



The Montlake Flyer

Winter 2021

We invite you to share in the news and events of Montlake. This bi-annual publication is intended to inform, educate, and entertain the residents of our beloved neighborhood.

The Montlake Flyer is produced by the Montlake Community Club (MCC), originally founded in the early twentieth century as the Interlaken Improvement Club. The club is comprised of residents who share a goal of improving the neighborhood through community activism, social engagement, and historical preservation.





Dear Montlake Neighbor,

I hope you and your loved ones are healthy. I am focusing my new year resolutions on finding ways to practice self-care and gratitude. While this past year has been challenging for many of us, I value my neighborhood now more than ever. I would like to extend my appreciation to you for being part of our wonderful community. Together Montlake residents, business owners, and staff create a caring and engaged neighborhood. A heartfelt thank you to all who supported the Montlake Community Club (MCC) over the past year because without you, none of what we do would be possible.

Today, I am asking you to donate and support our work to build connections and make Montlake an even better place to live.

The MCC is run by volunteers who work year-round to address issues that benefit Montlake and the larger community. Now more than ever, we need your support. Your donations are the backbone of our funding and all contributions go directly into making Montlake a better community. Our recent projects and accomplishments include:

- Hosting the **Montlake Turkey Trot** that has raised over \$124,000 for the University District Food Bank-**this year we raised \$24,000 for the UDFD with our all-virtual event**
- Advocating to improve transportation and safety in our neighborhood
- Building a tiny house to provide shelter to a previously unhoused person
- Publishing the Montlake Flyer
- Sponsoring the festive winter lights that adorn downtown Montlake-**The lights cost about \$7,000 each year and we depend on donations to defray the costs**

We invite you to make your gift by check in the enclosed envelope or through PayPal, [please visit Montlake.net](https://www.montlake.net). The MCC is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization so your donation qualifies for a federal tax deduction.

On behalf of the entire MCC board and your fellow Montlake neighbors, thank you!

Heather Hardin,

President Montlake Community Club

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West **Montlake Park** **– Colonnade**

A coalition of Montlake residents has received approval from the city to create a Lighted Colonnade in West Montlake Park. The coalition was led by our neighbors Rob Wilkson, Colleen Chartier, and Matt Heater. The team is now focused on securing the funding and maintenance commitments from neighbors who would like to share in preserving the Olmsted inspiration that was created over a century ago. A retrofit of each lamppost will be done that converts the aging electric to a new sustainable solar powered design.



The community input has been overwhelmingly positive. We are grateful to the principal stakeholders including the Hamlin & Shelby Street Neighbors, Montlake Community Club, Seattle Yacht Club (SYC), and NOAA.



Sea Wolf Have you noticed the construction work on 24th Ave E next to Cafe Lago? We are thrilled to announce that one of Seattle's best-known bakeries, Sea Wolf Bakers, has chosen Montlake as the site of their next location. Sea Wolf Bakers is run by the brothers Jesse and Kit Schumann, who are NW natives, seasoned bakers, and all-around great people. If you are unfamiliar with their [offering](#) we encourage you to visit their location on Stone Way in Fremont and enjoy some of their delicious offerings. Sea Wolf specializes in sourdough but also makes wonderful cookies, muffins, cinnamon rolls, and much more. The Montlake location will feature in-store and is tentatively set to open in late 2021. MONTLAKE.NET



Montlake's "Pocket Parks"



Late winter and early spring are great times to visit Montlake's Gateway Parks on the southeast and southwest corners of Boyer and 24th Avenue E. Visitors can watch for hummingbirds enjoy the blooms of the Oregon grapes, and hungry birds feed on the bright red berries of the cotoneasters.

Be sure to check out Larry Hubbell's beautiful photos on the signboard in the East Gateway Park (new pictures are posted every few weeks), and then relax on the bench for a few minutes to listen and watch for the winter mixed flocks of little birds that are frequent visitors to the parks.

Our milder temperatures this spring are accelerating the appearance of the bluebells and daffodils, promising a beautiful display in the next several weeks. Look also for the early spring blooms of Indian plum and red currants.

Work on the East Gateway native plant garden this past year has brought the addition of several new northwest native shrubs, including thimbleberry, ocean spray, highbush cranberry and evergreen huckleberry, as well as a number of new perennial wildflowers including fringe cups, western wild ginger, red columbine, fireweed, trillium, camas and shrubby cinquefoil. These, together with a variety of scattered wildflower seeds, should provide year-round color and interest for park visitors.

You can learn more about the history of the Montlake Gateway Parks from the signboard in the East Park.

SW corner of Boyer &
24th Ave E (1957)





History of Redlining

The mission of the Montlake Community Club (MCC) is to maintain and nurture the natural environment and history of Seattle's Montlake neighborhood while also working towards improving our neighborhood.

In these times it is increasingly difficult to swallow that MCC resources should be devoted solely to the benefit of our small, homogeneous community, especially as we become more aware of the long-term structural forces that have shaped the area. As our collective eyes have been opened to the inequity in our country and city, how we even reflect on the history of Seattle and Montlake has necessarily shifted as well. Understanding the historical advantages some have had and the disadvantages and outright discrimination others faced in Seattle is an important first step in moving towards a more equitable future.

Redlining was a term that many were not familiar with just a few months ago. Put in place by the federal government in the '30s under the National Housing Act, redlining was the practice of drawing red lines around lower-income, racially diverse/non-white neighborhoods in order to identify them as high-risk areas for lending. The risk was officially sanctioned by the US Government as the Federal Housing Authority refused to insure mortgages made within redlined areas. This in effect turned off capital and lending in those areas and over time helped create a massive gap in wealth between white and Black people in this country. There were 10 areas in Seattle marked 'hazardous' for investment, the Central District being the closest to Montlake. According to King County, the median net worth of Black households is currently only 5% of white households even though wage disparity is 65% pointing directly to the measurable impacts of these discriminatory practices.

In addition to redlining many neighborhoods in Seattle, including parts of Montlake, had racial covenants in place. Broadmoor, Capitol Hill, Blue Ridge, Sand Point, Lake Forest Park, Queen Anne, and Madrona all had covenants that prohibited Black, Latino, Asian or Jewish people from owning or occupying homes in those neighborhoods, some as recently as in the 1950s. There is a comprehensive study that can be found at <https://depts.washington.edu/civilr/index.htm> for more information.

The practices of redlining and racial covenants did much to perpetuate the gap in wealth, while also establishing a vicious cycle of problems that create inequities in our city: education, government services, overall health, and even future potential are closely tied to the zip code you were born into.

It's clear how such policies of discrimination have led directly to the inequity we see today in our city. Less clear is how we as a community should respond—what can we do to move past our past?

According to a report issued by the National League of Cities published in 2019, 'Reversing the Residual Effects of Redlining,' the first step is to study and understand the history of your city. As individuals, this is not hard to do: we can write and read essays like this one, learn more by researching, and talk with family and friends.

The report also cites two other approaches that lend themselves to the collective power of a group like the MCC: (1) Understanding that complaint-based systems of governance favor those groups that—literally and figuratively—speak the dominant language and are comfortable demanding action from their government, i.e. fixing sidewalks. This concentration of resources tends to perpetuate inequality by depriving other—equally worthy—neighborhoods of improvement when resources are limited. (2) Recognizing that investment is key, we should invest in schools, cultural institutions, businesses, and housing in underserved areas or communities.

Montlake has a long and proud history of having a disproportionately large voice in defending our small corner of the city and the MCC has been deeply involved in many of those issues, most recently fighting to save our market and battling WSDOT over the 520 project. These efforts have taken an immense amount of our limited resources and have been met with mixed results. Additionally in recent years, the MCC has widened its focus and put part of its resources behind initiatives that make a difference outside of our neighborhood, most notably with the Turkey Trot and our tiny home project. This work has been rewarding for The MCC and has been met with much community support.

The original mission of the MCC was to be an advocate for Montlake. The question now becomes, simply, is that enough? It is evident that to work towards equality in our city there needs to be deeper change and as a community, do we want to examine the role of the MCC and refocus our efforts to be less of a voice for Montlake and more of a voice for our broader community?



Hungry for something different?

We can all use more sun this time of year in Seattle. Trey Lamont's Jerk Shack in Belltown offers a taste of sunshine and the Caribbean in his #FoodWithMelanin. Inspired by his Jamaican heritage and his grandmother's cooking, and refined by his degree from Le Cordon Bleu, the Jerk Shack has earned positive reviews from The Seattle Times, Seattle Magazine, Seattle Met, The Stranger, and Zagat's.

But Lamont's ideas include more than just a successful restaurant. He has a larger vision of creating opportunities for Black people in Seattle. He says that access to capital is one of the greatest challenges that Black entrepreneurs face, as well as a lack of intergenerational wealth for supporting new ventures.

To help change that, Lamont started a GoFundMe campaign which is raising money to purchase land in a predominantly Black neighborhood where he hopes to launch a new fast-serve Jerk Shack. The most important use of that land will be as a community resource and as an investment vehicle for people in the Black community. After the initial purchase, Lamont wants to make 49% of the land available to community members as a buyback. He also hopes that the property will be large enough to accommodate other Black-owned businesses.

Lamont cites Seattle's Dick's Drive-in as a model. Dick's offers scholarships, health care and childcare assistance to its employees. In Lamont's vision he will be able to offer these benefits while also building community resources such as free breakfast and dental care. Lamont says, "The community effort of many can change the system and then change the cycle".

The Jerk Shack Seattle Land Fund has currently raised \$80,000 of the stated \$700,000 goal. Lamont is quoted on the GoFundMe page as saying, "I want to show the younger generation that a person that looks like them and comes from the same place as them can create opportunities that benefit the community as a whole. Please join me and donate to this land fund so we can continue to expand as a community together and build a legacy for the next generation." The GoFundMe page can be found here, <https://www.gofundme.com/f/jerk-shack-seattle-land-fund>.



Real Estate in 2020

Not even a global health pandemic could deter hopeful home buyers from their pursuit of home ownership within the Montlake community in 2020. Despite obvious hurdles the pandemic and its resulting shutdown created, Montlake real estate remained a very desirable asset.



The median price/sqft for a single-family home in Montlake increased 17.1% in 2020 compared to 2019. 7 days on the market was the median time spent for a Montlake home, which was flat year-over-year. Perhaps the most interesting statistic comes when looking at the sale-to-list price ratio. In 2019 the median single-family home in Montlake sold at .3% over the listing price. In 2020 that jumped to 6.6%.

While the total number of sales was essentially flat, these increases all indicate stronger levels of buyer demand. Much of that can be attributed to record low mortgage interest rates, which have qualified buyers to afford more than in years past. With low borrowing rates looking like they will stick around, combined with very low levels of inventory, and the increased conforming loan limits (just announced by the FHFA), it's easy to visualize more appreciation for homeowners in 2021.

Montlake Gear

We have a good supply of all styles and sizes of great Montlake Gear – hoodies, sweatshirts, t-shirts, and hats for all ages. Nice gifts for birthdays and holidays or just for fun. If you are interested in purchasing Montlake gear, please contact us at treasurer@montlake.net and we will arrange for delivery to your home. Cash, check or credit cards accepted.





Turkey Trot 2020

The 2020 Montlake Turkey Trot is in the books and once again, this community did not disappoint! Despite having only 390 virtual race participants, down from 1,500 in 2019, we still managed to raise \$24,000 for the University District Food Bank! This is short of last year's total of \$39,000, but thanks to a large increase in extra donations, the amount raised per participant is far greater than 2019. For the first time ever, we hit our \$10,000 donation goal! This was made possible by racers donating on top of their race fees as well as 35 additional folks that just donated without signing up for the run. Thank you so much for your generosity.

We are very grateful to our sponsors. New Turkey Trot sponsors include Signature Sponsor Windermere Real Estate Midtown as well as Premium Sponsors Mangum Fitness, Hilleberg the Tentmaker, and Diane Terry. Burb's Burgers sponsored at the Turkey Trotter level. Returning sponsors include Premium sponsor Graham Construction and Turkey Trotter Homelight. Glam and Tonics and Cafe Lago, continued their 5 years of support by donating products and services.

Finally, the Montlake Turkey Trot is fueled by volunteers. A huge thanks to our Race Director Tyler Mangum, who was tireless in his efforts to make this virtual event a success. Thanks to everyone who volunteered-University District Food Bank staff and board, Maxwell Burton and the Seattle Pedaling Relief Project, Montlake Community Club trustees, and many others.

Tot Lot

A new year will bring new resources for the children of Montlake to enjoy. The city is replacing the aging play structure that is over 20 years old. The new structure will feature enhanced safety and accessibility for young children of all abilities. Your input (over 150 resident votes) informed the city's decision to move forward with the "Explorer" model seen below. We thank all who participated in the voting and are excited to see the neighborhood children enjoy the new playground, hopefully as soon as this spring. Special thanks to Pam Kliment from Seattle Parks Department for her leadership on this important initiative. For more information go to this link - <https://montlake.net/2020/12/tot-lot-montlake/>

