



N. S. N. C.

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• News of the North Slope Neighborhood Coalition •

November 1996

What's This All About?

This is your first communication directly from the "North Slope Neighborhood Coalition." Hopefully, this is also the last time you will see that name for the newsletter. We are soliciting ideas for a different name and encourage your participation. Anyone that submits an article over the next few editions of the newsletter will be eligible to serve on the committee that selects the new name. The winner will receive a prize. Let's get those creative juices flowing and submit those ideas!

Greetings, Neighbors!

For those of you who are new to this neighborhood, a sincere and hearty WELCOME! The North End is a great place to live, work and socialize. If you have not met your next door neighbors, please do! Sometimes just a quick hello is all it takes to get acquainted. And on the flip side, those of us who have been here for a while need to avail ourselves to the new people on the block and make an effort to introduce ourselves.

But what about those of us who have lived here for a while and still don't know many of our neighbors? Sometimes it's uncomfortable to introduce yourself to someone you "should" know by now, but for reasons too many to list, you don't. But, it is still a very good

idea to get to know one another. A tight neighborhood is also a very good crime deterrent. That, along with simple porch lighting is a good start towards gaining control over "unsafe" people who come into our areas.

So, get out there and get to know who lives on your street. You will be surprised at how much safer you will feel.

Oh, and you may actually find that you really do like your neighbors! There are some really wonderful people that live in this end of town.

Next Coalition Meeting @
Bavarian: December 7
9:00 a.m.

So, You Want To Live in Tacoma?

The first time we saw our Queen Anne Victorian house at 414 North "J" Street, it was love at first sight. The home had been beautifully restored in the eighties. Every decision in the restoration retained the original character of the house, yet enhanced its beauty.

Les and I had been looking at homes in North Tacoma for a year, toying with the idea of moving and living in an old house. We were amazed at the number of historic homes in Tacoma and at the reasonable real estate prices, compared to Seattle and the northern suburbs. We loved the feeling we had of stepping back in time every time we visited Tacoma.



The pace seemed slower and the traffic was less congested.

We loved Wright Park, the Conservatory, beautiful old homes with wide tree-lined streets, the waterfront, the public library and

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The North Slope Neighborhood Coalition is made up of the people living between "I" and Grant Streets from Division to Steele Streets. If you live in this area as a property owner or tenant, please join us on Saturday morning, December 7th at the Bavarian Restaurant (upstairs). The Bavarian is located on the corner of Division and "K" Streets. Free coffee is generously provided to us by the owners, Karen & Dennis Faker.

So, You Want To Live In Tacoma?, cont'd

the proximity to the freeway.

We were told that our house had been designed in 1890 by a foremost architect, August

Darmer. The original plans were even on file at the U of W's Library. Through the Tacoma Public Library, we found a list of everyone who ever

resided at the house. (We are number 14). We've spoken to a former owner and they have told us many stories, including one about a ghost that haunted the house! We chatted with neighbors and talked to the Tacoma Police Department about the safety of the neighborhood. Everything reassured us that this was not only a beautiful street, but a safe place to live.

There was only one thing that gave us cause for hesitation — the reaction of other people. Tacoma?? said my hairdresser. The reason that prices are cheaper there is because of the drive by

shootings." "Tacoma? Why would anyone want to live in Tacoma?" was the standard reaction I got when I shared my dream of living in an old home. I felt like I was a one-person committee defending the honor of the city I had decided to make my home! Our Mukilteo house was slow to sell.

We buried a statue of Saint Joseph under the "For Sale" sign and my sisters-in-law blessed and sprinkled him with Holy Water. Ten days later our house sold with a full-price, cash offer! To make the picture perfect, I have also been hired to teach in Puyallup (I had to resign my position in Mukilteo). Everything has fallen in to place. We moved to Tacoma on August 21 and we want to thank all of the neighbors for welcoming us. We love it here in our beautiful old home, and in our beautiful old city, Tacoma.

Les & Jean Kinney, "J" Street

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Beautification Grant:

Have you noticed the flower planters on the corner of 6th & "K"? More grant monies have been awarded to supply corners and alleyways with additional planters. If you live on a corner or alley, come to the Coalition meeting or call the office (274-0839) for more information.

Contra Dance

Come celebrate the Winter Solstice on Saturday, December 21 with festive folk dancing at Wells Hall at Christ Church (310 N. "K" Street). Live music, instruction on all the dances taught, singles, couples and families are welcome. There will be a potluck dessert and a \$5 donation at the door. Workshop begins at 7:30; dancing is from 8:00-11:30.

We're decking the hall with boughs of holly, fir and cedar and wearing "festive holiday attire" to celebrate this ancient season as old as the planet. Contra dance is based on 18th century English country dancing and arrived in the New World and was modified through Appalachia and Northeast communities. It's aerobic, rhythmic and highly social! Participants range in age from 11 to 89!! North Slope neighbor, Susan Blain, one of the dance producers, invited you to join in a great evening of fun in our own neighborhood!

Also, "First Night" is sponsoring a contra dance Dec. 31 at Winthrop Crystal Ballroom, 775 Broadway from 8:30-11:45. Sponsored by Pierce County Arts Commission, this dance will have two bands and two callers and is included in the First Night \$8.00 ticket. No experience is needed for this type of dance — try something new, it is FUN! For info call Susan Blain at 272-1613.

Landmarks Hearing Well Attended

The Landmarks Commission held its public hearing for the proposed expansion of the North Slope Historic District November 13. The hearing was attended by 30-40 property owners, some of whom spoke before the commission for or against the expansion. The group was asked to indicate approval or disapproval for the project and an overwhelming majority indicated approval.

Julie Turner, NSNC coordinator for Historic Preservation and Valerie Sivinski, Tacoma Historic Preservation Officer wish to thank all who came to express an opinion. There will be two more hearings next year where citizen input is essential. If you have questions, you may contact Julie at 383-2329 or Valerie at 591-5220.

- This is our first crack at putting together a neighborhood newsletter.
- We hope that it is informative, comprehensive and gives you the information you need. If you have constructive criticism on how to improve the format or content, we would be happy to hear them! Call the Coalition office at 274-0839.