

# N. S. N. C.

Vol. 2, No. 1 #3 • News of the North Slope Neighborhood Coalition •

February 1997

## Next Coalition Meeting @ Bavarian: February 1 9:00 a.m.

Join us for an informative hour! Meeting begins at 9:00 and promptly ends at 10:00. On this month's agenda:

- Innovative Fund Grant
- Beautification Grant
- Historic Preservation
- Police Report/Crime Watch
- Safe Streets
- Guest Speaker: John Avery, Chair of the North End Neighborhood Council, will be speaking about grants given to neighborhoods via the Thea Foss Waterway Bond
- Guest Speaker: Kathy Van Pelt, City Arborist, to discuss recent ice storm tree damage/removal of trees

The North Slope Neighborhood Coalition is made up of the people living between "T" 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, February 1 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.

## Historic District Expansion Passes Landmarks Commission

On January 8, 1997 the Landmarks Commission voted unanimously to recommend the expansion of the current "J" Street Historic District to I, K, L and M Streets. At the meeting, Valerie Sivinski, Tacoma Historic Preservation Officer, presented a short slide show of various buildings in the proposed new expansion area. In addition, two charts were displayed showing the architectural importance rankings (pivotal, primary, secondary and non-contributing) of the buildings and the distribution of citizen support. Property owners who signed a

support petition are scattered pretty evenly over the area between N. 3rd to N. Steele. Surprisingly, a fair number who actively support the expansion are non-historic



landlords owning new, buildings! The next step on the road to final passage of the ordinance is the Planning Commission hearing. Notices will be sent to all in the proposed expansion area as soon as Valerie is able to get a hearing

date on the Planning Commission's schedule.

The proposed Historic District is the NSNC's project to protect our neighborhood from any attempt to tear down the older homes and build more apartment houses. The Historic District ordinance protects the exterior structural elements of a building; any building permit application to remove a structure would have to pass through the Landmarks Commission - where our neighborhood could object, if we want or need to.

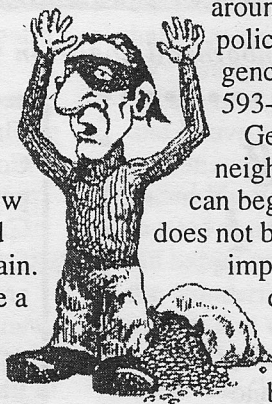
The ordinance does not regulate any work on a building that does not require a building permit; thus most changes to a structure are not covered and require no Landmarks review.

If anyone has questions concerning the Historic District ordinance, or needs a copy of it, please call Julie Turner, the NSNC Historic District Coordinator, at 383-2329.

## Citizen's Patrol

The neighborhood Citizen's Patrol/Crime Watch has not been out as much lately as we have in weeks past. First, we slowly lost all of our vehicle signs patrolling the alleys (guess the brush got 'em) and then we had the great ice and snow storm and nobody wanted to go and patrol under those conditions.

With the arrival of the new year, we also have renewed interest in getting going again. However, we still could use a few good men and women (sounds like an Army recruiter), who are willing to devote at least 45 minutes a month to patrolling the streets, and for those who are willing to patrol the alleys along with the streets, the total time commitment is an hour and a half. Think about volunteering for the Citizen's Patrol and plan on coming to our next orientation meeting at 520 N. L on January 30. The meeting will start promptly at 6:15 p.m. and end at 7:00 p.m. Stefanie Gill, our Community Liaison Officer, will train you on what to look for as well as how to maintain your safety while you are out patrolling. Contact the Coalition office (274-0839) to sign up for the orientation session. If you can't get out and patrol, you can still do your part -



the more eyes and ears we have in the neighborhood, the more potential there is to deter crime.

While driving, slow down to 15 mph and look around as you drive. Check out houses, vehicles and people. If you see suspicious activity that concerns you, go

around the block and alert the police. Their non-emergency telephone number is 593-4721 and then press 3.

Get out and meet your neighbors. By doing so, you can begin to know who does or does not belong in your area. It is impossible for those of us doing the Crime Patrol to know who belongs in each house in all 70 blocks.

Also, it is important to remind everyone to keep your garage door shut and locked at night, and to remove anything of value or anything that a thief may deem valuable from your vehicle. Keeping your shrubs trimmed back around your house and utilizing a porch light at night all help in deterring crime.

Give us a call if you'd like to help out in any way - there are lots of areas for involvement and we can all have a part in making our community a safer place to live.

P.S. We have purchased new Crime Patrol vehicle signs that are fully magnetized and will adhere to the vehicles better than our last

set of signs. Hopefully, this will help us to hold on to them longer!

Will & Marie Dudley

### *Beautification Grant:*

Have you noticed the flower planters scattered throughout the North Slope area? Spring is not far off! After the gray of winter, what better way to lift spirits than planting some colorful spring flowers? Planters are available for homes on corners or alleyways. If you live on a corner or alley, come to the Coalition meeting or call Susan Blain at 272-1613 to arrange to pick up a planter or for more information.

the North End for the same reasons as most of you: large trees, an urban neighborhood experience, and the beautiful architecture. We live at 718 N. K Street and are two years into what seems like a 20 year restoration plan (sound familiar?!) Angie and I are both on the steering committee of the North Slope Neighborhood Coalition.

I look forward to serving the community and if there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 272-0938. I would also like to invite anyone who is interested to attend the NENC general meetings, held at Mason Middle School. The next one is on January 27 and along with the usual committee reports, we will also have some guests in to speak about the upcoming school bond levy. The February 24 general meeting will be an important one for all to attend — we will be discussing how to spend the money that will be given to the neighborhood councils via the Thea Foss bond issue.

Hope to see you there!

## My Name's Dan Klein, It's Nice to Meet You

As reported in the last newsletter and at the last North Slope Neighborhood Coalition meeting, I was recently elected as a board member of the North End Neighborhood Council (NENC). The NENC boundaries roughly are the wedge shape from 6th Avenue to Huson Street (Huson is just east of Orchard) all the way to and around

the waterfront. Along with Bill Johnston, I will be representing the wishes and concerns of our coalition to the council board.

I would briefly like to introduce myself: my wife Angie and I are both Northwest natives, originally from Olympia. We have lived in most of the larger cities in Western Washington and finally decided on Tacoma as a place to "sink our deep roots". We fell in love with



## Police Blotter

Greetings, and Happy New Year!



Recently, Tacoma Police Detectives arrested seven juveniles who live in the North End of Tacoma, for

burglaries committed in the city. We are awaiting statistics to see if these arrests have made a significant impact on the unusually high burglary rate that North Tacoma has been experiencing.

However, it's always wise to secure all doors and windows, especially when you are away from home. If you are the victim of a burglary, call for the police and wait until they can determine if there is any evidence to process before you touch anything in your home.

Tacoma detectives have a lead in several arson fires which have occurred in the 600 and 700 blocks of North "J" Street. There is a suspect and he is currently in custody at the Pierce County Jail on charges that are unrelated to the arsons.

Jay Stafford and I have recently been advised of some problem areas within the North Slope. We will be working to solve these problems and may be calling upon the community to help with documentation, etc.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the next Coalition meeting!

Stefanie Gill, Community Liaison Officer

## Progressive Dinner

While the primary goal of the progressive dinner is to raise money for an immediate need, a secondary goal is to have an event that gets people in our neighborhood involved, which in turn helps us to get to know one another and form lasting relationships. We have accomplished both goals with this now annual event and are thrilled with the response from all of you that participated in the dinner(s).

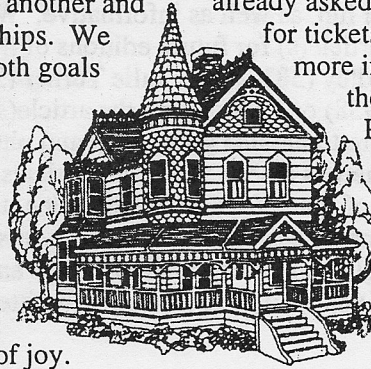
My involvement for the past two years has brought me a lot of joy. It is truly a lot of fun and the most relaxing thing that I do for our neighborhood. Why? It's really quite simple; it brings instant results, everyone has a great time and many of you have become good friends with one another as

well as with Will and me.

Thank you again to all that worked on the 1996 dinner. We look forward to seeing many of you at this year's dinner, November 8, 1997. Many folks have already asked to be put on the list for tickets! If you would like more information regarding the 1997 (3rd Annual) Progressive Dinner, are interested in being a host house or would like to be on the committee to plan this year's event, please let me know. If you are

new to the neighborhood or just have never gotten involved before, this is a great ice breaker and something that you will really enjoy.

Marie Dudley



## A Host Home Perspective

We have always believed living in the North End of Tacoma to be a privilege. Once again this proved to be true during this past holiday season. We had the opportunity to participate in the 2nd Annual Progressive Dinner as a host home, with our house being the "dessert stop". Not only did we have the pleasure of sharing

our home, we also enjoyed meetings neighbors and making new friends. What a fabulous way to bring our community together!

With a little organization, hosting the desserts was fun and "a breeze". As our community continues to move forward, may we continue to enjoy the beauty and safety of the North End. We also look forward to the 3rd Annual Progressive Dinner!

Perry Brown & Paul Britt

## Good Neighbor Discount

Bring this coupon in for \$5.00 off any two full dinners at regular price.

Offer good through February 28, 1997



RESTAURANT

Dennis Faker  
Owner

Specializing in Schnitzel  
Steaks and Seafood

206-627-5010

1105 Division Avenue  
Tacoma, Washington 98403

## Do We Have Any Author's Out There?

Our newsletter is in its infancy, but it can only be as informative and successful as you, the reader, makes it. We welcome and encourage the submittal of articles from everybody! We have many talented and diverse people living in our area; let's hear about your particular hobby, experience, or even a recipe you think others would enjoy.

It is our intent to provide you a forum for an exchange of information that is interesting and fun, as well as informative. Writers and would-be writers may submit article(s) for future editions of the newsletter by contacting Marie Dudley (383-2116), Julie Turner (383-2329) or me, Angie Klein, (272-0938) or by dropping the article(s) off at any of our houses. Please be sure to include your name and phone number.

Also, sometimes there is a need to edit the articles, with reasons ranging from a lack of space for a particularly lengthy article, to a little "wordsmithing" to ensure easier readability. We reserve the right to edit the articles accordingly and do not wish to offend anyone by doing so.

Thanks to those of you who have already submitted articles and let's keep 'em coming in!

Angie Klein

When we decided to relocate from Portland, Oregon to Tacoma, we knew that we wanted to live in a community similar to the one we were leaving. Although we heard several horror stories about Tacoma, we were pleasantly surprised by the many beauties of the area.

During our search for a home in the North End, we were impressed by the lovely, historic homes in the North Slope District. We enjoy the friendly neighbors, seeing people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds utilizing Wright Park, and the views of Commencement

Bay as you drive through the neighborhood.

When moving day finally came, we had hoped that some friends and relatives would help us unload our moving van. For various reasons, no one showed. However, several people in the neighborhood came to our aid that day. We were so grateful for their help and we knew we'd made the right decision and were blessed to live in such a friendly community.

Kimberly & Michael Moreland  
602 N. L Sreet

## Hazardous Street Trees

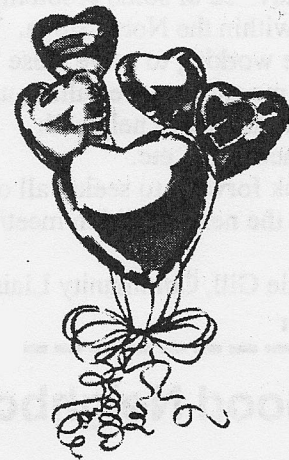
By City law, the planting and care of trees in the street right-of-way is the responsibility of adjacent property owners. The City is involved in street trees because it is charged with maintaining public safety in that right-of-way. Currently, the City has an urban forestry section, staffed by an

Urban Forester (Glen Tharp) and an arborist (me). The urban forestry section is charged with enforcing the law requiring that property owners remove trees or limbs which can be a hazard to the public.

Because of the damage caused by the December 26 ice storm, the urban forestry section has been removing or pruning storm damaged trees at the City's cost. As always, safety is the primary concern. Several North End residents have expressed concern that the City is removing perfectly good trees in their neighborhood. I can understand their concern; the North End suffered more storm damage to street trees than the rest of the city and the near North End has a high concentration of old trees.

I am aware that many people are concerned about the City's policies regarding street trees. **To answer your questions and address your concerns, I will be the next Coalition meeting on February 1.** I look forward to meeting you and working together toward maintaining a healthy urban forest.

Kathy Van Pelt, City Arborist



*Happy St. Valentine's Day  
Friday, February 14*

The current name for this newsletter is the "N.S.N.C" 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!



## Tacoma CARES!

Tacoma CARES began in 1994 as a program to coordinate City services for neighborhood cleanup efforts. The program provides a partnership between the City and the community to revitalize, improve and maintain the physical appearance of neighborhoods through immediate action and long range efforts.

A subcommittee has been working with Tacoma CARES on various issues. The most significant was the completion of a neighborhood survey taken last summer. This information is being utilized in a number of ways:

CDBG Application - Tacoma CARES has applied for two grants which are directly related to the completed survey: 1) Neighborhood Sign Grant. If the grant is received it will provide identification signs throughout the neighborhood which will be mounted on top of street signs; 2) Vacant Property Acquisition Grant. This grant would assist neighborhoods in the purchase of properties for public benefit (such as the N. 8th and K lot for a neighborhood park).

The survey will also be utilized for application of funds through the Innovative Grant process. Suggested items as a result of the survey would include street lighting, sidewalks, and tree removal and replacement.

### Adopt-A-Spot

Do you know of a spot in your neighborhood that could use some helping hands to stay clean? Perhaps a street or playground that needs some sprucing up? Through the Tacoma CARES Adopt-a-Spot program, individuals and groups can choose streets, playgrounds, gulches, traffic circles, parks, fields or other spots in your neighborhoods to maintain for two

- We hope you find this newsletter informative, comprehensive and that it gives you the information you need. If you have ideas/thoughts on how to improve the format or content, we would be happy to hear them! Call Angie Klein at 272-0938.

years. In return for the hard work of the volunteers, Tacoma CARES provides the materials necessary to clean up the areas and a sign recognizing the "adopters".

For more information on the Adopt-a-Spot program, contact Lisa Wilson at Tacoma CARES at 591-5072.

### Blighted Structures Abatement Assistance

Is there a garage or fence falling down around you? You may qualify to receive help from the City of Tacoma's Blighted Structures Abatement Assistant program. Low and moderate income seniors and persons with disabilities can get help with minor repairs or elimination of decayed garages, outbuildings, fences and similar structures. Tacoma CARES will help by paying for dumpster fees, fence repair materials and removal of debris. Volunteers need to provide the labor for the removal and repairs.

Contact the City of Tacoma's CARES program at 591-5001 to apply for help.

### Meeting Set for January 30

The Tacoma Cares committee will meet Thursday, January 30, 7:00 p.m. at 520 N. "L" Street. Along with the "regulars" on this committee, anybody new who is interested in joining is also invited to attend.

Prior to the start of the Tacoma Cares meeting, there will be a Crime Patrol orientation from 6:15-7:00 (same location). We are in need of volunteers to keep this worthwhile program up and

running! You will be trained on what to look for as well as how to maintain your safety while you are out patrolling.

You may attend either meeting or both. See you on January 30!

## PLUM DUFF HOUSE

All of my adult life, I've wanted an old house. Maybe that's pure nostalgia for my childhood when I lived in a big old house with tall ceilings, drafts, etc. My husband definitely did not want a big old house, nor did he aspire to become a Bed & Breakfast Innkeeper in his retirement. His interests were traveling and playing golf and fishing.

After his death, and two years of floundering around in my life, I decided to sell our very modern and convenient house in Gig Harbor and purchased a large and very deteriorated house to satisfy my nostalgic yearnings. I then began the huge project of making the house comfortable with all the modern conveniences needed for a Bed & Breakfast.

At last, I have a dining room that easily accommodates a table to seat twelve, three bedrooms with large private baths, a full apartment (less kitchen) for my personal use, and an opportunity to cook for people. You may ask, "At what cost?" Well, if you discount the chagrin of my friends and relatives, it only cost my *bank account, credit cards and almost all of my sanity*. But, IT WAS WORTH IT!!

*Continued on last page*

I have enough data now to write a book that would equal the story of the movie, "The Money Pit". Now that I am almost through with the inside of the house, I may have time to write my book. My renovation story began with a glitch in the closing process, when moments before closing on the house, my mortgage company decided to require me to put on a new roof and install a new heating system before signing on the dotted line. This delayed closing for 10 days (and I found someone to do those things in 10 days, at a grand price). The biggest glitch came when the seller said he had made a deal for an antique car that he would lose if he delayed closing. So, I bought the car with the understanding that he would purchase it from me on the day of closing. Needless to say, he reneged and I was stuck with an antique car. After that, things really got dicey and I learned some valuable lessons that many firms, contractors, utility companies, and the seller were anxious to teach me. The seller decided he didn't want to move, even after we closed on the house. Two months and \$1,000 later, I was finally able to get the sheriff to evict him. Even though I notified the proper authorities that the seller was in my home illegally, I was unable to get them to cut off water, electricity, garbage, etc., nor did they ever collect a payment for the two months he lived there. As soon as I moved in, they cut off MY electricity and services and would not restore them until I paid HIS bill - over \$500! Believe me, I was beginning to get a bitter taste for Tacoma. Contractors would start a job and then fail to show up for completion. Since I was still employed at the time the work was being done, it was necessary for the contractors to have a key - I had one contractor that filled his truck up with my possessions and then proceeded to leave town. Some did shabby work and some

helped themselves to my bar. However, not all was bad. Through this all, I found a few reliable, honest and knowledgeable workers. I also found some really nice and supportive neighbors. I found a neighborhood filled with people who are caring, friendly and active in maintaining the neighborhood. My original instincts were good and I am so happy to be a part of the North Slope neighborhood!

I am now realizing my dream and I have a fully licensed and operational Bed & Breakfast. It's called Plum Duff House and is located at 619 North K. Street. I am happy with my old house, with the wonderful people who are my guests, and with my neighborhood. After 35 years as a Labor Relations Specialist (I am now retired), it is gratifying to have no confrontations and to be able to cook, serve and entertain in my old house. My guests are mature, quiet, interested and interesting and my life is fuller and richer because of them. And just maybe, eventually, they'll reimburse me for my depleted bank account. Whether or not that ever happens, my soul sings because I am doing what I always wanted to do. I will always be a good neighbor and I know my neighbors are good neighbors - my hope is that someday most of you will also count me as your friend.

Kip Duff, Plum Duff House  
619 North K Street

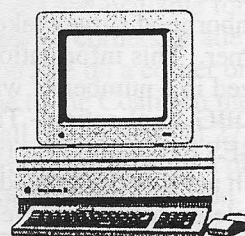
Recently a downtown businessman stopped at The Bavarian for a cocktail and a chat. A few minutes into our conversation, he mentioned that he lived in the Gig Harbor area and "sure wanted to move into town." I was all ready to give him my "North End Sales Pitch" when he started telling me how much he has always liked my neighborhood. The big, beautiful Victorian homes have always been

his favorite and the trees are so beautiful. He envies our police and fire protection.

Then he proceeded to tell me he'd like to blow up the Narrows Bridge. He was out of power for eight days after the ice storm and still had no cable. Then he shouted out, "Well gotta go, takes a long time to get home." I said good bye, he said good bye, I smiled. Four minutes later I was home, he was at the curve on N. "I" Street heading for the bridge.

See you at the February meeting.

Dennis Faker



Like so many others these days, the decision to put together our home "virtual office" was both appealing and a little scary. A few months later, my husband and I are thrilled with our home office in Tacoma's North End.

Roy is president of VASS Training Group Northwest, a company that retrains experienced salespeople to increase sales 25 to 50 percent, often more.

Our other business is sales, representing Quinton treadmills to health clubs, hospitals, schools and other training and recreation center and Tuflex Flooring, a resilient rubber flooring that provides 10 to 15 years of performance to golf clubs, fitness centers, ice rinks and more.

Because both of our businesses require travel to clients in the Northwest and across the nation, we have the good fortune to choose anywhere we wish to live. Since November 1995, we have enjoyed calling Tacoma home.

Amy Winslow and Roy Musgrove

**SAFE ST**