

# Miller Times

The Miller Park Neighborhood Newsletter

July/August 1992



## More parking for neighbors?

A petition drive is underway to expand the Residential Parking Zone around Group Health. Carolann Freid's article explains why we need it, and Charita Gray's article describes how we go about it.

### In Brief:

60% of the households on a street have to sign a petition for that street to be added to the RPZ.

Signatures must be in by the end of July. 50% of the households in the proposed expansion area must sign for the plan to be considered by the City Council.

Residents' parking stickers cost \$27 for up to 2 cars for 2 years, and includes one free Visitor's Permit per household.

Non-residents will be limited to 2 hour parking from 7AM to 6PM.

To sign a petition, or to help get signatures, call Carolann Freid (a Capitol Hill neighbor) at 328-7283

For other questions, or to get your street added to the proposed RPZ, call Charita Gray, the City RPZ coordinator, at 684-7570.

## Now, Where Did I Park My Car?

by Carolann Freid

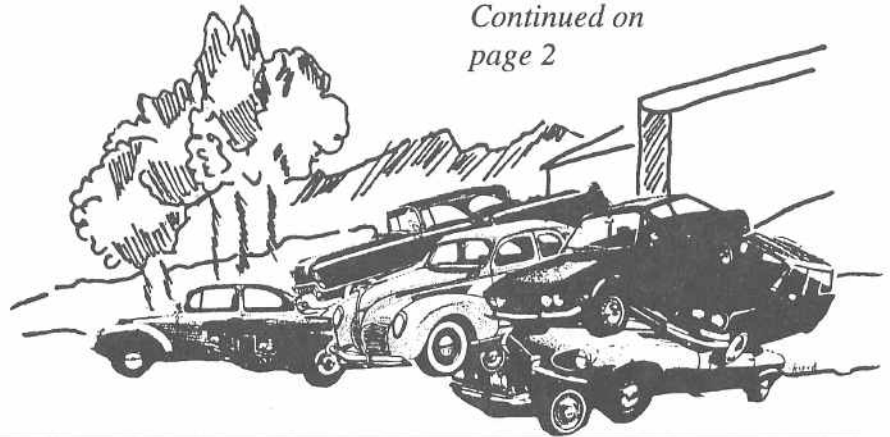
You rent a room. You buy a house. You take the bus. You buy a car. You look for a place to park your car - in a garage, in the alley or on the street. You notice that certain cars live on your street between 6am and 6pm and then mysteriously disappear in the evening, on holidays and weekends. You wonder why the distance between your front door and your car door has increased over the last few years. DON'T be alarmed!!! DON'T be afraid!!!! You've experienced the PARKING SPILL OFF ZONE!!!!

Residents in neighborhoods adjacent to the existing Group Health RPZ (Residential Parking Zone 4) have been faced with increasing parking problems over the last 3-5 years. Some

problems result from spill over from the RPZ as Group Health has expanded. And neighborhood streets have been used increasingly as an informal commuter parking lot as residents of other communities "park and ride" from Capitol Hill to their jobs downtown.

Attempts to work with Group Health officials would from time to time alleviate the parking crunch and then slowly the cars with GHC stickers would return. Group Health explained their policy and programs for staff who drove to work and it seemed like a sane and sensible approach to the problem. The recent GHC expansion includes a 640+ stall parking structure which is also a solid effort to deal with the need for additional parking for GHC staff and patients. It also demonstrated concern for the impact of population density on residents in the area. But

*Continued on page 2*



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**We meet at 7PM on the first Thursday of each month, in the Miller Community Center, 301 20th Ave E.**



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**TV Tower News: Page 7**

*Continued from page 1*

the new parking structure can't alleviate the issue of GHC employees, who drive to work, can't afford the cost of in-house parking and subsequently end up using residential streets as their parking lot. Nor would it have any impact on "park and ride" commuters.

Residents adjacent to the RPZ contacted city officials for help with the parking situation. The Seattle Engineering Department conducted a preliminary study, found a need and met with residents to map out a preliminary design for an expanded RPZ. The proposed boundaries for the expanded RPZ would be E. Pike to E. Aloha St and from Federal Ave E to 20th Ave E. They suggested the advantages for the expanded RPZ would be the following: residents would have greater opportunity to park near their homes, long-term commuter-related parking would be eliminated, residents would be able to offer their guests greater parking convenience and service vehicles would be exempt from RPZ rules while serving a resident.

The RPZ works by restricting on-street parking during certain hours. Vehicles belonging to residents are exempt from parking restrictions providing they purchase a renewable two year residential permit at a cost of \$27.00 per car - That's \$13.50 per year per car or \$1.15 per month per car. If you own 5 cars you are eligible to purchase 5 permits. A visitor permit is FREE with the purchase of a permit and is limited to one per household. A Temporary Permit is available for \$10.00 and is valid for up to 60 days. The area would be patrolled to enforce the RPZ and citations would be written for parking violations.

In order to expand the RPZ 60% of the households within the designated area would have to sign a petition favoring such a move. Once the requisite number of petitions are obtained they will be returned to the Seattle Engineering Department for valida-

tion and a proposal will be presented to the City council for action. The Council will make the final decision whether or not to approve the RPZ.

A community meeting was held in May and representatives from the Seattle Engineering Department explained the RPZ process. Capitol Hill residents who attended that meeting demonstrated an interest in circulating petitions in support of the expanded RPZ. A subsequent meeting was held a week later to distribute petitions to local residents and begin the petition effort. . At present approximately 300 signatures in favor of the expanded RPZ have been obtained. Eleven hundred to twelve hundred signatures are needed to act on the petition. The target date for completing the first stages of the petition process is July 15th. If you're interested in getting more information about the expanded RPZ you can contact Charita Gray at the Seattle Engineering Dept, 684-7570. Or if you would like to help in circulating a petition, or you'd like to sign a petition you can contact Carolann Freid at 328-7283.

This may not be the perfect answer to parking problems on Capitol Hill, but it may provide some relief for those residents who have been forced into taking drastic measures like using orange cones to block off a parking space in front of or near their home or even going so far as to giving out parking violations to commuters who use residential streets as their own personal parking lot.

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## RESIDENTIAL PARKING ZONE

### ZONE 4 EXPANSION

by Charita Gray

City of Seattle, RPZ Coordinator

In response to residents' concern about the lack of available on-street parking in the Capitol Hill area, the Seattle Engineering Department has proposed an expansion to the existing Zone 4 Residential Parking Zone (RPZ). A two-hour 7am-6pm time limit restriction which will exempt residential parking is being proposed within the boundaries from East Pike to Aloha Streets between Federal to 20 Avenues. The existing zone is located between E. Pine to E Republican Streets between 12 and 18 Avenues. The map illustrates the existing and proposed conditions. Only streets that are primarily residential (50% or more) and have no current parking restrictions are included in the proposed expansion.

The primary purpose of the RPZ is to relieve neighborhoods from long-term commuter related parking caused by employee, students, park & riders etc. of major generators. The RPZ involves installing time limit restrictions along residential streets where residents and their guest, with proper parking decals, are exempt from these regulations. Residents are issued these permits to identify their vehicle as belonging to a resident in the RPZ.

Not only is the RPZ designed to benefit residents but may also be an added benefit to small retail businesses. The two hour time limit restrictions should allow parking spaces to become periodically available throughout the day for customers/patrons usage.

Before an RPZ can be implemented several steps must occur. First, residents must circulate a petition and obtain a 60% support rate within the proposed area. Next, a public hearing will be held where residents and all other interested parties will have a final opportunity to voice comments or concerns. Based on the petition

