

# MADRONA NEWSLETTER

## Monthly Meeting

First Wednesday of  
Every Month at 7 PM

## LIVE, WORK, PLAY & CONNECT

Your source for neighborhood  
news, events, and history.



Volunteer

## Madrona Came Out to Play

More than 900 attendees filled the park for three nights of  
**Music in the Playfield.**



■ Jacqueline Tabor and her band during night two of Music in the Playfield 2026.

By Kyle Parker-Robinson, Music in the Playfield Coordinator

A big thank you to everyone who came out for a Tuesday night concert at the Playfield this August. Across three Tuesday nights, August 11, 18, and 25, more than 900 of you showed up with kids, blankets, and picnic dinners, and more than a few of you came to all three.

Thanks to our artists, Miller Campbell, Jacqueline Tabor, and Frames in Motion, and to all the supporting musicians, sound engineers, and volunteers who put these evenings together. We are lucky to live in a neighborhood that turns out for live music like this.

The concerts stay free thanks to our sponsors and the generous neighbors who donated at the events, helping us exceed our fundraising goal. Special thanks to presenting sponsor Meter Music School; nightly sponsors Poppie, Cambium, and Zac Lee of Coldwell Banker Bain; and series supporters Hitchcock and Lauren Essl. Meter students also opened two evenings with music they had practiced all summer. Please support these local sponsors and let them know you saw them at Music in the Playfield.

We are already working on making next year's concerts better. If you have

suggestions, scan the QR code or go to [music.madrona.us](https://music.madrona.us). We would especially love to hear about bands and musicians we should reach out to when applications open next year. Businesses interested in sponsoring the 2027 series should get in touch early.

To volunteer for Music in the Playfield or other events the Madrona Neighborhood Association puts on through the year, sign up at [madrona.us/volunteers](https://madrona.us/volunteers).

Thanks, and see you next year.



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# What I Found on Yard Sale Day

## Nearly 70 houses participated in the 5th Annual Community Yard Sale Day

By Zac Lee, Volunteer Editor, Madrona News

On our fifth annual Community Yard Sale Day, I set out to see how many sales I could visit. I made it to 15 before I had to call it quits, but what I brought home was less important than what I got to experience. (It was pretty sweet, though.)

With nearly 70 households participating, the neighborhood was buzzing. People wandered the streets with their arms full, stopped to talk with neighbors they had never met, and occasionally discovered that someone they already knew lived just around the corner. Children sold lemonade and baked goods, while at least one young entrepreneur drummed up business for their new weeding service.

At one stop, I met Juliana, whose daughter was helping her sort through a collection that included antique fishing equipment and Norman Rockwell plates. Juliana has lived in Madrona for more than 25 years and told me that her home once served as an early German consulate in Seattle. She also admitted that she probably would never hold a yard sale on her own. Knowing that she was part of a larger neighborhood event gave her the encouragement to participate.

That sense of shared participation is part of what makes this day special. One family told organizers that they return to the same house each year because their children are just a year or two younger than the sellers' children and share similar interests. Clothes, toys, and books move down the street to a new generation that will enjoy them all over again.

At another sale, I met Anthony, a volunteer with A Legacy Illuminated, an exhibition celebrating Black Arts/West, the groundbreaking theater company that operated in Madrona for about a decade. From 1968 to 1980, the company staged more than 75 plays and created an important home for Black artistic expression and community dialogue. Its former theater on East Union Street is now home to Glassybaby. The exhibition is on view at ARTS at King Street Station through October 3.

Elsewhere, I met neighbors launching new apps and a former Pier 1 Imports employee who had used her merchandising talents to turn the items in her yard into a beautiful retail display. People were shopping for a new grandbaby, furnishing a home after a breakup, starting a new job, or experimenting with a new hobby.

Eventually, I wandered into the yard of Laura, the organizer and quiet mastermind behind Yard Sale Day, whom I had emailed with but never met in person. Her kids were selling lemonade and rice krispy treats as she shared how excited she was by the turnout.

After five years, the event Laura has built is clearly about more than clearing out our closets. I scored an amazing Norman Rockwell plate that day, but the real treasure is the invitation to wander, listen, and discover who lives in the homes around us.

Learn more about A Legacy Illuminated: Black Theater in the Pacific Northwest at [artbeat.seattle.gov](http://artbeat.seattle.gov).

Inquiries for Madrona Yard Sale should be directed to [madronayardsale@gmail.com](mailto:madronayardsale@gmail.com)



Yard Sale at 31st and Pine St. on Saturday, August 8, 2026.

**MEMENTO INTERIOR DESIGN**



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## Fall Season Brings End to 2026 Blossoms

By Anne-Sophie Ledieu, Blossoms Coordinator, MNA

Welcome, September! With the change of season comes the end of our beloved flower hanging basket tradition, lovingly known as "Blossoms." The baskets will be taken down at the end of the month. We believe they had a wonderful season this year, and we received many kind compliments from our neighbors.

We would like to thank everyone who made Blossoms possible this year, and we also want to express our gratitude to our grower, Van Wingerden Greenhouses, and our maintenance company, The Northwest Gardener, who did a great job throughout the entire season.

Blossoms will return in 2027!



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

# Show Up, Seattle

Seattle's annual citywide day of service, taking place on  
**Saturday, September 26, 2026.**

By Cindy Krebs, Madrona Neighborhood Association

For the fifth consecutive year, the city is hosting an event designed to encourage neighbors to come together, roll up their sleeves, and make a difference in their communities. The planned activities include urban trail cleanups, park beautification efforts, garden work parties, a pollinator planting event, and general neighborhood cleanups. This day is an opportunity to highlight neighborhood passion projects or to gather friends to volunteer for a nonprofit organization you support.

Please note that event host sign-ups close on September 18, while volunteer sign-ups close on September 23. To register as a host or to support a project, visit: <https://www.seattle.gov/day-of-service>. The volunteer page includes a handy map to help you find opportunities to get involved.

Although this is just the fifth year of "Show Up Seattle!", the Department of Neighborhoods has been actively working in our communities for much

longer. The department's Director, Quyn Pham, summarizes it well: "As the Department of Neighborhoods celebrates 35 years of partnering with communities across the city, 'Show Up, Seattle!' serves as a reminder of what has always made our city strong: neighbors showing up for one another."

With only a handful of registered events in Madrona, now is your moment to step up, register an event, and inspire your neighbors to come together.



**This annual day of service will take the place of the Neighborhood Association's fall cleanup event.**

## Letter From the President: Thank You Ramona!

By Amy Glick, President, Madrona Neighborhood Association

What a fabulous summer we've had! Long sunny days, beautiful full moons, and three terrific nights of music in the Playfield! The turnout and enthusiasm for this year's concert series were truly impressive.

A very special shout-out to Kyle Parker-Robinson, who took charge and helped make those three wonderful evenings happen. Thank you to Kyle, our great musicians, volunteers, and everyone who came out and made the Playfield feel so warm, fun, and full of community.

September brings a big change to the MNA Board. Our vice president, Ramona Cachinero, is stepping down. I have the deepest gratitude for Ramona and her extraordinary dedication to the association and Madrona. We owe her an enormous thank you for all the time, energy, and heart she has given our community.

Fortunately, she isn't going far! Ramona

will remain involved and plans to spearhead Mayfair again in 2027. Ramona, thank you for caring, showing up, and doing so much of the work behind the scenes. We are better because of you.

Now, I have a simple request for the fall: get involved! Volunteer once, volunteer twice, help with an event, or even run one! If you have an idea for Madrona, let's talk. Feel free to email me at [president@madrona.us](mailto:president@madrona.us), and we can meet for coffee.

Strong communities don't just happen. They grow because neighbors care, participate, and give a little of themselves.

I so love it here. I love our neighborhood, enjoy my neighbors, and am grateful for everything Madrona represents. Let's keep growing this wonderful community—together.

With gratitude, Amy



Cleanup Day 2026



Ramona, Mayfair 2024



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# Spotlight: Squarehead West

By Angel Cetorelli

Squarehead West opened its 34th Avenue shop on May 22 of this year, and in just those few short months it's already become a fixture of the Madrona strip with its eclectic collection of housewares.

Founder Tracy Green hand-selects every item in the shop, from its stacks of cookbooks to the fruit- and veggie-adorned tableware and local art sprinkled around the store. Some of that local art, she tells me, was even done by her husband Eric (who also built her beautiful checkout table!).

Entering the shop, there's an immediate sense of calm curiosity. Beautiful objects in neat clusters, arranged by Tracy and her friend Kristen Bakken, demand observation. Pops of color accent the warm neutrals of the space, guiding your exploration. Textures cozy and rough beg to be felt. The design perspective of the shop itself leans Scandinavian (hence the name), but look closer and you'll find global influences: Japanese Kokeshi dolls, beautiful handwoven baskets from Kenyan artisans, vintage Italian glassware.

Squarehead West may be only a few months old, but its story goes back a decade. After working a bunch of careers—in publishing, marketing, tech, and even as an elementary school teacher—Tracy started dreaming up a cookbook store. Over time, that dream shop evolved into a housewares store (with a sizeable cookbook collection, of course!), and after dinner at Vendemmia one night when she and her husband were walking 34th Avenue, Tracy saw the fated For Lease sign in the window of what's now Squarehead West.

When asked about what setting up her shop in Madrona has been like, Tracy is ecstatic. "The warmth and open arms we received from the community from day one made us feel right at home," she says. "Throughout our first month, other businesses and neighbors would pop in to say hello and welcome us. The support and kindness we've received is incredible!"

**“Throughout our first month, other businesses and neighbors would pop in to say hello and welcome us. The support and kindness we’ve received is incredible!”**



Tracy inside Squarehead West. Photo by Sean Airhart.



## The Nutcracker at Spectrum Dance

Spectrum Dance Theater will be hosting "The Nutcracker - A Storybook Ballet," a shortened, narrated version of the beloved ballet. Performances will be held December 11-13 at the Tricia Stromberg Studio Theater, inside Spectrum Dance Theater on Lake Washington.

Auditions are open to ages 5 and up. Some ballet training is required.

Please visit [spectrumdance.org/school](http://spectrumdance.org/school) to register!

## Open Volunteer Positions at MNA

### Secretary (2 hrs/month)

Record meeting notes, send monthly meeting invites, and help keep the Madrona Neighborhood Association organized

### Social Media (1 hr/wk)

Help share the story of our neighborhood! Create and share content to promote events, engage the community, and celebrate Madrona.

### Photographer

Capture images of our Madrona community and events for use in The Madrona News, on social media, and on the MNA website. A flexible commitment, and your photos will be credited when used.

### On-Call

We will reach out to you when we need assistance. There is no prior commitment; you can help out whenever your schedule allows.

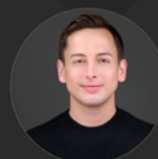
For more information, email Amy at [president@madrona.us](mailto:president@madrona.us)

Save the date: Trick or Treat on 34th  
Saturday October 31, 4-6 PM



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# People of This Place

## Profiles from Madrona's Past and Present

By Diane Cotman, Editor and Writer

We smile. We nod. Sometimes we know their names. But do we know them? Do we know their stories? Madrona is filled with people. We share this land, these sidewalks. All of us: people with stories. With insight, wisdom, perspective. People I, for one, want to know.

Some of the most interesting minds in this city are walking our sidewalks. Eric Liu is out there building democracy. Steve Overman, retired physician, addressing nuclear disarmament. Aaron Dixon, former Seattle Black Panther leader, is keeping on keeping on. Michael J. Fox, bringing a civil rights attorney's mind to whatever needs challenging. Joe Martin, Seattle's Chief Proletarian and most noble saint. David Brewster, figuring out ways to invigorate civic engagement. So many interesting people, including YOU! You should be on this list. (Sorry if I left your name off. The editor is holding me to 800 words.)

I was raised in a farm town in Michigan where it wasn't that we didn't lock the door. We had no locks on the door. We entertained ourselves by telling each other stories, over and over. Grandparents quibbling over the details of how they met and fell in love. Mangled, mortifying accounts of the grandchildren's escapades. Dad and the big tire blowout on the highway. The young ones would demand it again: tell about when Cheryl and Judy dressed the cat in doll clothes and put it in the garbage can with the lid on. Belly laughs at every single recounting. We could finish each other's sentences. The stories knitted us together across generations. This kind of community is secure because people know each other. I met my best friend, Cindy Edwards, on the first day of kindergarten. Sixty-five years later, she is still my best friend.

The world has changed. We live now among strangers, by design and by habit. But Madrona seems different. She has a history, and an important one. She is the least transient neighborhood in the city. People come here and stay - and staying gives time to make memories, share stories, build trust.

Wendell Berry, the most consequential agrarian writer in modern America, has a thought worth stealing in his essay 'The Work of Local Culture'. When a local culture is lost, he writes, "a vast amnesia settles over the countryside." Neighbors forget each other's stories. A place where nobody knows the stories has no way to judge whom to trust, no reason to help, and every reason to be wary. Memory leaves a neighborhood the way topsoil leaves a hillside - not in one storm, but a little each season, until the ground that fed everything is somewhere downstream and nobody can say when it went.

Junius Rochester could walk this neighborhood and name every house: who lived there, in what years, what the daughter wore to the prom. He carried a century of Madrona in his head and promised to record it for the Madrona Beach Project. The stories went with him when he died. A loss that cannot be reassembled.

This column, People of This Place, is my attempt to follow Junius's path. It exists so we can know each other, really know each other. How a life gets its meaning. The road traveled, with all its twists and turns. The things you learn on the third cup of tea, not the first.

In the past three issues, I've profiled Joel Connelly, Sarasine LeCroix, and Junius Rochester. I'm currently working on profiles of Richard Conlin and Sue Ann Allen, Joe Martin, Judith Starbuck, and Peter Greenfield. Send me names, especially ones that come with stories, facts, and information to build on.

Robert Putnam, the Harvard political scientist, named it social capital: the value that accumulates in a place when people know each other well enough to act together. He measured its decline in civic participation, and in the hours we simply

spend together. In 1975 the average American had friends over fifteen times a year. Between 2003 and 2020, the 60 minutes a day we spent face-to-face with friends fell to 20 minutes. Bowling Alone, his 2000 book, said it in two words. We still bowl. We no longer bowl in leagues. The fix is not complicated. We have to make the time, and make places to spend it. We need to build leagues.

As we eke out social time in Madrona, I have two ideas. They are only ideas. What do you think?

One: Standing Tables. No tickets, no RSVP, no list. You show up at the appointed hour and say, "Neighborhood table, please." Saturday morning breakfast at the Hi Spot. Happy hour at the Red Cow. A beer at the Madrona Arms. What would make it more than a coincidence of schedules is if someone held court each time - a neighbor who comes with a story, a question, something worth arguing about over eggs. The pleasure lives in not knowing who will walk in.

Two: The Madrona History Project. A small brass plate set into the sidewalk in front of your house, carrying a QR code. Anyone passing scans it and hears the story of that house - who built it and in what year, who lived there, what happened inside, why it looks the way it does. Any homeowner could join. This is the answer to what we lost when Junius died: an archive that lives in the ground instead of in one person's head. On our evening 10,000-step walks, we could stop at a dozen houses and come home knowing who stepped here before us.

Names, stories, reactions to any of this - I want them all.

Email me at [DianeCotman@gmail.com](mailto:DianeCotman@gmail.com).



Diane Cotman

## A Thoughtfully-Curated Home Goods Store



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# Kids Corner

## THE ADVENTURES OF THE WIZARD AQUARIUS

### Chapter 4

#### Raul (which rhymes with growl)

By Megan Carol Haas

Aquarius's castle was a well-built and attractive place, made mostly of slate-gray stone, with three graceful towers that rose in a row from left to right. The tower on the left was where Mona worked on her plant magic (above the kitchen). The smallest tower in the middle belonged to Aquarius and was filled with spell books and bird's nests. And on the right, was the tower of Raul, Aquarius's father.

Raul's tower workshop was the most amazing and dangerous place in the entire castle. Visitors were advised to stay well away from it. Why? Because Aquarius's father was a weather wizard.

A weather wizard has a rare and unusual nature: he or she can bring the elements (earth, wind, water, and fire) to life. Raul said no words while he worked. He used a precise language of gestures to form storm clouds or to tease a light rain into a mighty hurricane. He could create and toss into the sky a gentle breeze or control a parade of the fluffiest clouds as they voyaged joyfully across the atmosphere. And that was just with his left hand.

With his right hand, Raul guided and listened. Weather wizards were the best listeners because it took impeccable hearing to shape a rainbow and build lightning or sculpt sunshine. His ear could detect the faintest drop of rain on the slate roof of the castle or the lightest whisper of wind far out to sea. Raul could hear the quiet chime of a rainbow touching down on a summer meadow, and he could tell if a spring breeze would gently push the clouds about in the sky or turn into a wild and powerful tornado.

In Raul's tower workshop, glass jars of various sizes were lined up perfectly on floor-to-ceiling wooden shelves. Some jars were as small as a medicine bottle, and others were as tall as a child. Inside each jar were delicate, dangerous elements in varying stages of transformation. From half-formed lightning bolts to thunderous black storms, these experiments were kept, each in its tightly capped jar until Raul was ready to let them burst forth under his control. On a table in the middle of the room, carefully held by a clamp, he kept whatever piece of weather he let out of a jar for the day to study and shape.

Because of the complex nature of his work, Raul always kept the window wide open and the door firmly locked. It would never do to allow the elements he was studying to escape into the castle. Raul was a very responsible and uncommon wizard, and he did not want to put anyone in danger.

Weather wizards are beasts of a different nature. And Raul was doubly uncommon because he had come from another region entirely, far across the mysterious zone known as the Unknown Territories.

Raul's homeland was always freezing and rainy, and everyone there was allergic to cats. As a young man, he'd left to search for the kind of unfamiliar and awe-inspiring weather he had never seen, like sunshine.

After a long, difficult journey across the Unknown Territories, Raul made his way down from the barren, stony mountains and into a new and delightfully sunny region. It was there that he stumbled quite by accident upon the annual Roselands Wizard Contest, which takes place at the foot of the Unknown Territories. In Roselands, Raul breathed in his first sweet breath of Springtime and met a plant wizard, both wild and serene, called Mona Featherwing.

Raul was a wizard of few words, but he adored music because it reminded him so much of the weather. When Raul first spotted Mona, she was in the middle of competing for the Golden Rose, the contest's most sought-after prize. He watched in awe from the sidelines, as a captivating woman with a curtain of midnight-black hair executed a stunning backflip, while balanced on her horse as it galloped at a furious pace.

Raul felt a spark of wonderment, not unlike when he saw a lightning bolt crackle across the sky, when, in the middle of her backflip, this breathtaking wizard calmly shot six thorn-wood arrows straight into the heart of a straw target. Raul knew without a doubt that Mona had the music inside her that could compose his soul.

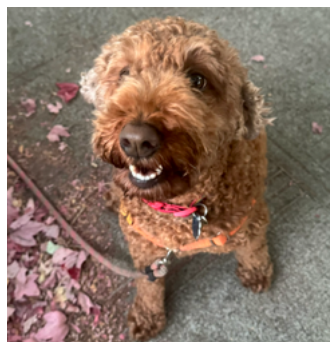
Now, that sounds romantic, and it was. But it was also practical, because weather wizards must find a mate who will calm their soul. Weather magic is delicate and difficult. These wizards are excitable and nervous people. Raul would often get a very troublesome, twitchy stomach from his work. And that was where the trouble with Socks, began.

Megan Carol Haas is a Madrona-based author. For info about her and ways to purchase the full book, visit [www.megancarolhaas.com/aquarius](http://www.megancarolhaas.com/aquarius)

### Mutt Matchup

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

Photographed and organized by Chloe Shively



Georgie



Kevin



Milo



Lori



Bobbie



Noah

# From the Community

## Back to School at Madrona Elementary

### Meet the Kids in Khaki and Blue

By Christine Khosropour and Arti Desai, Madrona Elementary PTSA

September means back-to-school season, and here in Madrona, that means the halls, playground, and garden at Madrona Elementary will soon be bustling with students again.

Students in grades 1–5 return to school on September 2, followed by our newest Madrona students—kindergartners—on September 8. And if you see groups of kids walking through the neighborhood in khaki pants, skirts, or shorts paired with light blue, navy, or black tops, there's a good chance they're headed to or from Madrona Elementary. As part of a long-standing tradition, all Madrona students wear school uniforms, making them easy to spot around the neighborhood!



Two Madrona students in uniform.

Those uniforms also have a way of making the rounds. In August, the Madrona PTSA hosted a Kindergarten Family Meet-Up and Uniform Swap, giving incoming kindergarten families a chance to meet one another while families across the school dropped off gently used uniforms their children had outgrown and picked up items in new sizes. Uniforms continue to circulate among Madrona families throughout the year, a practical and community-minded tradition that means families don't always need to buy new as their children grow.

Over the next few weeks, students will be settling into their classrooms, reconnecting with friends and teachers, meeting new classmates, and getting back into the rhythms and routines of school. They'll also be learning (or being reminded) what it means to be on the PATH. PATH stands for Professional, Attentive, Thoughtful, and Hardworking, qualities that are woven into everyday life at school.

And with school back in session, mornings around 32nd and Union will once again be filled with students walking, biking, arriving by bus, and heading into school. Some will arrive as part of walking school buses, which are groups of neighborhood children and adults who meet up and walk to school together. It's one of the simple pleasures of attending a neighborhood school: your trip to school can begin right outside your front door, with classmates joining along the way. So if you see some of those khaki-and-blue-clad students making their way through the neighborhood, give them a wave!

Whether or not you have a child at the school, Madrona Elementary is our neighborhood school, and its students, families, teachers, and staff are an important part of what makes this community special. Here's to a wonderful 2026–27 school year!

For PTSA info, visit [madronaptsa.org](http://madronaptsa.org)  
For school information go to [madrona.seattleschools.org](http://madrona.seattleschools.org)



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## Ready, Set, Neighbor: Simple Steps to Prepare for the Next Big One

By Brad Wakeman, Madrona-Epiphany Emergency HUB

Seattle sits on fault lines, and Madrona sits on a hill above a body of water. That means when the ground shakes, we can't count on outside help arriving quickly. That's exactly why Epiphany Parish and neighbors across Madrona are building the Madrona Emergency HUB: a network of people ready to look out for each other before, during, and after a disaster.

You don't need a bunker to be ready. A few small steps go a long way. That is where the Madrona Emergency HUB comes in: building a solid team of volunteers to help our neighborhood get back on its feet in the event of a disaster. Want to help? Watch for upcoming articles in Madrona News.



Scan for Emergency HUB FAQ

## How to Prepare

### Build a go-bag

Water, snacks, flashlight, medications, a phone charger, and copies of important documents, packed and easy to grab.

### Make a Plan

Agree with your household where to meet and how to reach each other if cell service goes down.

### Store Water

Aim for at least one gallon per person per day, for two weeks.

### Know Your Neighbors

In a real emergency, the people who help you first will be the ones next door. Introduce yourself now, not during the crisis.

### Madrona Hub Address

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# MADRONA NEWSLETTER

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Published by the Madrona Neighborhood Association to inform, connect, and celebrate the community. Views expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Association. Publication of content or advertising does not constitute endorsement.

**Add your voice to the neighborhood news!**

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## Upcoming Events

### This Month

#### Sept 12 & 13

\*The Jackson Street Jazz Festival  
18th-30th Blocks of S. Jackson

#### Sept 26

Show Up, Seattle Day of Service  
Citywide

#### Sept 11, 18 & 25

\*Pumpkin Glassblowing  
Glassybaby • Various Times

#### Sept 27

"The Nutcracker" Auditions  
Spectrum Dance Theater 11 AM

### Upcoming

#### Oct 17

Hi Spot Patio Dedication  
"The Rochester Roost"  
Hi Spot • 3:00 PM

#### Oct 31

Trick or Treat  
34th Ave • 4:00 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 Mondays

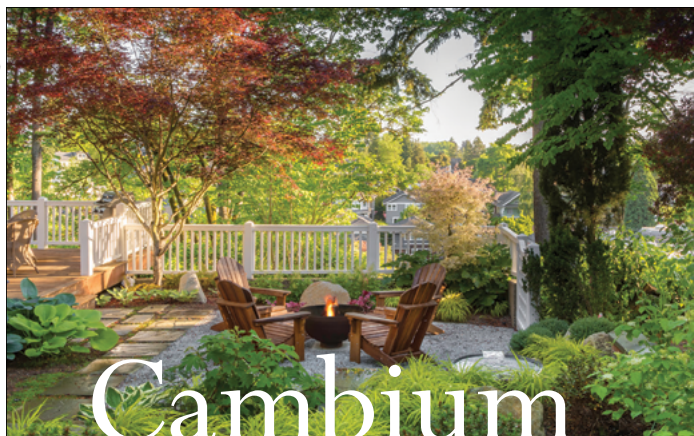
Family Story Time  
Madrona Library • 1:30 PM

#### 1st Thursday

Free Arboretum Public Tour  
Graham Visitors Center • 11:30 AM

\* Ticketed event. See business  
or organization website for more  
information.

Submit  
your event!  
[newsletter@  
madrona.us](mailto:newsletter@madrona.us)



# Cambium

## Landscape Architecture

DESIGN CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE



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