

CULTIVATE LOVE

Hold on to hope. As we witness chaos, insurmountable pain, destruction and suffering erupt within us and around us, we must hold fast to hope and loving peacefulness. We expand what we focus upon. Yesterday's hurt is today's understanding rewoven into tomorrow's love — and out of chaos evolves the dance of balance.

Cultivate love within yourselves and bring it forward. If anything will carry us forward in these times, it will be this. And remember the wisdom of Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has." Onward in peace,

*Tiersa Turner
Eugene*

TWO-ACRE ISLAND

When I read Nancy Nichols letter (12/9) responding to the 11/24 Viewpoint, "Gathering Space," I felt compelled to respond. For 28 years my family has lived two blocks from Madison Meadow (not within the very limited area of homes which might gain in property value if this space is protected). We along with many other neighbors have enjoyed countless hours in this special place, watching seasons change and children grow up.

We do have city parks nearby, which offer destination ballfields, playgrounds, Frisbee golf, basketball and tennis courts. These are all valuable recreation assets but not the same as an unmown meadow where a child can wade through tall wildflowers and spot a little snake or a butterfly.

It may be hard for a Deadwood resident to grasp how precious this two-acre island of green has become to the hundreds of families who support saving Madison Meadow. A very few homeowners may see an increase in property value when the Meadow is protected, but if our community balked at acquiring open space because of some incidental benefit to adjacent homes, then our public parkland would be sparse indeed.

There is a reason that so many people have donated to save this hidden gem, and it's not property values, but a community sense that we must hang on to at least a little of the last open land, for children and other small creatures. The Meadow provides many environmental benefits, including habitat for

nearly 100 species of birds and other animals, improvement of air and water quality, and the potential for nature educational outreach.

Our city is getting denser every year in our effort to maintain the urban growth boundary. At some point we need to realize that this growth requires a balance of green-space as well. I would like to invite *EW* readers to visit the Meadow at 22nd and Madison and see what we hope to save. There are so many worthy causes, social, political, and environmental, that deserve our support, and Madison Meadow is one of them.

*Susan Jerde
Eugene*