

# Miller Times



neighborhood

The Miller Park Neighborhood Newsletter

Fall 1999

This newsletter issue's function in life is to tell (or remind) you about the Miller Park Neighborhood Association, and to invite you to sign up to receive meeting announcements and other notices about items of interest to our neighborhood.

**Area served:** we view our boundaries as being (roughly) E. Madison Street to E. Mercer Street, and 18th Ave E. to 25th Ave E., but we're happy to have you, wherever you live or work, if you have an interest in our eclectic little neighborhood. If you live South of Madison, you're in the Central Neighborhood Association's area and might want to contact their chair, Lynn Thompson (323-0923), to see what they're up to.

**History:** in 1989 there was rampant drug-dealing around Meany Middle School and the Miller Playfield and Community Center. A group of outraged neighbors got together (led by René Soulard and Dale Rowe), adopted the name of "Miller Park", and set to work to solve the problem. They formed the association and worked with assorted City agencies to get the problem under control. Having done that we set out to work on other projects. The Miller Community Center and Park were an initial focus: we

worked on a master plan to develop the Park, lobbied City Council for funds to build a new Community Center, and then helped in the planning, opening and management of the new Community Center. We're not done yet: on the back page you can read about how you can be part of the Fountain that volunteers are building outside the new Community Center.

Having organized ourselves, we were ready to act when our neighbors to the south (the Central Neighborhood Association) discovered plans afoot to blight our neighborhoods with a 1000' TV tower. The two associations, with the assistance of Mt. Zion Church, successfully opposed those plans: the fight went through multiple rounds, all of which we won. We're very happy that McKinney Manor, Mt. Zion's senior housing, now sits on the site where the TV tower might have been. We were also instrumental in convincing a local group that they didn't really want to house large concentrations of the most dangerous types of sex offenders in our neighborhood: we didn't mind housing our fair share, we just thought we didn't deserve to be home to all of them!

More recently some of us have

been involved in the "Neighborhood Planning" that assorted neighborhoods around the City have been taking part in. Many of us used to think of our neighborhood as being an offshoot of Capitol Hill and were a little surprised when the City included all our neighborhood in the Central Area Plan. After some thought we saw the wisdom of the idea (namely that if you chose Madison as a dividing line, you'd finish up with NO plans for Madison or TWO plans for Madison), and participated eagerly in the process. We adopted the name "Madison-Miller" for our Urban Village (it's Miller Park and the area south of Madison down to Pine St.) and built a vision based on the revitalization of E. Madison Street. As you can see from the map on page 2, all those ideas are starting to take off: we've got lots of projects to keep a watchful eye upon!

**How to take part:** sign up for meeting announcements (page 2), come to a meeting, make yourself known.

**What we're involved in:**

**Public Safety:** helping the Police and the community to work together for a safer neighborhood.

**Neighborhood Developments:** overseeing new building projects, ensuring they fit in with the neighborhood, and implementing the ideas in our Neighborhood Plan.

**Community Center and Park:** building the Fountain (page 4), helping to improve Park and Community Center amenities and function.

**Thursday November 4th, 7PM** at Mt. Zion Baptist Church: Neighborhood Design Meeting to create an artistic theme for East Madison Street - see page 3.

**Tuesday, November 16th, 12:30 - 1 PM:** public meeting (bring your lunch!) with Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck at the Capitol Hill Neighborhood Service Center, 501 - 19th Ave E. You can also set up a 20 minute private meeting with him (between 1 and 3 PM) by calling 684-8804. (On Dec. 14th he'll be at the the Central Area Neighborhood Service Center, 1825 S. Jackson)

**Thursday December 2nd, 7PM:** Miller Park Neighborhood Association meeting at Miller Community Ctr, 330 - 19th Ave. E.

**Questions?** Contact Andrew Taylor, Miller Park Neighborhood Association Chair at 323-5929 or [ataylor@fhcrc.org](mailto:ataylor@fhcrc.org)

This issue of Miller Times was generously paid for by the Department of Neighborhoods Neighborhood Outreach and Development Fund

# Lots happening on Madison!

The new curb bulb at **22nd & E. John**, funded by the Early Implementation Fund, makes it safer getting to Meany School and Miller Community Center

BIG apartment building going up!

**The Twilight Exit**, a bar serving wine and beer to a 20-ish crowd, opened this Spring. They have Karaoke on Sundays and are planning an outside deck. Open daily, 5 PM - 1:30 AM.

Lawyers' Office to be built here soon.

The **Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center** is planning to build a large mixed use project to house its offices and clinics and to provide 90 units of low income housing. Many of us are concerned about such a high concentration of low-income housing.

This very awkward and hazardous 5-way intersection will soon be made safer, thanks to curb bulb funded through the Neighborhood Planning Early Implementation Fund. We'll be meeting on Nov. 4th at 7PM at Mt. Zion Church to brainstorm ideas to decorate it. See article on facing page.

Dean Falls owns all of this block, some of it zoned multi-family with a 30' height limit, some of it Neighborhood-Commercial (NC-65'). He'd like to rezone it to be all NC, to develop it as a mixed-use building. We're comfortable with a rezone to all NC, uneasy about rezoning it all to 65' and opposed to rezoning it to 85'

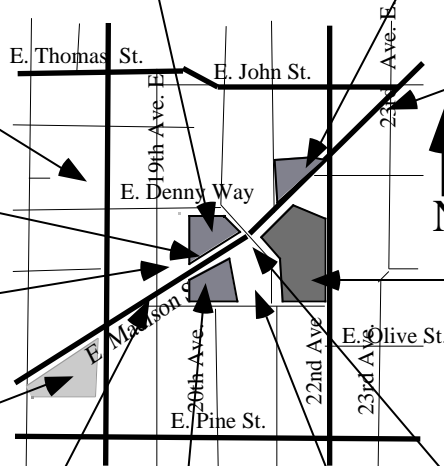
The Madison Temple is planning an 85' mixed-use building on their NC-85' site with retail along E. Madison and about 85 market-rate housing units above. Neighbors are concerned about increased traffic along 22nd that the project will bring and by the size of the building.

4-story mixed use building planned: ground level commercial with 6 condominiums above

Most of the very large lot at 23rd & Madison is now owned by a developer, who is building the new headquarters for Planned Parenthood. After they had moved he was going to build a Rite-Aid Pharmacy on the site. That plan has fallen through (Rite-Aide is having problems!) and the future of the site is uncertain.

**Oscar's II** at 2051 E. Madison was without a liquor license for over a year. After negotiations involving Oscar's, the City, Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Miller Park Neighborhood Association, a mutually agreeable plan was arrived at and Oscar's regained its liquor license (details: [www.jps.net/tayles](http://www.jps.net/tayles)).

They're putting more emphasis on their food service, have gospel music during Sunday Brunch and are eager for you to come and sample their food. They're open Tuesday - Saturday 4PM - 2AM & Sunday 11AM - 2 AM. Sunday Brunch 11 AM - 3:30 PM.



**Planned Parenthood** will move (from 23rd & Madison) to its new headquarters around Jan. 2000

A custom woodworking shop is being built here

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Seattle, WA \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_  
 FAX: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

To get on our mailing list, fill out and send to:  
 Andrew Taylor, MPNA,  
 501 - 19th Ave E, Seattle,  
 WA 98112 or FAX to  
 684-4301 or E-mail to  
[ataylor@fhcrc.org](mailto:ataylor@fhcrc.org)

A \$5 annual donation is requested for US mail delivery.

Send me stuff by:  E-mail  FAX  U.S. Mail

## Green Thumbs Needed!

People who like to garden and looking for an opportunity for community service! Help form a Friends of Miller Park adopt-a-park group. One person can pull a few weeds, a few people can make a garden out of a landscape!

Call 328-1164 or email [cedar@seanet.com](mailto:cedar@seanet.com) for more information, or to volunteer.

# Help define a design theme for Madison!

by Liz Ellis

The intersection of Madison, Olive, & 20th is getting a curb bulb on the eastern doorstep of the Mt Zion Church to make the five-way intersection safer for both drivers and pedestrians! Early Implementation funding from the City of Seattle will pay for the expertise and resources of Seattle Transportation. Construction is in the pipeline for next Spring. This could be just another functional addition of concrete, or it could also be a canvas for some fun art elements. Have you tried to follow the bronze dance steps in the sidewalks on Broadway, or followed the salmon in the floor at the airport? These artistic elements can be interactive, entertaining, and gives us a new way to look at where we are and where we are going.

The new Madison curb bulb could have a map of the neighborhood's Heritage Trail, giving passer-bys a sense of some of the vibrant historic sites through bronze inlays in the concrete. It could reflect an artist's interpretation of our collective stories, or give people something to think about as they go about their travels. Please help give shape to this project by sharing your stories, photographs, or hopes for the East Madison busines corridor.

East Madison between 23rd and 16th is

Liz Ellis, a long-time and very active member of the Neighborhood Association, is far too modest to admit that she is almost single-handedly responsible for both of these projects. She worked hard to get the Early Implementation funds for the curb bulb AND she wrote the grant for the Design Meeting we're going to have on November 4th. Thanks, Liz!



Councilmember Jan Drago and Liz Ellis

changing rapidly. The Central Co-op, a new Planned Parenthood building, the Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center Building, a new offices Building next to El Gallito, and other projects are all going to give a new look to Madison. We have a real opportunity here to work together as neighbors, business people, architects, and artists to create a streetscapes theme for Madison and incorporate unifying design elements into each project. We look to the talent and energy of our Madison neighbors including Mt. Zion Church, various businesses, residents and others who would like to help create an artistic theme for Madison at a workshop **November 4th from 7 - 9 PM at the Mt. Zion Church.**

Refreshments provided and limited transportation available for seniors. Let us know if you need a ride to and from the workshop. Please call 328-1164 or email [cedar@seanet.com](mailto:cedar@seanet.com) to share your visions or arrange for a ride.

Roger Williams, an architect with Mithun Partners will facilitate this meeting. This project is supported by The Seattle Arts Commission and the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

## Useful Phone Numbers

**Community Police Team:** For help with ongoing non-emergency law enforcement problems. Officer Joe Osborne : **684-4373**

**Capitol Hill Community Service Center:** answer all your City-related questions. 501 19th Ave. E. Phone: **684-4574**

**Block Watch:** Call Neil Hansen ([neil.hansen@ci.seattle.wa.us](mailto:neil.hansen@ci.seattle.wa.us)), **684-7710** to find out who your block watch captain is, or to find out how to start a block watch.

**Streetlights:** **684-7056** to report a dead or flickering streetlight.

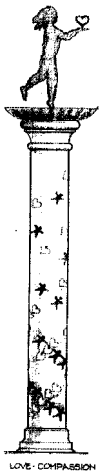
**Abandoned Vehicles:** Call **625-5011** (the Police non-emergency #) to report abandoned vehicles on the streets.

**Woods Legacy Project:** \$25 certificates to go towards purchase of trees: one certificate per person for planting on private property (or 3 for planting in parking strips). FREE trees for group projects. call 684-4113 for details and an application

**Miller Community Center:** call 684-4753 to find out what's happening at the Center, to get a schedule or to ask about serving on the Advisory Board for the Community Center.

For any **Miller Park Neighborhood Association** information call Andrew Taylor (323-5929) or E-mail [ataylor@fhcrc.org](mailto:ataylor@fhcrc.org).

# Calling all artists, non-artists, kids and kooks!



The Miller Park Neighborhood Association would like you to participate in a very exciting competition. We are soliciting drawings for the figures at the top of the columns on the **Ron K. Bills Memorial Fountain** that volunteers are building next to the Community Center (see: [www.ci.seattle.wa.us/commnty/millerpark](http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/commnty/millerpark)). Once the drawings are in, the Miller Park Art Committee will select the five finalists. Their task is to select those works that express diversity in image, yet maintain an integrity of concept or balance. (Whoa! Lets not get too heavy here.) We hope you will have fun drawing and send us some real neat stuff real soon!

**Guidelines.** I know, I know. *Artists hate restrictions.* But here is some information that will help you make your art suitable for this project.

- *The figures will be cut out of 1/4 inch thick aluminum plate, approximately 30 inches square.*

- *The images will be viewed as shadows or silhouettes viewed from the ground and the columns are 10 feet tall.*

We might have to modify your drawings to fit the material, especially if you fax us your drawings. Because of the distance from the viewer to the figures, little details will not be very effective and will only run the costs

up. There will be no surface painting, but we can do a bit of bending of the metal so that they will spin in the wind at different rates and directions.

## Some legal things to consider:

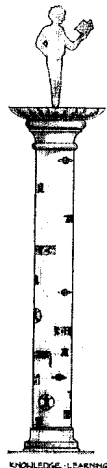
- *There are no prizes or awards, other than the fact that your work will be fully acknowledged and recorded for posterity... and the pictures of the winners will be displayed on our web-site. (Isn't having your work on the coolest fountain in Seattle enough?)*

- *If your image is chosen, it belongs to the Miller Park Advisory Council and Neighborhood Association and may be reproduced for various events to benefit the community.*

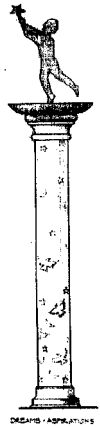
This fountain is being built primarily with volunteers, and this competition is a volunteer effort as well. Selection of your image does not exclude you from using it for your own purposes... in fact we hope the inclusion of your image is of great benefit to you. Good Luck!

Mail your drawings to:  
René Soulard, 310 - 21st Avenue East Seattle, WA 98112  
Fax: 206/329-3593 (call him at 328-1164 with any questions, or to volunteer to work on the fountain)

In the next column are some ruminations from our demented project manager. Take them as a springboard for your imagination... *not rules.* Have fun!



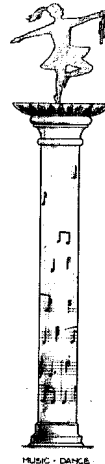
**The fountain design contains five columns.** At the top of each column will be a childlike silhouette holding a symbol of an attribute we would like to see our population as a whole, strive for. These symbols may be repeated in the shafts of the columns and further embellishments may be added to reinforce the overall themes.



The star holds many meanings. Here we would like to use the theme of **aspirations and setting goals.** The child is holding the star implying that goals are attainable. Reaching for the stars has a very different connotation than wishing upon a star. It means that an individual or society is willing to be *active* in going beyond its current bounds, to transcend and transform its wishes and achieve concrete results. A very appropriate symbol for this neighborhood that people had "written off" a few years ago.

*The heart speaks for itself.* It is such a potent symbol it would be inconsiderate to narrowly define its role. In the context of this fountain we offer some of the interpretations for us. **Love and compassion** are universal and easily understood by any society. Here

we speak of the love that an individual, Ron K. Bills had for his community. In return that community honors his love and commitment in this fountain. It is also the love of family and that which exists between parents and children. Those gentle bonds that tie, yet do not constrict, spouses, lovers and friends. Goals without heart become greed and selfishness.



A dancer holding a wind-chime? **Art** is hard to depict in a symbol. It is so different for everyone and as capricious as the wind. Music lasts a moment, existing from note to note, unless written... then it becomes a score or a manuscript, and thus, a form of literature. Paint brushes, hammers, chisels, machines are tools that produce art and in turn can become art in themselves. Chaos, control and whims... perseverance, practice and technique. All of these endeavors become embodied in the "dancer"... the dancer becomes the art.

Physical health and well being have always been associated with a good life. Team play and good sportsmanship builds integrity and respect, and friendly competition inspires one to higher achievement. The column for **Play-Athletics**, positioned between the outdoor play field and the indoor community center, pulls together the whole concept of community activity, as it is placed within the fountain which is for pure play and enjoyment, representing a society in pursuit of pleasure and personal contact. This fountain is totally handicap accessible... therefore it has been determined that our proud athlete should be depicted in a wheelchair, with a cane, crutches or some other symbol illustrating the play area's inclusiveness.

Learning and knowledge are essential to all societies, (*a scroll and writing tools? A book?*) but equally important is wisdom. Often harder to achieve, it tempers knowledge to make it truly useful to society. **Learning, knowledge and wisdom** underscore all of the great advancements in science and society. Well balanced they help guide people away from harmful activities that damage individuals and communities.

It is clear that each one of these attributes underscores the other. Knowledge with heart can be thought of as wisdom. An athletic dancer could be a gymnast or ice skater. Goals on the field are not much different than those in life. All woven together they help form some of the basic aspects of a life worth living: a healthy, robust people finding pleasure in the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom... and loving it!

*Welcome to Miller Park.*