



Midland Matters

February 2003

PUBLIC MEETING - EVERYONE WELCOME - EVERY 1st TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Midland's Community Newsletter

NEWS from the MRA President

Barbara Gelman calls special meeting

A special meeting was called for Feb. 3rd by our new councilperson Barbara Gelman, wherein 16 Midlanders attended this meeting, called because several landholders have requested that the corners of 85th & Portland be changed to MUD zoning. Now, for any of you new to these zoning definitions, in a nutshell, MUD means mixed use district, and really means "anything goes." If you drive anywhere in Midland, Parkland or Spanaway and see clusters of housing mixed with car lots mixed with apartments mixed with businesses mixed with industrial mixed with....., well, you get the not-pretty picture of MUD zoning.

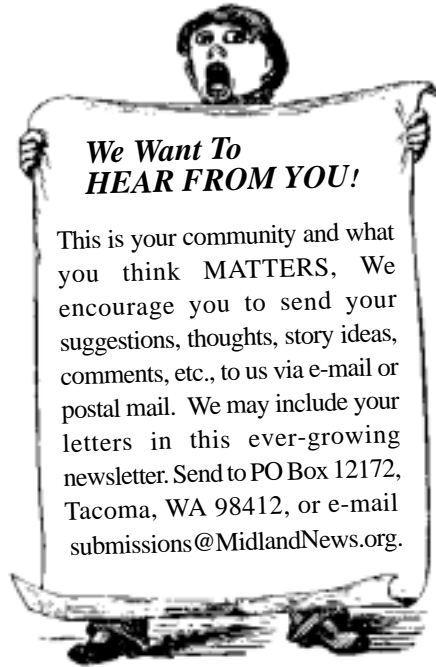
Over the years that our most diligent volunteers from our three communities worked on our plans, rigorous attention was given to these zoning classifications and what they meant for us. The area at 85th & Portland currently has little development, but rather some old building sites, a church, Harvard elementary school, the ceramics shop with adjoining chain link fenced car lot, and the new King's Manor building. With exception of two other businesses south west of the corner, the remaining area is residential with large lots and small acreages. We decided that since MUD zoning was largely responsible for the salvage yard messes and other eyesores we have, and the terrible mess on Pacific Highway, we would rather keep this section of Portland Ave as Residential Reserve, which means 1 to 3 houses per acre. Now, Midland did provide for MUD zoning in our plan, located in the industrial area on Golden Givens from approximately 108th, on the west side. Also, the business section at 80th and Portland was zoned neighborhood center, and our downtown area was zoned for commercial business.

Compounding the concern of this zoning change request is that the safety of our children attending Harvard Elementary would be compromised by all the additional traffic from developing a high use district, and the wetlands there will be further damaged. The flooding of water over 88th beside Dawson Park last week was just a taste of what will happen if any more damage is done to that wetland that is already suffering from development damage. This wetland—which runs through Dawson Park—has no choice but to flood, and also, the wetland on the west side of Portland which contains the duck pond on 90th carries even more water, as you can see when you drive by the reopened drainage way at 74th & Portland where water also floods over the roadway. The development proposals from this group include properties on the west side of Portland as well.

After hearing all of the concerns from us last night, Ms Gelman left with a much better understanding of our community and of us. The resounding and unanimous answer was NO! We do not want high use MUD zoning at that intersection and all around it. There is a place for everything, and that's not it.

This issue will be coming before the council beginning Feb 5th. We are hoping that our concerns will be respected, that the safety our children will be ensured, and our wetlands and homeowners living in that area will be protected from any further damage.

Cindy Beckett – MRA President
President@MidlandNews.org



!!! Meeting Alerts !!!

Daffodil Parade Float MEETING SCHEDULE!!

Meetings are scheduled for **EVERY THURSDAY** through Feb. 27th at **7:00 PM**. This year's theme is "It's Magic", and **EVERYONE** is invited to share ideas, suggestions, comments, helping hands, etc. Last year's float was voted Sweepstakes Runner-up for the President's Award, and was a LOT of fun to build (thanks again to Tom Walrath). Kids, seniors, anyone - there's something for everyone to do. Join in! Call 536-8798 for more information.

Next Community Meeting March 4th, 2003 7PM

All meetings are held at the Midland Community Center - 1614 - 99th Street E

Please Support
Your Local
Businesses!



Certified Auto Repairs
● **Sam & Sam Enterprises** ●
8015 McKinley Ave.
253-475-1560

Jam-Ed Enterprises
1905 - 104th St. E - 548-0705
Grand Opening - Early March
Call for info.



Old Time
Five and dime
9301 Portland Ave.

Autos B M Exchange BOATS
95th & Portland

For advertising inf. call 253-536-8798
or email info@MidlandNews.org

MIDLAND MATTERS

This Community Newsletter is brought to you by the Midland Resident's Association (AKA Midland Community Association). Join the association - your \$10 membership fee will help offset the costs of newsletter printing & mailing, and more. You can sign up at the meetings or mail your check (made payable to MIRA) to PO Box 12172 Tacoma, WA 98412.

Submissions:

We encourage anyone with Midland related news to send us your stories, ideas, etc. Your comments, questions, and letters, are welcome.

Midland Community Association
 PO Box 12172
 Tacoma, WA 98412
 Phone: 253-536-8798
 www.MidlandNews.org
 info@midlandnews.org

Midland Matters is distributed on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Midland Community Association Board of Directors 2002-2003

- Beckett, Cindy** - President
 president@midlandnews.org
- Hay, Tom** - Vice President
- Kempf, Mike** - Secretary
- LaDue, Lucile** - Treasurer
- Chambers, Dick**
- Liebig, Carl**
- McElhiney, Scott**

Committees Now Forming

Wetlands Committee: We will be watching and tracking the flooding and water flow in the wetlands here. Interested Call 536-8798 for more info. Meetings will be held at the Community Center.

Social Activities Committee: The rummage sale was a big success. What ideas do you have for other social activities. Call Lucile LaDue at 536-1010.

Coming Soon

MIDLAND SCHOOL - Last month's meeting brought great news on Midland Elementary School's progress.

Midland School, which sits on an 8.9 acres site, will service up to 500 K-5 students starting in September 2003. It's 920 sq. ft. classrooms, according to Nancy Prentice, the soon-to-be principle, are people-friendly and feature natural lighting, interior halls, high ceilings, double-pane windows (with mini-blinds between the panes), "tons of built-ins", a covered play area, self-flushing toilets, and will be wired for audio and video broadcasting. Also, Midland School will be the only FPD elementary school to employ a full-time Science specialist - who will service all grades - and a science test will be added to the WASL accordingly.

The school will operate on the "Loop System", informed Prentice, meaning that 1st grade students will have the same teacher for 2nd grade; 3rd grade student will have the same teacher for 4th grade; while kindergarten and 5th grade students will have their teachers for only one year.

In planning, bricks from the old school were set aside to sale and dedicate (engraved) as a fund-raising effort. The bricks will be used in the new Midland School entry, which will be a near-replicate of the original Midland School entry. Go Midland Mustangs!

For more information on Midland School, please visit <http://www.fp.k12.wa.us/>.

Older Adults!!

Central Pierce Fire & Rescue is offering a FREE program in conjunction with St. Joseph Medical Center on prevention of fires and falls in the home.

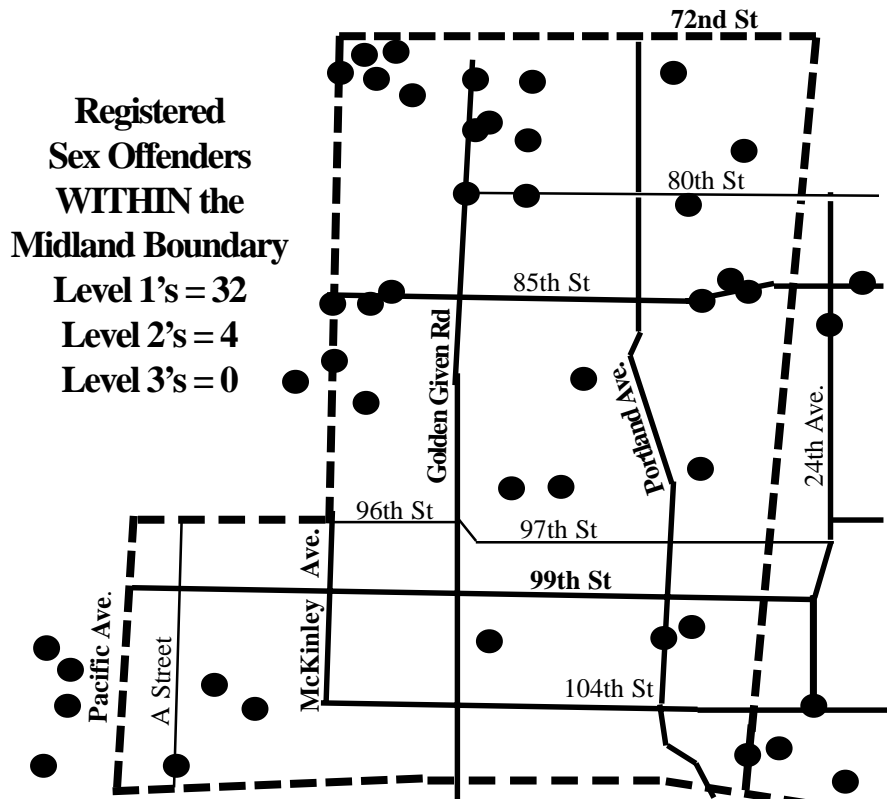
Enjoy Door prizes and a Light Brunch during this informative seminar on **Thurs., Feb. 13, 2003 - 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** at the Parkland Fire Station #6 (1100 - 114th St. S.).

Space is limited, so call 426-6725 to make your reservation soon.



REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS

IS THERE ONE IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD? Pierce County has over 2,100 registered sex/kidnapping offenders residing within the incorporated and unincorporated portions of its boundaries, Midland serves as residence to 36 of these offenders. This map from the Crime Analysis & Information Unit of the Pierce County Sheriff's Dept. shows the general locations of the registered sex offenders within the Midland boundary as of 1/03/03.



Search the Pierce County Sheriff's website to find sex offenders registered within a 1/2 mile radius of any given address at www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/sheriff/default.htm