such a bright and memorable one for our students.

This summer, we want to take you back in time with a brief history lesson about Madrona Elementary. As one of the central landmarks of our neighborhood, the school has a rich history, and we wanted to share what we learned about the roots of this remarkable community institution.

It all began in 1890, when the Seattle School Board purchased a portion of the Randell family's homestead property. The district converted an old barn into a two-room schoolhouse, aptly named the Randell School. By 1904, enrollment had doubled, and a new eight-room building was constructed and renamed Madrona School. In the 1920s, Principal Joseph W. Graham introduced the school motto, "Service and Good Will," encouraging students to embrace community service and social justice—two values that continue to resonate today. By the 1930s, enrollment had grown to nearly 700 students prompting the transfer of 7th- and 8th-grader students to Edmond Meany Junior High School. Over the following five decades, Madrona alternated between serving only elementary students and operating as a K-8 school.

During the 1970s, Madrona Elementary participated in several magnet programs as part of Seattle Public Schools' desegregation efforts. These initiatives included busing some students from the Madrona attendance area to north-end schools and bringing students from other parts of the city to Madrona so children from different backgrounds could learn together. Desegregation efforts also included busing students from other parts of the city to participate in an accelerated learning program within Madrona School alongside the neighborhood elementary school program. In the late 1990s, grades 6-8 returned, and the school was renamed Madrona K-8. With levy funding, Madrona K-8 completed major building renovations in 2002, including construction of a new gymnasium and installation of the iconic madrona tree sculpture at the corner of Union Street and 32nd Avenue. In 2017, the school once again transitioned to an elementary-only model and proudly became Madrona Elementary School, the vibrant neighborhood school we know today.

Stay tuned for Part II of our history series, where we'll explore how Madrona Elementary's mission is woven into the fabric of our beloved Central District and the broader community it serves. * Historical information and photo from HistoryLink Essay 10551 by Nile Thompson, Carolyn J. Marr, and Nick Rousso.





Sarah Crane O'Neill, LICSW

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Protect Your Pet

By Megan Wittenberg

Danger! Protect your Pet! Watch out for Foxtails!

Foxtails are a group of grasses of different species that have similar shaped seeds. A sharp pointed end that easily punctures skin and barbs that point away from the tip and pull the seeds deeper into the body. Foxtails can easily burrow into places like the nose, ears, eyes, and paws and become embedded. They can migrate to essential organs. Untreated it can get infected, blind (this happened to my friend's dog), and even kill pets.

Keep your pets safe and keep them out of it and check them carefully. They have really multiplied in the past few years in our neighborhood. Please look out for this and remove it from your property or parking strip!

Information and good photos for ID and control. <https://kingcountyweeds.com/2026/01/14/foxtail-grasses/>

Information about symptoms, areas to check, and what it takes to treat once embedded. Warning: some gruesome photos. <https://toegrips.com/foxtail-dog/>



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President's Message

By Amy Glick, President, Madrona Neighborhood Association

One of my favorite things about summer in Madrona is seeing the neighborhood come alive. Streets fill with conversations. Parks host concerts. Neighbors linger a little longer on evening walks. Before long, we'll gather again for Neighborhood Night Out, one of the best reminders that community isn't something we have. It's something we create together.

That spirit is also what keeps the Madrona Neighborhood Association going.

Everything you see in these pages, our community events, neighborhood communications, and countless behind-the-scenes efforts are organized by neighbors who simply decided to help.

As our organization continues to grow, we're looking for more people to join us. Maybe you're comfortable managing a website, creating graphics, posting on social media, writing emails, or helping local businesses stay connected. Maybe you'd rather help set up chairs before a meeting, organize a winter event, serve as secretary, or lend a hand wherever it's needed.

You don't need special experience. You don't need to commit every week. You just need to care about this neighborhood. If you've ever read this newsletter and thought, I'm glad someone is doing this, I'd encourage you to consider becoming one of those someones.

A few hours of your time each month can make a lasting difference for thousands of neighbors.

If you'd like to learn more, I'd love to hear from you.

You can reach me at president@madrona.us



**NIGHT
OUT
SEATTLE**

Find your block below and join your neighbors for a night of community building.



**TUESDAY
August 4th**

Typical start time between 5-6pm

Visit seattle.gov/police/nightout for more information.

Mutt Matchup Answers: Yitayal & Oreo, Karl/Leslie & English/Walter, Grace & Sabrina/Fiona