



N.S.N.C.

Trolley Times

Vol. 10

• News of the North Slope Neighborhood Coalition •

August 1998

A Big Sigh of Relief and a Huge Thank You!

I guess we groveled, pleaded and begged just enough for people to start feeling sorry for us... At the June Coalition meeting, we had several people come forward to volunteer to help out with the many activities necessary to keep this coalition functioning. And to those of you who did volunteer, THANK YOU!!

Lynrae Hubbell has agreed to take on the role of **Coalition Meeting Refreshment and Coffee Coordinator**. She will make sure that the coffee is brewed and ready to go by our 9:00 a.m. meeting start time and will procure the "munchies" such as doughnuts, bagels, etc.

Dennis Faker will be our **Coalition Meeting Facilitator** for a three month trial basis, beginning with the August meeting. Dennis will keep the agenda on track and will introduce each person affiliated with their agenda item. We're very pleased that Dennis is taking on this role and it's good to have him active again in the Coalition, after a much needed respite from the sale of his restaurant.

Marilyn Torgerson and **Patty LeBlanc** will be **Newsletter Article Collectors**. They will actively pursue getting articles from the neighborhood and/or surrounding community to be submitted for the newsletter. Feel free to contact either one of them if you have an article to submit.

Tom Hubbell will take on the **Newsletter Print Manager** duties.

Once the newsletter is ready to go, Tom will get it printed.

Marilyn Torgerson will be the **Newsletter Distribution Manager**. She will make sure that all the people who actually get out and deliver the newsletter receive their designated number of copies for their assigned street.

The Coalition Steering Committee thanks all of you new recruits, along with all our regular volunteers. It takes a big load off and is sincerely appreciated.

The NSNC Steering Committee

National Night Out

National Night Out is Tuesday, August 4. It's not too late to plan a neighborhood block party! Let's all leave our porch lights on to support the annual event!

Call Safe Streets at 272-6824 for further information.

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, **August 1** at St. Patrick Church, North 12th and J Street. Coffee and doughnuts are provided.



Please watch out for the little ones!

First day of school is
September 2

August 1 Coalition Meeting at

St. Patrick Church

North 12 & North J Streets

The meeting will be held in the basement hall. Please park in the parking lot (handicap spaces are available in the alley near the garden and grotto).

See back page for Coalition meeting agenda

Meeting Held to Conceptualize Park at 8th and K

On July 6, board members of the North End Neighborhood Council and neighbors from the North Slope area met with representatives from the city of Tacoma and Tacoma Metro Parks to discuss the development of a park at the NW corner of 8th and K Streets. James Matthews, an urban planner with the city, and Dan Scamporlina, Planning and Development Manager with Metro Parks, explained the development process and fielded questions from neighbors.

Scamporlina stated that at this stage Metro Parks is not committed to any particular concept or plan, but that it is their intent to have the project completed in as soon as six months.

While the date of the next meeting has not been set, Matthews said that his department would send out an update announcing the date, time and agenda of the next meeting as well as details of the project to date. This update will be sent to all who attended this initial July 6 meeting. Anyone else interested in participating in the project and/or receiving a copy of the update letter is urged to call Walter Evanishyn at 272-2425.

"Please take a few minutes to walk the site and come up with some ideas of your own. This will be our park and the more participation and input we receive will only serve to make it a greater asset to our community", says Evanishyn.

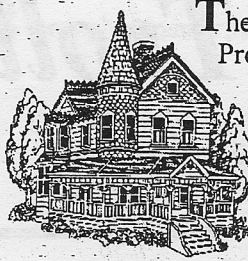
Citizens' Patrol Update



Identity Theft:

The caution expressed in the last newsletter about direct disposal to the garbage or recycle container of papers with personal and financial

Volunteers Needed for 1998 Progressive Dinner



The 4th Annual Progressive Dinner and Walking Tour is scheduled for Saturday, November 7.

In order for this to be a success, it requires lots of behind-the-scenes help. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to assist in a number of ways: posting flyers around town; helping the host homes prepare and/or serve the food; "leaders" who are willing to guide participants from home to home; and general gophers that are

about how you can help.

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. This, in turn helps us to get to know one another and form lasting relationships. If you are new to the neighborhood or just have never been involved before, this is a great ice breaker and something that is a lot of fun.

Tickets this year will again be available through Judy Martin. To order your ticket(s), you may call Judy at 572-3059 and leave a message. She will be sure to

"...the primary goal is to raise money for an immediate need, a secondary goal is to have an event that gets people involved."

available to jump into action on a moment's notice. These are just a few of the different activities. Contact Angie Klein (272-0938) or Judy Martin (572-3059) if working behind the scenes is appealing to you or if you have any questions

contact you to reserve your preferred seating. Since we completely sold out of all our tickets for each time slot last year, you may want to contact Judy early on to guarantee your spot on this year's tour.

information thereon is still valid. Identity theft remains a growing problem nationwide, not just in our neighborhood. Even the FDIC is concerned. Shred your papers prior to disposal and put half of the shredding in a different container for disposal at a different time.

In addition to the retrieval of items disposed, we have had at least one case of theft from incoming mail in the North Slope. Incoming mail with credit information was stolen and an attempt to make a purchase was made with the stolen information. We have to watch both ends of the distribution system, both incoming and outgoing. Remember to pick up your mail as soon as possible after delivery. You may want to consider making a slot through your porch wall or front door, or have it delivered to a Postal Box.

Car Prowls and car theft is also increasing in the area. Last month, within a two day period, four vehicles were stolen and an attempt was made to steal a fifth. Unfortunately, this rash of thefts in this short period was in addition to the one or two vehicles picked off or prowled at other times during the month. The alarm on my own vehicle was set off once last month in another attempt, and gasoline was siphoned from the tank of one of my neighbors.

Neither the police nor your Patrol can help much with this type of a problem - there are just too many cars out there and too many bad guys that want them or something from them. The answer to this is also a self-help solution: park your cars in a locked garage whenever possible; install an alarm or "The Club" and use them; do not leave

valuables in your car, particularly in plain sight; and at the very least, lock your car whenever you leave it.

Stolen Newspapers: And finally, in the area crime scene, there is someone stealing newspapers off of front porches on North Cushman and North Sheridan early in the morning. This problem has diminished since the days became longer but I am sure it will increase again as shorter days approach. So don't blame your paper carrier for missed papers; assume, rather, that missed papers are due to someone who is too cheap to buy their own.

Citizens Patrol Coordinator Needed: As announced at our June meeting, I will retire as coordinator of our Citizens Patrol right after our next North Slope Neighborhood Coalition meeting in August. To date, no one has volunteered to secede me in this position. We need someone to assume the coordination responsibilities or the patrol may retire with me. The Patrol is a valuable asset for our neighborhood and, I believe, really does help drive the crime incident in our neighborhood down. Perhaps with a new coordinator and new ideas, it can become even more effective. Please let me know if you are interested, or if you have any questions regarding how the Patrol is run.

Tom Tomberg
572-2532

More Crime Information:

There has been an increase in the number of stolen and prowled vehicles in our neighborhood in the past several months. This increase has caused several police officers to go undercover and cruise our area in unmarked vehicles in hopes of spotting the criminals responsible for the thefts. The undercover officers did see many interesting things during their days of surveillance, but did not see any thefts take place. They did contact several persons of interest and are keeping their names

on file.

Here are some things we can do to keep our vehicles safe:

- Report suspicious persons and vehicles to the police.
- Keep your vehicle locked and use an alarm or other anti-theft devices. Many inexpensive models can be purchased at stores like Target or Fred Meyer. More sophisticated systems are available at car stereo installation stores.
- Park in a garage if one is available. If not, park close to your house, preferably in a well lit area and check on your car periodically throughout the evening or whenever it is parked for long periods of time.
- Never leave anything in your car that is valuable to you. This includes purses in the trunk, identification or credit cards, your vehicle registration or title, visible spare change, photographs or other items that are not replaceable.
- Consider insuring your vehicle with theft coverage.
- Document the serial numbers of your sound systems.

Important telephone numbers:

Non-emergency police: 798-4721,
push the number 3
Police emergency: 911
Abandoned vehicles: 591-5926
CLO Gill: 591-5290
CLO Stark: 594-7837

Scam Alert!

There are several sophisticated scams occurring in the city of Tacoma. Here are brief descriptions of two known scams.

The victims are usually senior citizens who live by themselves. The suspects will contact the victims at their homes. The victims will have just returned from a nearby store after purchasing merchandise, usually groceries. The suspects will identify themselves as security guards from the store that the victim had just returned from. The suspects are very convincing and will usually carry a brief case with a tape recording

device in it. The suspects will tell the victim that he/she had paid for their groceries with a counterfeit bill. They ask to see any other cash that the victim has in the house to see if it is also counterfeit. The suspects will look over the cash and compare the serial numbers of the bills to a file containing serial numbers that the suspects have brought with them. The suspects tell the victim that they think that one of the victim's banks is distributing the counterfeit money and tell the victim to write two checks for a large amount of money. The victim and suspects drive to two different banks and cash the checks. The suspects take immediate custody of the money and they return to the victim's house where the suspects "appear" to place the money into a secured box and leave it with the victim. The suspects keep the keys to the box and tell the victim that their supervisor will contact them in several days to schedule a time to come by the victim's residence to inspect the money. The phone call from the supervisor never happens. When the victim breaks open the box they find nothing but an empty envelope inside.

The suspects are: a black male, 50-55 years of age, 5'11", slim build with black hair, wearing a suit; a white female, 27-28 years of age, 4'06", 105 pounds, with brown hair wearing a brown dress. Keep in mind that this is a sophisticated scam and may involve multiple suspects whose descriptions are not yet known.

Another scam is also targeting senior citizens. The victim will receive a phone call from a person identifying themselves as a representative of the Tacoma Police Department. The suspect tells the victim that Chief Arreola has been trying to reach the victim. A man then comes onto the line and says that he is the Chief. The suspect tells the victim that there is a problem with his bank account and begins asking questions about the account.

New **SAFE ST** Representative to North Slope

Safe Streets' new representative for our area is Ed Aviles. He lives within the North Slope and has been in the North End for 25 years. He is a former police officer with a special interest in graffiti and gangs. He has many resources and would be happy to answer any inquiries. Ed may be reached at 272-6824.

Tacoma Cares News

- Drafts are available of the minimum building and structure code. There is a point system about foundations, windows, walls, etc., addressing maintenance problems that may lead to decay. There is a provision for fines. This code will help prevent buildings from becoming neighborhood eyesores that need to be torn down.

- A registration of rental properties is in progress, to simplify locating property owners and managers.

For further Tacoma Cares information, call Lisa Wojtanowicz at 591-5267.

It's Off!

That's right. The letter has been sent to the Office of Historic Preservation with our request to expand the Historic Neighborhood to include Sheridan, Cushman and Ainsworth between Division and Steele. The residential portion of Grant between Sprague and Steele is also included. We have collected signatures supporting the inclusion of the area from sixty percent, or more, of the property owners in the

area.

What happens next: Every property in the designated blocks will be researched by the Office of Historic Preservation. Each property is identified according to its contribution to the neighborhood. (The designations are explained in the material provided to each person contacted in the campaign). It is important to remember that structures may contribute through architecture, or through the history of its ownership. Next, the Landmarks Commission must hold a hearing and decide whether to recommend the addition to the Planning Commission. All residents will receive notices of that meeting. Please plan on attending.

We haven't finished the process! (Assuming that the Landmarks Commission recommends expansion). The next step is a public hearing with the Planning Commission to consider the expansion. Again, we will receive notices of this hearing. Please, PLEASE! attend and indicate your support for the expansion. This is another important step along the way!

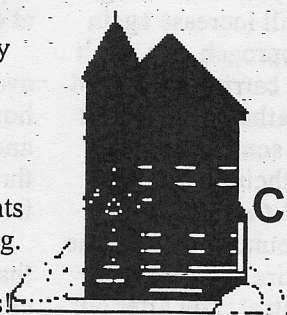
Assuming the Planning Commission is so impressed with our enthusiasm and numbers that they recommend the expansion, it's on to step (hearing) three. We will all receive notices of the public hearing before the City Council to hear comments from anyone interested in the expansion. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU ATTEND, if at all possible. The North Slope neighborhood has been great at supporting the Historic District and it is our turn to continue that record.

Even as we start the formal procedures, we will continue to try to contact several residents who have not been home any time we came by and knocked. If you missed us and would like to know more about the historic district or add your name to the list, please call one of us and will be delighted to bring the information to you. We are: Velda McDonadl, 627-4192;

Janis Birnbaum, 272-7010; or Barbara Tomberg, 572-1532. We have also been contacting new owners but if we missed you, please let us know!

See you at the next meeting—August 1! We'll have sign up sheets there, too!

Velda McDonald



Our Old Houses Cookbook

A new idea for the North Slope Coalition! A small group of people with too many things to do decided to take on another project designed to bring our community a little closer together. We are proposing to make a cookbook that includes pictures of our houses with some historical information about who lived there then and now; with a favorite recipe of the current owners on the facing page. A committee member will come by to take the picture (unless the owners already have one they would like us to use). We would like each family/homeowner who wants to participate do a brief write-up of the history (one or two paragraphs) and provide the recipe. The committee will put the cookbook together, get it printed, and then sell it within the North Slope Neighborhood. By doing most of the work ourselves, the cost will be kept low.

Further discussion of the cookbook project will be on the agenda for the August Meeting. If you can't attend the August 1st meeting, but are interested in participating in the cookbook project, call Patty LeBlanc (272-2884) or Marie Dudley (383-2116).

Our neighborhood thanks St. Patrick Church for lending us their basement reception area for our bi-monthly Saturday morning meetings.

The church at North 12th and J was built in 1907. Frederick Heath was the architect and P.A. Baillargeon the builder. The Parish had been established in Old Town in 1891 at Tacoma Avenue and Starr. St. Patrick celebrated its centennial seven years ago.

The school was built in 1919 at 11th and J, and moved to the Aquinas Academy building in 1974 when Tacoma's three Catholic high schools consolidated.

Today, Father Seamus Laberty is parish priest to the 1250 families and 350 school students in St. Patrick's community.

Good Food & Conversation

For the past three months, many of us have been eating our way across the North Slope area. We started on L, went to J, then to North 9th and we will be at North

8th this month. It has been really entertaining, fun, and of course the food and fellowship have been marvelous.

If you are interested in joining us at one of the host homes, or hosting a dinner yourself, give us a call. You're encouraged to host in the way that you are most comfortable with, or have time for. We have had from eight people, to the twenty that are on the list for this month.

Please do not feel hurt or offended if you have not been called yet. This is nothing formal and sometimes has been at the last minute. However, if you prefer, we will get better organized and maybe have two dinners a month instead of only one. That way, we can accommodate more of you great folks.

So let us know if you desire to be included and we will put you in touch with some of your neighbors. We have said for years that some of the greatest people in the city live right here in our neighborhood.

Nick Kristensen @ 272-2884
Marie Dudley @ 383-2116

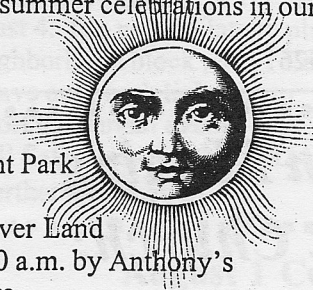
Local Community Activities

Did you enjoy the Ethnic Fest at Wright park July 25-26? Plan to take the family to share in some of the following summer celebrations in our community:

- August 1: University Place Festival
- August 6-9: Pierce County Fair at Graham
- August 8: Latino Heritage Festival at Wright Park
- August 8-9: Ft. Nisqually Encampment
- August 15: Teddy Bear Picnic at Never Never Land
- August 15: Pt. Defiance Hike (5 miles), 9:00 a.m. by Anthony's
- August 15: Car show at Freighthouse Square
- August 28-30: Federal Way Steel Lake Family Fest
- September 11-27: Western Washington State Fair at Puyallup Fairgrounds

Ongoing events include Tacoma Farmers' market downtown on Thursdays, and Proctor Farmers' market on Saturdays; Snake Lake activities; Seymour Conservatory displays; and special gardens at Pt. Defiance (herb, fuchsia, dahlia, rose and Japanese).

These are just a few of the many family-oriented events going on in our community. Plan to attend one or all!



Wanted:

"At home moms" with little ones ages six months to one year who would like to get together for walks or to form a play group. I live on North "J" Street and have an eight month old daughter who loves spending time with other kids her size.

Interested? Call Annie at 627-4052.

Share Your Stories!

Do you have an interesting restoration, remodeling or landscaping project to share with your North Slope neighbors? We would be happy to read about it. Turn in your story to Angie Klein (272-0938), Marilyn Torgerson (627-4537) or Patty LeBlanc (272-2884) by September 14.

Thanks!

Lawn Watering

Watering lawns daily for brief periods produces very shallow roots. A healthy root system, on the other hand, has deep roots, which seek moisture from the top 6-12 inches of soil. Lawns with deep roots can go about a week between waterings.

A healthy lawn needs no more than once inch of water per week. To measure, place an empty tuna can, or similar containers, around your lawn while your sprinkler is running. Time how long it takes to fill the cans one inch. This is the amount of time you should water your lawn each week.

For the gardener, this means less work and you'll be conserving water in the process. Watering more often can actually create more problems for your lawn.

Do yourself a favor and water less often to create a much healthier, greener lawn.

Committee Contacts

Coalition Office @ 274-0839

Historic District Expansion (Sheridan through Ainsworth/Grant):
Velda McDonald @ 627-4192

North End Neighborhood Council: Dan Klein @ 272-0938
"Tom" Tomberg @ 572-1532
Maggie Kelly @ 272-7102
Walter Evanishyn @ 272-2425

Crime Patrol: "Tom" Tomberg @ 572-1532

Newsletter: Angie Klein @ 272-0938
Marilyn Torgerson @ 627-4537
Patty LeBlanc @ 272-2884
Tom Hubbell @ 593-0749

North Slope Coalition Steering Committee:

Nick Kristensen @ 272-2884
Tom & Barbara Tomberg @ 572-1532
Julie Turner @ 383-2329
Dan & Angie Klein @ 272-0938
Velda McDonald @ 627-4192
Judy Martin @ 272-0609
Don & Chris Brosnan @ 272-4290
Marie & Will Dudley @ 383-2116

North Slope History Project (temporarily on hold) Kim Moreland @ 593-4319

1998 Progressive Dinner: Judy Martin @ 272-0609
Angie Klein @ 272-0938

Ed Aviles, **Safe Streets:** 272-6824

Lisa Wojtanowicz, **Tacoma Cares:** 591-5267

October Edition Article Deadline

If you have an item to submit for the October edition of Trolley Times, please get it to:

Angie Klein, 272-0938
Marilyn Torgerson, 627-4537
Patty LeBlanc, 272-2884

no later than Monday, September 14. This allows adequate time to get the newsletter ready to go, get it printed, and then get it delivered. It would really help and make things go a lot smoother if articles are submitted by the requested date.

Thanks!

Newsletter Article Collector Committee

Thought for the day:

*"If dandelions were
hard to grow, they
would be most welcome
on any lawn."*

Andrew V. Mason

Next Coalition Meeting @ St. Patrick Church: August 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:

- Crime Patrol Update
- Treasurer's Report
- 1998 Progressive Dinner
- Our Old Houses Cookbook Project
- New business from floor

1998 Coalition Meeting dates:

Saturday, February 7
Saturday, April 4
Saturday, June 6
Saturday, August 1
Saturday, October 3
Saturday, December 5