

M a d r o n a N E W S

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Dec 2009
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Support Leschi Family that Did the Right Thing

By Diane Snell, Leschi News & Jennifer Norling, Madrona K-8 PTSA

The Leschi Community is reeling from the events of the past few weeks. First was the incredible Halloween night assassination of Timothy Brenton, Seattle Police officer, as he sat in his car with a trainee at the corner of 29th Avenue and Yesler. The community rallied behind the police force and offered support.

Then the equally incredible events of the post Thanksgiving weekend with the deaths of four Tacoma area police officers engaged in pre-shift paperwork; no confrontation but a brutal assassination. Our hearts go out to the Lakewood community and the families for their loss.

Then disbelief as the manhunt for the officers' killer came to our own neighborhood. While other family members and friends hid and assisted him, a family of long-time Leschi residents took the difficult step of turning in a relative who had deteriorated mentally beyond the point of help. Early in the afternoon of November 29, Ceda Clemmons and her husband, Michael Shantz, moved their young children to a safe place. They then proceeded to the East Precinct to report that the suspect, Ceda's nephew, was headed toward their Leschi home.



Although the suspect never entered their home, a 12-hour standoff ensued. Throughout the night several blocks of the neighborhood went into lockdown—no one could come in or go out. An even wider expanse of Leschi and Madrona spent the night listening to helicopters circling

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Madrona Community Council President's Corner

By Cynthia Stross, 35th Avenue

For most of us, the holidays are a great time of year, full of friends, family, and special events. It is a time of gift-giving and a great time to patronize our neighborhood businesses. In November, I saw tour buses from Bellingham in our neighborhood as part of a special shopping tour of Seattle. It was a beautiful day and the holiday greens were going up. A *Seattle Weekly* reporter commented on what a great neighborhood Madrona is.

Yet this year, more than others, we are aware of the violence that has passed so close through our community, both recently and over the course of the year. The latest events, involving a search of the Leschi neighborhood,

following so closely on the heels of the murder of SPD Officer Brenton has left many of our neighbors feeling anxious and grieving for the injuries inflicted on our communities.

Still, the neighbors are already beginning to reweave the fabric of the community. In many different ways, people are extending themselves toward others. Many of these efforts seem very small yet they add up. For example, many people have delivered condolences to the East Precinct. SPD Director John Hayes told a recent neighborhood forum that police have felt and appreciated the support of the

(continued on page 4)

Segway Solution for MS

By Megan Shether, 33rd Avenue

My name is Megan, I have lived in Madrona for 15 years, and I ride a Segway that my children have named "Moto." About two years ago I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), an inflammatory disease of the central nervous



system that affects the brain and spinal cord. So far my disease has progressed fairly rapidly, and I now walk with the aid of a cane and can't go very far without becoming fatigued. Being the mom of three and, with my husband, co-proprietor of the Madrona Eatery and Alehouse and two other bars, I have a very active life. I hated the fact that I was more or less confined to

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Segway Solution.. (cont'd from page 1)

my house (or my car.) I researched getting a scooter, but it just didn't seem to fit my lifestyle.

Then I came up with the idea of a Segway. First I rented one to see if it would work. I fell immediately in love, and "Moto" entered our lives. Segways are not very common, particularly as a handicap mobility vehicle. As I accompany my kids on a bike ride, walk my dogs, or take my kids to the bus stop people notice me and "Moto", and some say "cool", or "I want one of those." But other times it's something like "oh, talking the easy way out, huh?" I always want to explain that I am not lazy, just handicapped and trying to make the best of the situation.

Multiple Sclerosis affects 2.5 million worldwide. It's a difficult disease to describe or understand, and I have started writing a book about my experiences with the disease. However, it wasn't until I watched a video on YouTube titled "The Show Must Go On" that I realized the real purpose of my future book: I want to tell people how to find humor in the things that happen in life. I've learned a lot in the last two years, but I think that the most valuable thing is that for me, laughter and smiles are what make the difference between "just getting through the day" and wanting to get to tomorrow to find out what else will make me smile and laugh.

So if you see me and "Moto" out and about in the neighborhood, take time to say hello, and share a smile or a laugh with me.

You can view the video on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=6oraM8IF2Gc. If the link doesn't work you can find it by searching YouTube for "The Show Must Go On MS." I encourage you to watch it!

Leschi family.. (cont'd from page 1)

overhead, the boom of propelled tear gas canisters, and the intermittent gunfire. By 7:00am, it was all over; the suspect had eluded everyone.

But for Clemmons and Shantz and their children, the nightmare was only beginning. They returned to their home to find it uninhabitable. The tear gas residue made it impossible to stay inside for more than a few minutes and damage to their house and its contents was considerable. The family members are well-known local musicians and their band Bakra Bara had performed the afternoon of the incident. Many of their instruments were damaged and their many years accumulation of music rendered useless.

For now, the family is staying with friends until they can have the tear gas residue professionally removed and begin the clean up. They do have home owners insurance, and will likely get some relief through the city claim process, but it will all take time.

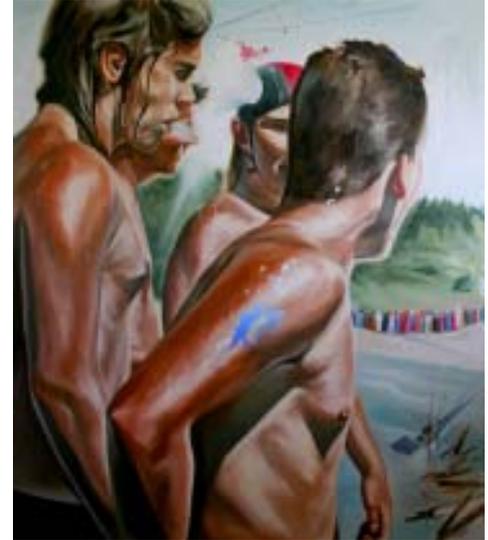
These members of the Clemmons family were the only ones who did the difficult—but right—thing by contacting police and hoping to get the suspect off the street safely. Now they are paying dearly with the loss of their home and possessions. To support and assist them, the Leschi Community Council has established a special fund. Contributions may be made through: Leschi Community Council, PO Box 2291, Seattle, 98122. Please note in the memo line that your donation is for the Clemmons-Shantz Family Fund. There is also a Paypal account: leschicc@gmail.com.

New Gallery Features Local Talent

Madrona is a neighborhood that loves its art! Tons of artists make their homes here and we have plenty of large and small art patrons. Two young Madrona residents have decided they love art enough to open their own gallery in the Bowling Green building, across the street from the Madrona Playfield tennis courts.

Toby and Max Liebowitz are proud to announce the premier of Ursa Minor, a gallery collective currently at 3308 East Spring Street. On December 3, the gallery opened its inaugural exhibition: Wanderlust, which spotlights the works of Matt Lifson and Robin Stein.

Madrona's Matt Lifson is an artist whose representational work challenges realism with abrupt spatial changes and juxtapositions. This exhibit will debut a new series of paintings and sculptures, exploring youth subculture, ritual and sexuality. He has exhibited in New York City, West Palm Beach, Istanbul, Turkey, and Seattle.



Apocalypse Bros, 48" x 40"

Robin Stein is a Beacon Hill-based nationally exhibiting artist and musician.

This will be the first exhibition of photographic prints from his most recent project: Trace, a photographic journey through the Ohio River Valley and Appalachians following early American westward migration routes.

Ursa Minor owners are a brother and sister team who grew up in Madrona and are graduates of Garfield High School and former employees of Café Soliel. They both headed east for college, Toby to Parsons to study illustration, and Max to Sarah Lawrence for philosophy and art history. Max has been back in Seattle since 2008 and when Toby came home in May, they began to think about opening a gallery. As members of the local art community, they know many artists whose work they love and wanted to show. The result is Ursa Minor!

Wanderlust will run the entire month of December. More information about the artists can be found on their websites, www.mattlifson.com and www.eidophusikon.net. The gallery is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12 to 5 or by appointment. For more info, contact Max at 930-2862 or Ursa.Minor.Gallery@gmail.com.



**Annual Toys for Tots
drive runs Nov 23
through Dec 23.
Madrona drop-off
location: Barbara**

**Banan's Edward Jones Investments office,
Bowling Green building, 3304 E. Spring Street.**

Wintergreens Light up Madrona

By Marie Doyle, 37th Avenue

A hearty thank you goes out to all the volunteers who turned out to help us hang the wintergreens and lights on a chilly—but thankfully rainless—Saturday in November. It's so cheerful to see our business district lit up on these dark nights, and visitors are already full of compliments about the wintery beauty of our



community's center. A special thanks to the anonymous donor who funded this year's Wintergreens; we are deeply appreciative of the neighborly spirit behind such a gift. And to Mike Walker, who warmed our hearts (and bodies) with toasty Hi Spot drinks.



Santa made a special stop at Lakeview Kids' Dentistry on December 5. He chatted with many Madrona children—who all had been very good this year—and took orders for all kinds of special Christmas goodies.

Local Christmas Church Services Welcome All

The staff and parishioners of the three Madrona churches — Madrona Presbyterian, Epiphany Episcopal, and St. Therese Catholic — would like to send wishes for Christmas peace and joy to all of our Madrona neighbors! We want to thank you for sharing so many gifts, big and small, with our community. In 2010, may we all continue to find the joy that there is in giving, sharing with people of every faith, race, language, and way of life, and above all, in the complete giving of ourselves to God. Below are the schedules for holiday services this Christmas season. All are welcome to join us for our celebrations.

Epiphany Episcopal: 1805 38th Avenue. www.epiphanyseattle.org

Christmas Eve:

- 5:00pm Family Choral Eucharist and Christmas Pageant
- 9:00pm Festival Eucharist with Chancel Choir & Orchestra

Christmas Day:

- 9:30am Holy Eucharist (one service only)

First Sunday after Christmas, December 27:

- 9:30am Lessons & Carols

New Years Eve, December 31:

- Liberation Ministries New Years Eve Party

Epiphany, January 6:

- 7:00pm Epiphany Name Day Service & Party

Madrona Presbyterian: 32nd Ave & E Marion St. www.madronachurch.org

Christmas Eve:

- 7:00pm Candlelight Service

St. Therese Catholic: 936 35th Avenue www.saintthereseparish.org

Christmas Eve Masses:

- 5:00pm Children's Choir
- 7:00pm Jubilation Gospel Choir
- 9:00pm St. Therese Choir (singing begins at 8:30)

Christmas Day Mass:

- 10:00am Shades of Praise Gospel Choir

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Hitchcock
Driftwood
Jaywalk
Kismet
Juniper
Buggy



Shop Local
This Holiday Season

Commemorate Dr. King on January 17

Following a tradition of several years, four local churches—Madrona Presbyterian, Epiphany Episcopal, St. Therese Roman Catholic and Liberation Ministries—will come together for a special service to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This event also includes faith community participants from beyond Madrona: Madison Park's Parkshore Retirement Community and the members of the Mount Baker Park Presbyterian Church.

The event travels from church to church and this year the celebration will be held at 2:00pm on January 17 at Mount Baker Park Presbyterian Church. The entire Madrona community is invited to attend and be part of honoring a man of peace, love, and faith. This is an ecumenical service featuring live music from many local church choirs, and readings of Dr. King's works.

Mount Baker Park Presbyterian Church is located just off South McClellan Street at 3201 Hunter Blvd. South. For more information, call the church at 722-5884.

President's corner... (cont'd from page 1)

community. Officers are requesting to work in the East Precinct, saying "I don't care which watch I work, let me come to the East Precinct where I know I'll be appreciated for what I do."

The Leschi Community Council has set up a fund to help with home repairs for the family who turned in a murder suspect and whose house was damaged in the search for him. Wherever your sympathy lies, I encourage you to make whatever small gesture of compassion toward others in our community that you can this season. Perhaps you can be a large-scale hero, as is Madrona's very own John Platt, from St. Clouds, who was named a Do-Goodie Foodie by Seattle Metropolitan Magazine, which mentioned his work serving over 200 people at five shelters once a month. Or perhaps you can do something much smaller to reach out to your neighbors and make the holidays a time of renewal and optimism.

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The Facts Moves to Madrona

Seattle may no longer be a two-newspaper town—but Madrona is! The *Madrona News* is happy to welcome everyone associated with *The Facts* newspaper to the neighborhood. They recently moved into an office on 34th Avenue—the former home of Conley Hats—from the space they had occupied at MLK & Cherry since the 1960s.

The Facts is an African American weekly newspaper that bills itself as "The Voice of the Northwest African American Community. It was founded in 1961 by Fitzgerald Redd Beaver. His son, Dennis Beaver, is currently Publisher and Editor-in-chief, with Marla Beaver, Co-Publisher and President of Marketing, and LaVonne Parker-Beaver, Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Marketing.

The Facts has both a Seattle and a Tacoma edition, with a combined circulation of 50,000 and over 100,000 readers. To learn more about *The Facts*, email: Seattlefacts@yahoo.com or stop by their new Madrona office, 1112 34th Ave, Seattle, WA..

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YMCA Waives Fees for January Membership

Plan now to work those holiday pounds off with a membership at your local Meredith Matthews YMCA (MMEM). If you need some extra incentive, MMEM has it for you! During January, MMEM will waive 100% of the joining fee for new members. Sign up a friend, and you will receive a free month of membership. Stop by the front desk for the details—and tell a friend!

Registration for **swim lessons** begins on December 18 for current lesson participants. Open registration for all others will begin on December 21 and will be available at the front desk AND online.

Adult swim technique and stroke clinic will resume on Fridays from 5:30pm to 6:15pm, beginning January 8 and continuing each Friday through February 12. Cost is \$50 for facility members and \$75 for program members. Registration is open online and at the front desk—sign up early! Email our Aquatics Director Karine Zwicky at kzick@seattleyymca.org for more information.

Each month MMEM displays the work of a different Seattle artist in our **MMEM Art Gallery**. This month's featured artists are Laura Hoffman and Haley Harguth. If you are an emerging artist or know someone who is, contact Daisha Nieto at dnieto@seattleyymca.org about showing your work.

Our **Women's Self Defense Class** deals with threat scenarios (both verbal and physical) in a realistic context. Learn basic self defense practices for day-to-day safety. Safety awareness in every day life will be discussed. Greg Lewis will instruct this class on January 13 and January 20. Cost is \$45 for facility members and \$79 for program members. Registration is open through January 6. For more information, contact Greg at glewis@seattleyymca.org.

Four Competing Proposals for MLK Site

By Kimberly Larson-Edwards, CCC@MLK

There are four entities vying for the closed MLKing Jr. Elementary School: Citizens for a Community Center at MLKing (CCC@MLK), First A.M.E Church, The Bush School, and Hamlin Robinson School (another private school).

The Bush School proposes turning the property into playfields for use primarily Bush, next other schools, and then the neighborhood when not in use by anyone else. Hamlin Robinson proposes to turn the school into a private school for dyslexic children. First A.M.E proposes to move a lot of their programming from their current location in the Pike/Pine corridor.

We need to make sure that the School Board and staff considering the proposals hears that:

1. People of the community want and need a Community Center of, for and by this community.
2. No matter how well-intentioned, we have more than enough private schools in this neighborhood.
3. CCC@MLK has a viable vision and plan.
4. Publicly owned property, such as Seattle schools property, if sold or leased it should be put to community use.
5. The School Board should not balance their budget on the back of our community.

Please call the School Board at 252-0040 or send them a letter via Pamela Oakes (the senior administrative assistant for the School Board) at pjoakes@seattleschools. Please cc Ron English who is overseeing the proposal process at renghish@seattleschools.org. We think the School Board will vote on proposals in January 2010. We will need neighbors to turn out at School Board meetings in January, so check out www.mlkcommunitycenter.org and email us at info@mlkcommunitycenter.org if you would like a button to show your support!

Finally, on November 3, Director Mary Bass lost her re-election bid for the School Board. Director Bass has played a critical role in first fighting to keep the school open and then in building support for a community center at the school. She has been a champion of our efforts and she will be missed. We are hopeful that Director Smith-Blum will support CCC@MLK's vision and plan.



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SR 520 Workgroup Adopts Recommendations for New Lake Washington Bridge

An SR 520 Legislative Workgroup was established by the Legislature in 2009. The Workgroup was directed to recommend design options that provide for a full SR 520 corridor project that meets the needs of the region's transportation system while providing appropriate mitigation for the neighborhood and communities in the area directly impacted. The Workgroup must also review and recommend a financing strategy that is based on a total cost of no more than \$4.65 billion.

On Nov. 17, the Workgroup passed two motions, recognizing draft recommendations for:

- Westside design option — Option A+ (see illustration)
- Financing strategy for the SR 520 program

Design. The Workgroup recommends adoption of Option A+ for the following reasons:

1. It meets the purpose and need of the project and complies with statutory requirements to implement a six-lane (four general purpose and two HOV lanes) bridge replacement project,
2. It meets the transportation needs of the corridor with the least impact to the surrounding environment,
3. It can be constructed within the \$4.65 billion financial threshold,
4. The impacts are covered within the current Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement,
5. It meets the needs of transit providers within the SR 520 corridor and on local surface streets, and

6. It has broad-based support from local communities, including the University District Community Council, Ravenna Bryant, and Friends of Seattle's Olmstead Park, and from regional organizations, including the University of Washington, Seattle Chamber of Commerce, King County Metro, and the Eastside Transportation Partnership.

Further, the Workgroup recommended that a west side subgroup be formed to conduct a detailed review and make recommendations on design options on the west side of the corridor.

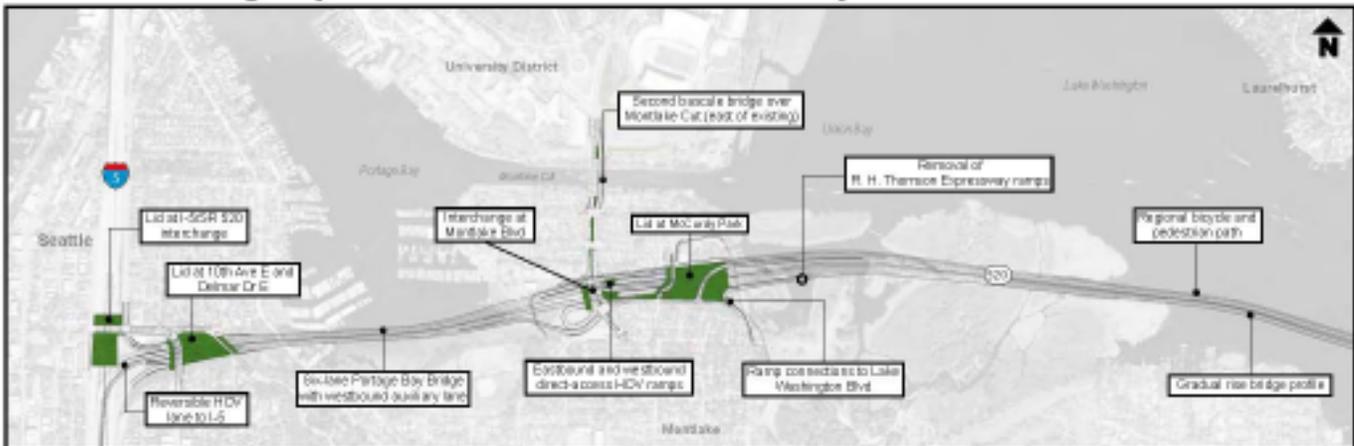
Financing. The Workgroup recommends to the governor and legislature a financing strategy that includes:

- Use of the base funding previously identified, including early tolling of SR520,
- The creation and early tolling of HOT lanes on I-90 as soon as is practicable,
- The remaining gap to be filled by new federal or state revenue, to be identified in the next year or two, and
- IF THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN, THEN general tolling of I-90 to fill the gap, starting no sooner than 2014.

The group also recommends the pursuit of cost savings by further refinement of cost estimates and design.

The Workgroup will submit final recommendations to Governor Gregoire and the Legislature by January 1, 2010.

Westside design option draft recommendation: Option A+



Total project cost, I-5 to floating bridge: \$2.027B to \$2.127B. Total program cost: \$4.531B to \$4.631B.

The upcoming SR 520, I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) analyzes three westside design options, A, K and L, each with sub-options. The Option A+ recommendation is comprised of Option A with specific sub-options and is covered in the SDEIS.

Design features include:
(from west to east)

- A six-lane corridor in a 4 + 2 configuration with two general-purpose lanes and one HOV lane in each direction.
- A reversible HOV and transit lane at the I-5 and SR 520 interchange.
- Lids over I-5 at E. Roanoke Street, over SR 520 between 10th Avenue E. and Delmar Drive E, and over SR 520 at McCurdy Park.
- A six-lane Portage Bay Bridge and westbound auxiliary lane connecting Montlake Boulevard E. with northbound I-5.

- An interchange at Montlake Boulevard E. similar to today's configuration that includes.
- HOV and transit direct-access ramp at Montlake Boulevard E. to and from the Eastside.
- Removal of the existing Montlake Freeway Station.
- A new second bascule bridge over the Montlake Cut east of the existing bascule bridge.
- Provides for three northbound and three southbound lanes on Montlake Boulevard between SR 520 and NE Pacific Street.
- Ramp connections to Lake Washington Boulevard to the northwest of the existing ramps that replace the function of today's Lake Washington Boulevard ramps.
- Removal of the R.H. Thomson expressway ramps near the Arboretum.
- A gradual rise bridge profile from the Montlake shoreline to the west highrise of the floating bridge.
- A navigation passage at the west highrise of 40 feet.

Note: Above are preliminary cost estimates. This option has not been reviewed through a CEVP process.

November 19, 2009

2010 Madrona Neighborhood Events

It's a clean slate. How will you be involved in Madrona next year?

- Jan** 17—Martin Luther King Celebration, Mt. Baker Presbyterian
- Mar** Neighbor Appreciation Day
- April** Neighborhood Cleanup
- May** Mayfair Parade & Carnival
Community Garage Sale
- Sept** Dining & Sipping Family BBQ
- Oct** MCC Officer Elections
Kids' Halloween Party
- Nov** Winter Greens & Holiday Lights
- Dec** Christmas Ships, Bon Fire & Carols at Madrona Beach

To get involved, contact Madrona Community Council VP of Events Paige Smith at 225-5821 or paige.eg.smith@gmail.com

Every Two Weeks at the Barber Lounge

By Paul Gray, 24th Avenue

When I first opened the Barber Lounge, I was the solo barber/stylist. My clientele grew and I would see the same folks about every two weeks. In time, not only did I become my clients' personal barber, I grew to become, a teacher, a preacher, a sports analyst, a marriage counselor, a great listener, and, my favorite —el barbero especial—at least to some.... My clients have a way of making me feel special so I can wear many hats, but that subject can lead to many different stories, so I'll move on.

Great friendships and a sense of family have developed over the years at the Barber Lounge. In time, Mr. Stalin Harrison became the second member of our team. Stalin has a very impressive 17-years plus of barbering experience under his belt. Before long, every two weeks his clients have added to the dynamics of our shop.

Recently we added a third barber/stylist, Gabriel Rosman. Gabriel attended the Gene Juarez Academy and the Greenwood Academy of Hair. He has already become a great asset to the Barber Lounge team. Now the three of us continue to provide outstanding customer service and take pride in being professional.

Come by the Barber Lounge and meet the entire team.

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Recycle Your Christmas Tree Into Mulch

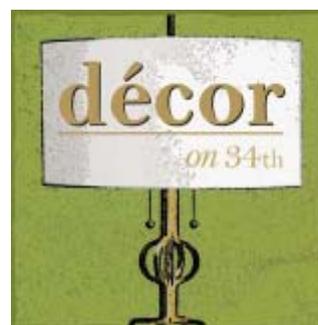
After Christmas is over, one of the pesky problems is always what to do with your once beautiful tree. You can set it out with your yard waste, if it's not too big, or chop it up into pieces if it is. This year, Eric Hunter-Gale of Green Man Tree Service is offering another option: chip it!

The big advantage of chipping is the reduction in waste. The trees go into the chipper and come out as mulch that is instantly useable. Eric's plan is to set dates early January and invite neighbors to bring their trees to a specified location—maybe the Madrona Playfield or the lip of Madrona Woods. He will then chip the trees free of charge and the chips will go either to the Parks Department or individual gardeners. You can also take your own chips home with you.



Eric and his chipper can do an amazing amount of work in very little time. That small effort will result in a significant reduction in post-Christmas waste.

For more info or details about when and where to bring your tree, contact Eric at 227-0357 or hunter_gale@hotmail.com.



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Neighborhood School News

Valley Kids Make Their Own Circus

By Gail Mensher, *The Valley School*

November ended with a theatrical bang as members of the student body performed at an exciting Friday morning meeting. The pre-



Every circus needs a good Strongman like Luke.

kindergartners put on a dazzling circus, complete with “tightrope” walkers, feather balancers, strong men, and wild beasts jumping through fiery hoops. An adoring crowd of parents and students was on hand to cheer. Fourth graders followed with their dramatic detective thriller, *CSI: Miss Nelson is Missing*. Having read numerous mysteries and solved their own case using forensic tools, the children helped write the play, which was riddled with red herrings and logical deductions.

December began with a food drive for the Rainier Valley Food Bank. Family Math Night for the third, fourth and fifth grades was a hit as children quite successfully challenged their parents in games of logic and calculation after a pizza supper. Current class thematic studies run the gamut and include winter light and darkness, the solar system, old Seattle, Washington State, and geology.

Tours of the school continue through February, and there will be an Open House on February 4. Email Lynn Addison at lynn@thevalleyschool.org to sign up for a tour.

Service Learning at Epiphany

By Lindsay Schwartz, *Epiphany School*

The goal of the service learning program at Epiphany School is to facilitate student involvement in serving the Epiphany community and beyond. By exposing children to these opportunities, we hope to empower our students with the understanding that they can make a difference in the world. Three all-school community service projects will take place this school year.

Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle and King County:

Continuing the successful partnership developed two years ago, Kindergarten through fifth grade classes will volunteer at Emergency Feeding Program (EFP), a nonprofit that provides food to people in crisis. Last year our students were involved both in organizing food drives and in packing over 1,000 individual snack bags for people in need. The EFP visit is a very powerful and fun day of learning for the kids.

Happenings at Madrona K-8

By Jen Norling & Jon Hughes, *Madrona PTSA*

The Madrona K-8 Student Council (5th–8th-graders) addressed the monthly Madrona Community Council meeting on December 1, updating the community on many wonderful happenings at the school. The student council is currently coordinating a coat drive and is asking the community to drop off coats at the school. Also the council is selling Seattle Seahawks cookbooks, in which players from over three decades share their favorite recipes (some great stuff!). The books are only \$12 each. You can purchase them at the school, or e-mail ptsa@madronapantherpartnersptsa.org and we’ll drop one off to you.

Basketball season has begun for the boys’ and girls’ varsity and JV teams. We’re looking forward to another great season.

Madrona K-8 Panther Partners Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) sponsored the December 7 Central Area meeting regarding the new Student Assignment Plan (SAP). The meeting was to hear any community concerns about the new SAP, and to gather feedback to share with District Administrators and the School Board.

Thanks to the *Madison Park Times* for listening to the community outrage over a controversial story about our school in the November issue. They printed numerous letters to the editor and a guest column in the December issue. The publisher also offered a written apology.

The clothes dryer at the school died this week. If you happen to have one in decent shape that you no longer need, please contact the PTSA Board at ptsa@madronapantherpartnersptsa.org, and we’ll come pick it up!

Lastly, we feel fortunate to have witnessed some heroic neighbors in the aftermath of the terrible tragedy that recently befell four area police officers. A woman in neighboring Leschi turned her own nephew, the presumed culprit, over to the police. She did the right thing, yet suffered thousands of dollars of damage to her home and belongings. We urge the Madrona community to come together to help this wonderful family repair the damage. See page 1 story for details.

12/17 District-sponsored Meeting at
Madrona K-8 POSTPONED until January.

Penny Collection for Habitat for Humanity: In support of this year’s special all-school study theme of “Building,” we will have an all-school penny collection after winter break to benefit Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit organization that builds housing. We have found that a Penny Drive can be a powerful way to demonstrate to students that small things brought together can make a big difference.

Seward Park Stewards: Our school has assumed responsibility for restoring a plot of land in Seward Park to its natural habitat. For the second year, our entire community will roll up our sleeves at a one-day work party in April.

Many of our teachers also use service learning as a teaching tool and will continue with their own class-specific projects. We look forward to another successful year supporting the culture of, and facilitating student service in, our school, Madrona, and the greater community.

Madrona Woods: Dig It!

By Judith Starbuck, Grand Avenue

This is the season for putting plants into the moist winter soil, and our intrepid planters have already added another 250 fledgling ones to the more than 10,000 planted in the last two years. And there are sword ferns, snowberries, wild ginger, Nootka roses, and Oregon grape to come, to fill in gaps and revegetate the hillside below the 37th Street curve where the laurels were removed.

We'll resume holding regular work parties the fourth Saturday of the month (new time) in January. In the meantime, if you have a hankering to join the planting crew, contact Deirdre McCrary to find out where and when your welcome hands will be put to work. Or come out on the second Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00 to join forces with the high school students coming then. If you aren't already on our email list for notification of work parties and want to be on it, send your address to Deirdre at deirdre_jaymccrary@msn.com. Or watch the kiosks or check the website for announcements of when and where to meet us to get your gloves and tools.

For the third year, the UW Introduction to Restoration Ecology class came for a field trip in early December. These 50-plus eager students divided into two groups and, guided by five Friends of Madrona Woods volunteers, toured the restored woods, stream, and natural area. It's a good reminder of how far we've come when we have a chance to show off the results of 13 years' work together.

Sorry to have to mention it again, but there's that remaining \$12,000 debt we'd love to get rid of. If you'd like to help reduce it, send checks made out to Friends of Madrona Woods to John Lahti at 1715-33rd Ave, 98122.

For more information about involvement in the Woods and natural area, contact me, judithstarbuck@msn.com or 322-2640, or visit www.madronawoods.org.

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MD&SS Dines & Dulces Adds Retail Wines

By Audrey Seale, 36th Avenue

Some twenty members of our ever changing Madrona Dining & Sipping Society had a delightful dinner at Dulces on November 14. It was the first time we have met on a Saturday and despite many conflicts, we filled the private dining room and enjoyed delicious food with their impeccable service.

While we were there, Carlos Kainz, Dulces co-owner, shared some news! The restaurant already offers 25% off all bottles of wine on Wednesdays, and now Dulces will be open on Sunday nights and offer that same wine bottle discount.

But the BIG news is that they are now a retail outlet—you can buy wine by the bottle at Dulces! It will be wonderful to have more wine choices close to home. Prices on the list he showed us started at \$8 a bottle, with nothing higher than \$15. Carlos says they have wines for every day consumption or something special for the Holiday Season. Madrona just gets better and better—great wines with fabulous prices right here in the neighborhood and you don't have to drive to..... Leschi!

We won't meet this month; December is always busy enough! But put our next get-together on your calendar for January 14. Location is still TBD, although we are considering something with Fare Start or Lalibela Ethiopian restaurant at MLK & Cherry. If anyone has any ideas for future dining locations, we are always open! Contact me for details: audreyseale@qwest.net.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season.... and will I be the first to say it? Happy New Year!

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It's Your Money:

Yearend Investment Checklist

From Barbara Banon, E. Spring Street

Even though we've only got a few weeks left of 2009, you still have time to make some moves that can pay off for you in 2010 — and beyond.

Here are a few suggestions:

- **"Max out" on your IRA — and make regular contributions next year.** For the 2009 tax year, you can contribute up to \$5,000 to a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$6,000 if you're 50 or older. And you have until April 15, 2010, to fully fund your 2009 IRA.
- **Convert your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA.** Depending on your individual situation, a Roth IRA, which offers the potential for tax free growth, may be a better choice for you than a traditional IRA. However, conversion is likely going to be a "taxable event," so you'll need to have money available outside your IRA for the tax bill. You'll want to discuss this move with your tax advisor.
- **Increase your 401(k) contributions.** If your employer permits it, try to add more money to your 401(k) or other retirement plan before the year ends.
- **Sell your "losers."** You may want to sell some investments that have lost value to take the tax losses. You can deduct up to \$3,000 (or \$1,500 for married couples filing separately) in net losses against your other income for 2009, and you can carry over any excess into subsequent years. Consult with a tax advisor before selling investments to claim a tax loss.
- **Consolidate your investment accounts.** You might want to consolidate all your accounts with one provider. That way, you'll be better able to align your assets with a central, unified investment strategy.
- **Review your insurance coverage.** Over the course of a year, you could experience significant changes in your life. You'll want to make sure you have the right amount and type of insurance to protect your family and your financial future.

By making these moves, you can close out 2009 on a positive note — while positioning yourself for progress on your long-term goals.

Based on an article written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, its associates and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice.

Lori K. Rath, Attorney/Mediator

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Law for All:

R-71 Doesn't Cover Everything

By Lori Rath, Attorney

Last month Washington voters passed Referendum 71 by a margin of approximately 52 to 48 percent. The passage of R-71 means that Washington's expanded domestic partnership law—commonly known as the "everything but marriage" law—remains unchanged. (The legislature passed the law earlier this year, Governor Gregoire signed it in May, and it is now in effect, as of December 3rd.)

The domestic partnership law extends many rights and responsibilities to gay and lesbian couples that register as domestic partners with the Secretary of State. Those rights include many that are related to property, death, and disability, such as: community property rights; spousal rights under the inheritance, probate, guardianship, and power of attorney laws; recognition on partner's death certificate; and control of the disposition of partner's remains. The domestic partnership law does not apply to unmarried heterosexual couples, except for certain couples in which one partner is over the age of 62.

Although the current law grants fairly extensive rights, responsibilities, and protections, it is still critically important for domestic partners to establish their own estate plans to ensure that their wishes are honored in the event of death or disability. It is important to note that the new law could be altered or even repealed in the future; in other words, the rights as they currently exist are a result of legislation and are not constitutional rights. Moreover, exactly how the law will be interpreted and applied by courts and governmental entities remains unknown.

If you have any questions about the domestic partnership law as it relates to estate planning, contact me at 382-2573 or lori@rathlawmediation.com.



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MADRONA COMMUNITY CALENDAR

RECURRING EVENTS:

- WEDNESDAYS** 5:45 PM **Weight Watchers Meeting**—Central Area Senior Center in Leschi, 500 30th Ave S., 726-4929
- WEDNESDAYS** 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM **Bible Study** – Epiphany Christie House Library www.epiphanyseattle.org
- WEDNESDAYS** 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Library Book Club**—Madrona-Sally Goldmark Library, 1134 33rd Ave.
- THURSDAYS** 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM **The Valley School Admission Tours** – running from November 2 through February. Interested parents should email lynn@thevalleyschool.org or gail@thevalleyschool.org.
- THURSDAYS** 7:30 PM **AA/ALANON Meeting**—Epiphany Great Hall www.epiphanyseattle.org.
- FRIDAYS** 7:30 AM **Madrona/Leschi Citizens Against the War**—Quiet demonstration, 23rd & Union, letter-writing and coffee afterwards at Touga on 34th. Kathy Barker kbarker715@gmail.com.

- Until Dec 23 Toys for Tots Drive** —Drop off toys at Edward Jones offices, 3304 E Spring Street. Barbara Banon
- Dec 16** 9:00 AM –1:00 PM **Neighborhood Cooking for the Homeless**—St. Cloud’s Restaurant, Darren Pritt darren@neighborhoodcooking.org.
- Dec 16** 10:30 AM **Preschool Story Time** – Madrona Sally-Goldmark Library, 1134 33 Ave, (206) 684-4705.
- Dec 24** Madrona Sally-Goldmark Library closed.
- Dec 24** 5:00 PM **Children’s Choir**, St. Therese Catholic Church, 35th Ave between E. Spring & E. Marion. www.saintthereseeparish.org
- Dec 24** 5:00 PM **Family Choral Eucharist & Christmas Pageant**, Epiphany Episcopal, Madrona Drive at 1805 38th Avenue. www.epiphanyseattle.org
- Dec 24** 7:00 PM **Candlelight Service**, Madrona Presbyterian Church, 32nd Ave & E. Marion. www.madronachurch.org
- Dec 24** 7:00 PM **Jubilation Gospel Choir**, St. Therese Catholic Church, 35th Ave between E. Spring & E. Marion. www.saintthereseeparish.org
- Dec 24** 9:00 PM **St. Therese Choir**, singing begins at 8:30, St. Therese Catholic Church, 35th Ave between E. Spring & E. Marion. www.saintthereseeparish.org
- Dec 24** 9:00 PM **Festival Eucharist with Chancel Choir & Orchestra**, Epiphany Episcopal, Madrona Drive at 1805 38th Avenue. www.epiphanyseattle.org
- Dec 25** Madrona Sally-Goldmark Library closed.
- Dec 25** 9:30 AM **Holy Eucharist** (one service only) Epiphany Episcopal, Madrona Drive at 1805 38th Avenue. www.epiphanyseattle.org
- Dec 25** 10:00 AM **Shades of Praise Gospel Choir**, St. Therese Catholic Church, 35th Ave between E. Spring & E. Marion, www.saintthereseeparish.org
- Dec 27** 9:30 AM **First Sunday after Christmas, Lessons & Carols**, Epiphany Episcopal, Madrona Drive at 1805 38th Avenue. www.epiphanyseattle.org
- Dec 31** 6:00 PM Madrona Sally-Goldmark Library closing early.
- Jan 1** Madrona Sally-Goldmark Library closed.
- Jan 2** 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM **Neighborhood Cooking for the Homeless**, Madrona Presbyterian Church, Darren Pritt darren@neighborhoodcooking.org.
- Jan 3** 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM **Neighborhood Cooking for the Homeless**, Madrona Presbyterian Church, Darren Pritt darren@neighborhoodcooking.org.
- Jan 5** 7:15PM **Madrona Community Council Meeting** – Madrona Playfield shelterhouse, Cynthia Stross cynistr@gmail.com.
- Jan 6** 10:30 AM **Preschool Story Time** – Madrona Sally-Goldmark Library, 1134 33 Ave, 684-4705.
- Jan 6** 7:00 PM **Epiphany Name Day Service & Party**, Epiphany Episcopal, Madrona Drive at 1805 38th Avenue. www.epiphanyseattle.org
- Jan 8** 9:00 AM **BOOM (Business Owners of Madrona) Meeting**—At Amara Office (34th & Union). All Madrona business owners are welcome. Membership applications available from Barbara Banon (Edward Jones, 3304 E Spring St) or from Nikola@earthssystemsnw.com.
- Jan 10** 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM **Epiphany Adult Forum: The Bible**, Epiphany Episcopal Church, 1805 38th Ave, (206) 324-2573
- Jan 10** 1:00 – 3:00PM **Bush School Open house** – Learn about our K-12 program 326-7736,
- Jan 13** 10:30 AM **Preschool Story Time** – Madrona Sally-Goldmark Library, 1134 33 Ave, (206) 684-4705.
- Jan 14** TBD **Madrona Dining & Sipping Society Dinner**, contact Audrey Seale for details or for reservations ~ Everyone is Welcome! audreyseale@qwest.net
- Jan 14** 6:00 PM **Central Area Neighborhood District Council Meeting**— Douglas Truth Library, 2300 E. Yesler Way. Madrona Contacts: Max Liebowitz maxliebowitz@gmail.com and Cheryl McCain clmc2000@gmail.com.
- Jan 17** 2:00 PM **Ecumenical Martin Luther King Day Service**—Ecumenical service featuring live music from local church choirs, and readings of Dr. King’s works. Mount Baker Park Presbyterian Church, 3201 Hunter Blvd. South, 722-5884.
- Jan 17** 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM **Epiphany Adult Forum: Life Planning**, Epiphany Episcopal Church, 1805 38th Ave, (206) 324-2573.

December

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Friday

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madrona NEWS

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Newsletter of the Madrona Community Council

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January 8, 2010 Next MADRONA NEWS DEADLINE

Article Submission: Contact editor Kim Herber at 325-9923, 1522 35th Ave. or send material to kdh5027@aol.com and to production editor Christine Bender at christineb@conversation.com.

Advertising: Contact John Schuitemaker at 910-1111 or jschuite@comcast.net. Rates are on-line at www.madrona.us.

Mailing List Additions: Contact Kim Herber (see above).

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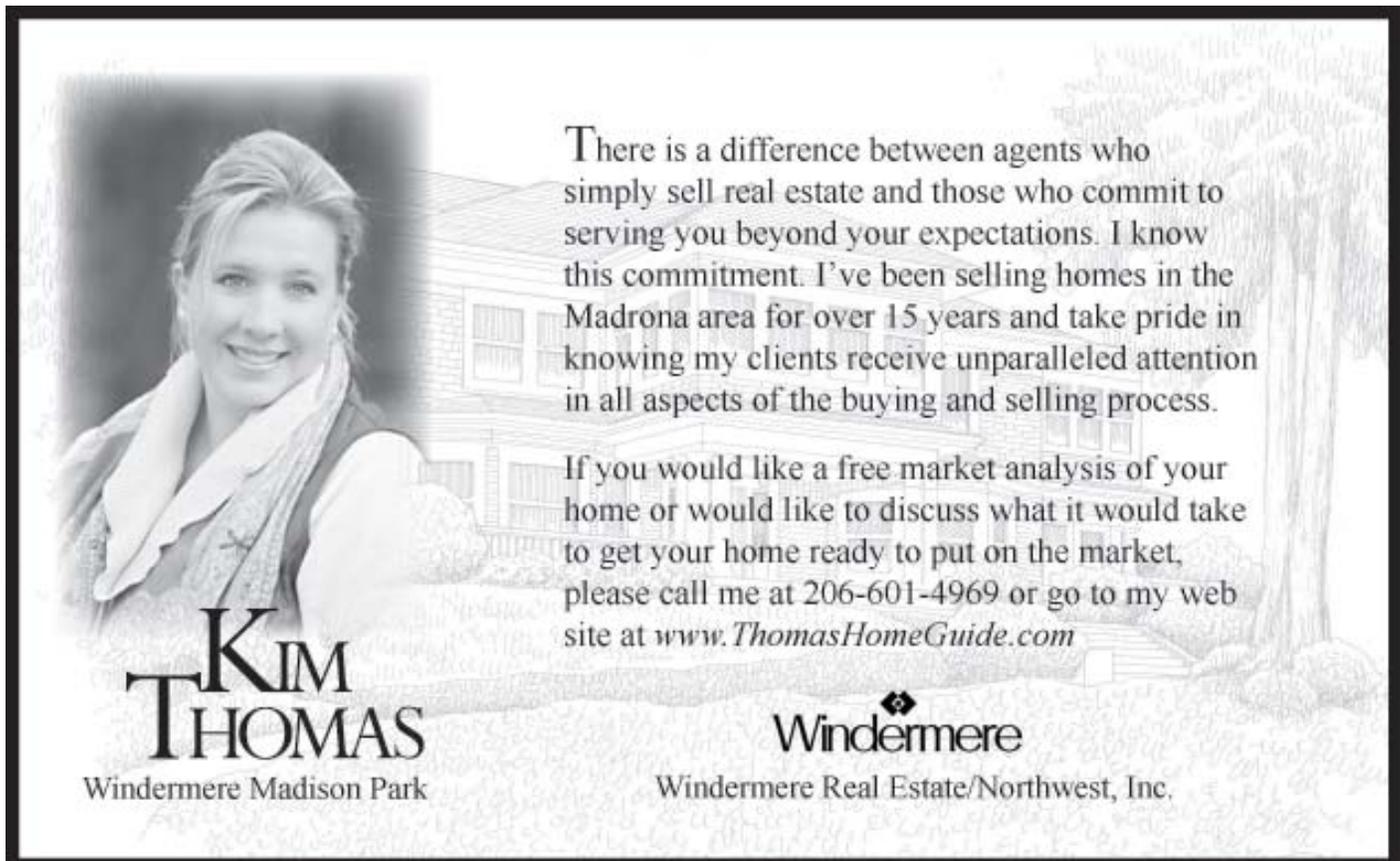
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