

# RNA meeting May 25, 7:30 Roosevelt High School, Room 128

## The Roosie

Newsletter of the Roosevelt Neighborhood Association

May/June 2004

### Go-ahead for Roosevelt High School Rebuild

The City of Seattle Hearing Examiner has upheld the recommendations of the School Design Standards Departure Committee and the Landmark Preservation Board's Certificates of Approval, after hearing all appeals that were filed in a timely manner. This means that the project may proceed as planned.

Terry Griffin, Site Superintendent, and his boss, Trevor Thies, both of Hoffman Construction Company, the selected General Contractor/Construction Manager (GCCM), briefed the April RNA meeting on the scope and schedule of the work to be done.

#### *EARLY CHANGES*

The first thing we in the neighborhood will see will be a 22 by 8 foot trailer placed on the northwest corner of the site. This will house a main distribution frame (MDF) for telecommunications and data, to be used until a new MDF is up and running in the new school. Other trailers for offices and storage will join it later.

In early June the cafeteria and shops building, immediately west of the north end of the old school, will be abated (i.e., its asbestos will be removed) and demolished. A power shack will be built on the 68th Street sidewalk, near the top of the steps next to the west side of the building, to serve electrical power needs throughout the project.

Furniture, fixtures and equipment and supplies will be removed following the last day of school, on June 17th and following days.

#### *BEGINNING OF SITE ACTIVITY*

In late June, site activity will really begin. First, all but the east wall and the east portion of the north wall of the 1928 addition will be abated and demolished. The retained walls will be braced to withstand the next step, the excavation of the currently unexcavated portion of the addition and part of the original building to accommodate the new theater and performing arts spaces. A tower crane will be erected for the reconstruction phase.

Abatement and surgical demolition of most interior walls, except those of the auditorium, will follow, as will reconstruction of the north-end spaces. Because the auditorium, which will become the new library, and the exterior walls of the original building have been landmarked in the historic register, they cannot be altered. The

present exterior walls meet seismic requirements; the interior walls do not.

The gym, to the west of the school on 66th Street, will be the last building to be abated and demolished. Weather permitting, the athletic field will be lowered about six feet. If rain and mud prevent doing it this summer, it will be done in the summer of 2005. The new commons, gym and P.E. spaces will be constructed in 2005.

The City of Seattle Public Utilities Department will be installing larger water mains under 66th, west of 15th and under 68th, east of 15th to upgrade water service to the school.

#### *FENCES, PARKING AND COMMUNICATION*

The GCCM and Seattle School District are committed to staging materials and parking of workers cars on the athletic field, to the maximum extent possible. They want to respect on-street parking for neighbors on 66th and 68th Streets. Work hours will be 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

The entire site will be fenced, along the school side of the perimeter sidewalks. Entry and exit will be through gates on 12th Avenue, between 67th and 68th Streets. A 24/7 telephone hotline number, for questions, comments and complaints will be posted at several places along the fence. Notices will be posted as required. Fliers will be distributed to neighbors for matters that may impact the area.

School will return to the new Roosevelt, from Lincoln, in September 2006.

Tad Bigelow

Those in attendance at the April RNA meeting were reassured by the attention that the construction folks have paid to minimizing the effects of this very large project on the neighborhood, and for their offer to remain in contact at all times with members of the RNA. Tad Bigelow is coordinating the liaison effort. He may be reached at 525-7166.

In addition The Roosie will provide timely updates this summer as the demolition and set-up of power and water lines get underway.

# North Precinct Report: Minutes for April 7, 2004 Meeting

## **Special Presentation Speaker: Council member Nick Licata, Seattle City Council.**

The main issue of concern is Licata's stance to repeal the (non-suspended license driver) Vehicle Impound law, which he says is ineffective. Independent studies on this issue have proven him wrong...not that he cares. Our group unanimously and strongly told Nick that we did not agree with him.

Some of you may be aware that Licata pulled \$600,000 out of the Park Fund Budget to assist the SPD to clean up Cal Anderson Park. Folks there do have a big problem and asked Licata to step in and rearrange already set priorities and budgets to satisfy their demands. Never mind that Chief of Police Kerlikowske, Park Director Ken Bonds, and Mayor Nickels objected to this type of

## **Earth Day 2004**

Even in the face of broken promises from the Parks Department, Friends of Cowen Park and our Starbucks partners had a great day on Saturday April 24, our celebration of Earth Day. We kicked off our newest incremental addition to the overall Master Plan for the park with an informal public meeting on the proposed spring-toy installation. Our landscape architect, Rebecca Deehr, was on hand to answer questions and hear suggestions for the improvement of her design for the Starbucks grant-funded installation of spring toys and a new patio where the engraved and painted tiles can be installed. She brought both plan drawings and renditions of what this new addition might look like.

We had been promised a day of planting in the Ravenna Creek daylighting area, a promise more important because Parks had twice cancelled plantings we had arranged with them earlier in the season. This was to be the big occasion—and when we got there, we discovered that Parks had already pretty well planted every square foot of the area, including the hillside. Colleen Brown from Parks made an extra effort to acquire some plants at the last minute and have them delivered, so it wasn't a complete disaster, but the idea of community participation was clearly foreign to the ProParks folks. We made the best of it, planting the stock we were brought and completing a mulching task around the winter garden near the south edge of the park.

Friends of Cowen Park donates dozens of hours every week picking up litter, painting out graffiti, planting, weeding, and generally maintaining our park. We have always coordinated efforts with parks. We suspect that overall budget cuts, especially severe in Parks, have made it much more difficult to accommodate neighborhood groups, and we hope that we can, with other groups, insist that the parks belong to us all and thrive best when the neighborhood loves and cares for them.

**Penny Eckert**

micromanagement. Licata said that he was not micromanaging. Apparently there are several different meanings for this term. Ultimately the issue was dropped.

## **Precinct Update by Lt. Roy Wedlund**

Lt. Wedlund asked us all to be more aware of suspicious activity that leads to break-ins, many through unlocked doors and windows. The Special Auto Theft Division continues to knock off Seattle's leading car thieves. Many of these cars are used for other crimes. Many cars are 1990 - 1996 models, which are very easy to steal. Often access is gained with the use of shaved keys.

Be alert that troublesome magazine subscription groups are still around. If they come to your home, ask to see a City Peddler's license (which they won't have) and tell them you're reporting this incident to the police. Then call 911.

MOST burglaries occur during the day. Do not leave out ladders; do check out strange noises. If your house/garage is hit, DO NOT clean up until after the SPD arrives and checks out the scene. Eat out if you have to.

Until next month say your prayers, mow your grass, and shop at our local stores.

**Doug Thiel**  
doug@thielnet.com

## **President's Corner**

With the annual election at the April 27<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the Roosevelt Neighborhood Association, a new slate of officers was installed. All of us are new to the RNA Board of Directors, except Penny Eckert, who remains as Treasurer. This brings up a point I'd like to make in my first edition of "President's Corner". It's hardly sufficient, but I would like to extend a hearty "Thank You" to both David and Penny Eckert for the substantial contribution which they have made to our community. For several years, these two have been the real engine of the RNA. It's no exaggeration to say that but for Penny and David, there might not be a Roosevelt Neighborhood Association today. They stepped in, and kept going, year after year, to run the organization when no one else was willing to get involved. It's not a glamorous job, but it's important for a neighborhood to have a voice and some presence within the city. The Eckerts have ensured that Roosevelt has been heard, and as neighbors we've all benefited from their effort. Thanks again, Penny and David!

After the General Meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup>, the RNA and The Roosie will begin the summer hiatus. There will be no meetings or newsletters in June, July and August, unless special events make them necessary and useful. Expect to hear from us again in September, or feel free to contact any RNA officer with concerns or issues you may have. Otherwise, have a safe and fun summer!

**Jim O'Halloran**

# Roosevelt P-Patch Progress: Watch Us Grow!

Roosevelt P-Patch gardeners are celebrating as they prepare for the second summer at one of Seattle's newest community gardens.

With the support of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods, Roosevelt neighbors toiled for almost five years to acquire this space and build this P-Patch in the 7100 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue North-east. Last summer was the inaugural growing season for the Roosevelt P-Patch, with 20 brand new garden plots assigned to the community members who had worked so hard to create this community garden. Although last year's growing season was a great success, the P-Patch was not yet complete, and there was much work to be done by Roosevelt P-Patch gardeners before the community vision for this garden was fulfilled.

As the second growing season begins, the facility is almost complete. Nine new garden beds have been added and nine new gardeners have started gardening in them. The last bed will be completed this summer, as well as an additional bed that will be designed to be accessible to gardeners who can walk only with the assistance of a walker or cane (this bed is currently unassigned, any interested parties should contact the Roosevelt P-Patch site coordinators). A garden toolshed will be completed in May, and a beautiful fence is within weeks of completion.

Like all Seattle P-Patch gardeners, our Roosevelt community gardeners are proud of their little patch of heaven; even more so because of some of the unique and artful contributions from the community. Our fence was specially designed by gardeners Scott Davis (of Davis Sign Co.) and David Kammer. It will feature 14 beautifully etched metal fence panels, each with a distinctive garden-themed design. A traditional cob-bench was designed and built by David Kammer and Vanessa Pepoy and a crew of volunteers, who hand-crafted this distinctive feature of our garden. The cob-bench secures the garden's role not



Sarah Thomas, Scott Davis and Tim Jewett pose with some of the fruits of their labors

only as a place for growing healthy, organic vegetables, but also as a gathering place in the community for those who are part of this special project.

Chemical pesticides and the like are banned from this and all Seattle P-Patches, and garden waste is converted to productive soil by our local compost manager (and newly elected RNA President) Jim O'Halloran.

The Roosevelt P-Patch invites all community members to stop by and visit this special place. Also, P-Patch plots periodically become available to those in the community who contribute to the garden by toiling to build and maintain the garden's common grounds. If you want to learn more about the Roosevelt P-Patch, contact site-coordinators Sarah Thomas at shaperothomas@worldnet.att.net or Mary Jewett at jmtim@qwest.net. Or for information about this and other Seattle P-Patches call Seattle P-Patch Program/Department of Neighborhoods at 684-0264 or by e-mail: p-patch.don@ci.seattle.wa.us.

Larry Shapero and Sarah Thomas

THE ROOSIE is a publication of the Roosevelt Neighborhood Association (RNA). The articles are written by volunteers and represent the opinions of the authors and do not represent positions of the RNA unless specifically so noted. THE ROOSIE is published monthly from September through May. It is distributed to neighbors' doorsteps and businesses in the area by volunteers. It is also on the web at [www.roosie.org](http://www.roosie.org). We welcome submissions and ideas for articles in THE ROOSIE. You may mail them to 6910 Roosevelt Way, NE, Box #518, Seattle, 98115; or you may email them to [nwkies@comcast.net](mailto:nwkies@comcast.net). YOUR HELP IS ALWAYS NEEDED.

## Officers Elected for 2004-5

Elected at the last general meeting of the RNA were the following officers: President – **Jim O'Halloran** [jim@ohalloran.cc](mailto:jim@ohalloran.cc); Vice President – **Andy Reay-Ellers** [capt\\_reayellers@yahoo.com](mailto:capt_reayellers@yahoo.com); Secretary – **Heather Price** [heather@atmos.washington.edu](mailto:heather@atmos.washington.edu); and Treasurer - Penny **Jennings Eckert** [penny@eskimo.com](mailto:penny@eskimo.com). THE ROOSIE Editor is **Nancy Wiesner** – [nwkies@comcast.net](mailto:nwkies@comcast.net). Contact any of these folks with questions, comments or suggestions.



