

Miller Times



The Miller Park Neighborhood Newsletter

December 1990

Welcome to the first ever Miller Park Neighborhood Association newsletter. Save it: it might be valuable someday. I've taken on this task because I believe that a Community Newsletter is a valuable resource to share information that is important for our community, and to help to gather our forces when we need to accomplish something. I've had invaluable help in this first issue from several of the major forces in the Miller Park Neighborhood Association: Dale Rowe and René Soulard, co-chairs, and from Julie Renick, the Association's scribe. And I'd like to thank the City of Seattle Office of Neighborhoods for printing this first issue.

René's gardening article brightens up what is otherwise a rather serious set of articles in this first issue and will, I hope, be the first in a long series. I'd also like to have an "Ethnic Recipe" in each issue, to help celebrate the diverse cultural roots of our community, and hereby invite you all to send me some of your favorite recipes.

However hackneyed it may sound, this is your newsletter, and will be what you make it. So, please accept this open invitation to submit material for the newsletter. We'll take photos, drawings, articles, letters, recipes and even classified ads. Send or bring them to: Andrew Taylor, 2009 E. John, Seattle, WA 98112. Phone: 323-5929.

We're obviously new at this newsletter business, but the plan right now is to try and get one out every two months, and to deliver them by hand via a team of volunteers. So the next issue should be out around Feb. 1st, 1991. That means I'd like to get your stuff for the newsletter by **January 15th, 1991**. And please let me know if you'd be willing to deliver the newsletters on your block.

It's been nice meeting you. Looking forward to hearing from you and receiving your articles!

Andrew Taylor, editor (and just about everything else).

Andrew

What is the Miller Park Neighborhood Association?

by Dale Rowe

Neighborhood Association Co-Chair

Miller Park Neighborhood Association has been active for over a year, yet some people don't know how we were formed, or why we exist! Increased drug activity in the neighborhood last summer gave us the incentive to "rally the forces" and ask our neighbors to come together. The police, politicians and media responded with us, and the neighborhood association took on a life of its own.



Boundaries of the Miller Neighborhood

The area we call our neighborhood includes the blocks surrounding Meany Middle School and Miller Park on Southeast Capitol Hill, from Madison to Mercer, and from 15th East to 23rd East. This geographical area includes a culturally and ethnically diverse cross section of people of all ages. The problems with crime continue, as they do in most urban neighborhoods, although we were quite successful in driving back the drug dealers before they had a chance to gain a stronghold on our front yards. Controlling crime in our neighborhood continues to be a top priority. Having initially banded together to fight drug dealers, we're now able to react quickly and aggressively to the various issues that arise in our neighborhood.

The most exciting project we've undertaken involves obtaining funds to study alternatives to the way the park/school looks and operates, to make it more compatible with the needs and desires of the residents of the neighborhood. This will be a long-term project, but we've come a long way already. One priority is to trade the cinder soccer field for grass, although eventually we will redesign the entire park. We have commitments from Parks Department to work with us, and hope to obtain funds to put our dreams into action through a bond issue.

Other activities of the Miller Park Neighborhood Association include "cleanup days". Everyone from the school and the neighborhood is invited to so we can beautify as well as clean!

We live in a fun neighborhood. We have become a closer, friendlier community in the last year. It is gratifying to see neighbors working and playing together, and to have had so many successes in so short a time. Please get or stay involved with us. 🏡

Miller Park Neighborhood Association Meeting, October 4th, 1990.

Minutes taken by Julie Renick

Neighborhood Matching Grants:

Park Long Range Plan: The city has granted us \$10,000 for a needs assessment / park plan. We will use it to determine what the community and the school want and need in our neighborhood park and community center. We will be able to hire professionals when formal plans are drawn up. We need to be able to present a complete plan when the Parks Department puts its next bond issue on the ballot, in about 2 years time. René Soulard is heading the project.

Street Tree Grant: Julie Renick is in charge of this project. See the article in this newsletter!

The Community Police Team reported:

The Police reported that they are still working on the ongoing problem at 22nd and John, as well as other drug activity in the streets. Increased patrols and trespassing citations are being used. Neighbors can help by posting "No Trespassing" signs, and signing a No Trespassing ordinance at the East Precinct. This makes it easier for the Police to issue trespassing citations.

They discussed the problems of abandoned, unkempt houses. These are dealt with by the City's Department of Construction and Land Use (DCLU). DCLU has been overwhelmed by drug-related housing issues, but new funding should help. If the property owner refuses to clean up their property, the city will clean it up and place a lien on the title for the costs incurred. If a house is a rental, more stringent rules apply than for unoccupied or owner occupied housing. Call DCLU (684-7899) if there is a problem property in your vicinity, but don't expect them to be able to act very rapidly. If the problem is a health hazard (rats, etc.) call the Health Department (296-4692).

The Police Team is also working on outreach programs for youth in our neighborhood, trying to steer them towards opportunities that can lead to training for well paid careers.

Drug Free Zones:

Juanita West and Denise Hartly work out of the East Precinct, and told us about Drug Free Zones. They extend 1000', or about 3 or 4 blocks, from every public or private elementary, middle or high school in the city. All penalties for drug-related crimes committed within the area are automatically doubled. The extent of the zone will be marked with official sign on utility poles, but the law is in effect without them. Our zone extends almost from Madison to Holy Names Academy. Juanita is working on extending the drug free zone program to daycares, preschools and colleges as well.



Neighborhood Volunteers spreading bark on plants, during the recent Miller Park Neighborhood Association park cleanup.

OH NO.....Another Survey!

Well, it's **your** chance to be heard. The Miller Park Neighborhood Association, and the Miller Park Community Center are both guided in what they do by a fairly small group of people. And, while they both certainly have your interests at heart, they don't really **know** what you really want! So, if you don't have time (and even if you do) to come along to the Neighborhood Association or Miller Advisory Council meetings (details of both on the back page), why not fill out the Survey?

A BRIBE

The newsletter editor's 5 year old daughter will choose one of the surveys at random. The editor will buy lunch, at ANY restaurant in the Miller Park Area (see map, page 1), for the lucky winner.

1) About me (entirely optional):

Name:

Age:

Address:

Home phone:

I've lived in neighborhood for:

2) Newsletter Stuff: check the boxes ()

- Put me on the Mailing List for the Newsletter
- I'm sorry, I'm not interested. Don't send me any more newsletters.
- I'd like to help distribute the newsletter on my block.
- I'd like to contribute an Ethnic Recipe: please call me.
- I'd like to contribute an article: please call me.

What I liked most about the newsletter:

What I liked least about the newsletter:

Other newsletter ideas:

3) The Miller Park Neighborhood (in general).

What I like the most about the neighborhood:

What I like the least about the neighborhood:

Other neighborhood-related ideas:

