

N.S.N.C.

# Trolley Times

Vol. 13

• News of the North Slope Neighborhood Coalition •

February 1999

## Rally At Wright Park

You may have been reading in the Tacoma paper recently about Pierce County recently deciding to relocate the Department of Assigned Council (DAC) - or the Public Defenders Office - to the Stadium area. The actual location is the corner of So. 2nd and Tacoma Avenue.

Local concern focuses on citizen safety areas:

- A 300 child pre-school virtually next door, run by First Presbyterian Church.
- The building parking lot abuts G. Street - right along Wright Park.
- The area contains many apartment buildings occupied mainly by senior citizens.

The County Council and County Executive Doug Sutherland have so far turned a deaf ear to citizen efforts made to get the Council to reconsider the decision to put the DAC in this building.

A rally at the Landmarks Convention Center was held on January 15. About 200 people - young, old, and in between - held signs, chatted to elected officials and then went inside the Temple Theater to listen to neighborhood leaders discuss the issue.

The NSNC Steering Committee voted to support the Stadium

District, and was represented at the rally by Patty LeBlanc, Nick Kristensen and Julie Turner.



## Happy St. Patrick's Day

### March 17

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,

**February 6**

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

Are you making the load light for your neighborhood? It's time to chip in and lend a hand in making the North Slope the best place to live. There are many ways to get involved. One of them is to spend two hours a month driving/walking/biking on patrol in our neighborhood. Contact Thomas at 274-0839 for more information.

## February 6 Coalition Meeting at St. Patrick Church

North 12 & J Streets

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

**See back page for Coalition meeting agenda**

## Historic Design and Timeless Ways

I love this place! It feels so comfortable!

Ever hear something like this? Chances are you have and you were probably in an older building. Human affinity for some places and dislike for others is complex, but some basic reasons have been discovered. These elements can be applied to all matters of human habitat. What makes a house a structure that invites people to stay and feel good?

The North Slope Historic District is comprised of many older homes that have many of the elements that make them "user friendly". The first element that is obvious is a "welcoming entry". An obvious entrance that leads people to the home's front door. A welcoming entrance also usually has a porch that is elevated so that people can sit and observe the neighborhood: a connection to the community. It is elevated to provide a small sense of distance and privacy, thus a personal space. It is your space, but is part of the neighborhood.

Once inside, the same is true: small spaces which are part of the whole, large rooms that have smaller "cozy" areas, breakfast tables tucked into a nook, an inglenook in the parlor, window seats, bay windows, groups of comfortable seating, ceilings of different height. All these places are smaller, more personal nooks in a larger space. They invite you to stay, be a part of something more personal and still be a part of the big picture.

Another element that makes a space comfortable is "sameness". Older homes have architectural features that repeat throughout the home but are slightly different place to place, visual and physical comfort and peace without bore-

dom, comfort in the known.

Make a quick visual survey in your own home and around the neighborhood for details or spaces that repeat or create places of comfort and peace. Write a paragraph describing the "feeling" of your favorite room and send it to the Trolley Times. Share the experience.

Roger Johnson  
North Slope Historic District  
Representative to the Historic  
Preservation Commission

## Are You New to the North Slope Neighborhood?

If you live on Sheridan, Cushman, Ainsworth or Grant and no one has knocked on your door with the Historic Neighborhood materials, we'll be happy to bring them to you and explain the process for completion of the North Slope Neighborhood Historic District.

Contact Velda McDonald at 627-4192 for any of the streets; or Barbara Tomberg at 572-1532 for Sheridan; or Janice Birnbaum at 272-7010 for Cushman.

Update for everyone: The Office of Historic Preservation is currently completing the research on each property in the application. The next step will be the presentation to the Landmarks Commission. It should take place sometime this spring.

## March is Oil Smart Month

Are you an "SOV" (Single Occupancy Vehicle)? Try using an alternative commute mode at least one day a week throughout the month of March. It's Oil Smart

Month, where different commute modes are encouraged to get more people to abandon their vehicles (if only for the day) and walk, ride their bicycle, use public transportation or carpool when you would otherwise drive alone.

In America, every person over age five walks somewhere between 88-190 miles a year, according to a recent report issued by the Federal Highway Administration. How many miles do Americans drive? Over 2 trillion a year! If you choose to walk to work, you keep your car off the road more often. And fewer cars benefit everyone in numerous ways. Here's how:

Reducing traffic pressures that would otherwise lead to costly road expansion projects conserves taxpayers money.

Walking helps keep money in the local economy. Much of the money spent on gasoline leaves the local economy. Driving less saves you money that you "recycle" locally when you buy from nearby merchants.

Walking stimulates more walking. People prefer to walk in places where other people walk. Developed areas that accommodate walkers often enjoy vibrant retail activity.

Walking reduces the waste caused by automobiles. People in the United States discard 10 million vehicle bodies and 250 million tires each year. About 200 million gallons of used oil are dumped on the ground or in water - that's roughly equal to 20 Exxon Valdez oil spills each year!

When you add up all the ways you pay, there's no getting around it: Driving is expensive!

Driving a new car in 1993 cost about 47 cents a mile if the car was driven 10,000 miles during the year, according to the American Automobile Association. Depending on how many miles you drive, you'll spend anywhere from \$4,700 to



\$7,000 a year to operate your car.

Walking – it's great for your health and it saves you money. Walking turns your commute into a fitness program that can help you keep you out of the doctor's office and increase your energy and productivity at work.

Consider walking as your alternative commute mode in March!

## Holiday Lights Competition

Thanks to all of you who entered the contest - it was a tough decision for the judges! The Grand Prize went to Gerald, Pat & Brian Rink (pictured) at 1106 N. M Street.

Brian did the design and installation of the lights. They were awarded a night's stay at our very own neighborhood bed and breakfast, "The Dutch Embassy", owned by Ken & Velda McDonald. They also received a certificate and photo of their home.

Honorable Mention went to Von

and Judy Martin at 515 N. M Street, and People's Choice went to Morrie and Lois DeBack at 1212 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Both homes were awarded a lovely Christmas wreath donated by Danise Roland of Fidelity Nation Title and also received a certificate and photo of their homes.

A special thanks to the judges: Dennis and Karen Faker of "Espresso, Buy The Cup"; Walter and Jodi Evanishyn of the North End Neighborhood Council; Jerry

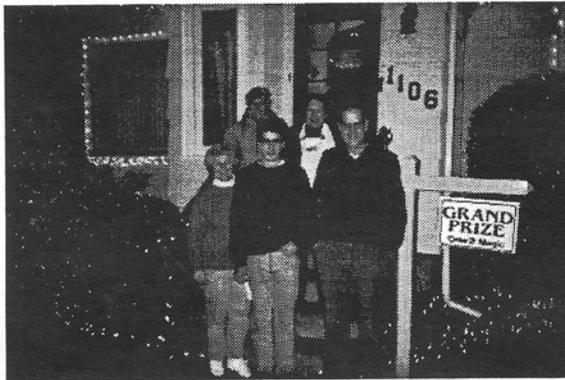
Hull of Hull Insurance Co.; Ken and Velda McDonald of The Dutch Embassy; Grins & Smiles Century 21 Magic; Danise Roland of Fidelity Nation Title; Ralph and Barbara Tomberg of the NSNC; Bob and Barbie Chase of Chase Chiropractic; and Lisa Wojtanowicz of Tacoma Cares. Thank you also

to our local merchants for collecting the ballots: Espresso, Buy The Cup, Frisko Freeze, Hank's Tavern,

Mail Boxes Etc., Peoples' Cleaners, and Schuck's Auto Parts.

The competition certainly brought out the creativeness of our homeowners. It was wonderful to see all the houses decorated and hopefully the enthusiasm will expand even further this next Christmas!

Thomas Hudson, Sponsor of the Competition



## 2nd Annual Neighborhood Caroling Party

It was a small but hardy group that ventured out on Sunday, December 13. We're now the "North Slope Neighborhood Carolers". Just because it poured rain earlier in the evening didn't mean the determined (demented?) ones could not gather at the Dudley's house for a bite and warm drink

before departing to carol up the hi. As we bundled up on the porch, gathering our boots and umbrellas, we realized it wasn't raining anymore! Not only that, but it didn't rain the entire time we were out! Oh joy!

And though we're not good singers, we had great fun and wish to thank all of those who came to

## Christmas Lights

Perhaps this should be titled "Reflections on Christmas Lights from the Perspective of a Judge". As a judge, it was fun to drive through the North Slope neighborhood with the map and questionnaire for a guide. One pays much closer attention to the holiday lighting.

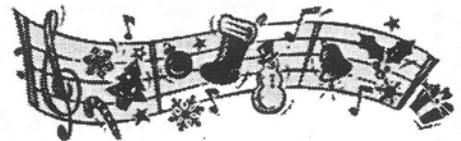
Some observations: 618 N. J's lighting was "welcoming". Also on J, at 1215, they had cute landscape lighting. At 912 North 13th and 714 North K, it was, "Just look at all those lights!" At 516 North M, there was a neat light tree. Nice work on Sheridan at 510 and 517. The house at 809 North Grant had clever theme decor. Kudos to the 500 and 600 blocks of Ainsworth - they were probably the most decorated in the neighborhood.

Not all the homes I've mentioned were part of the contest. That was what made the trip. Thanks for the holiday lights!

Velda McDonald

*Music is well said to  
be the speech of an-  
gels.*

Thomas Carlyle



their doors to greet us. (Some probably wondered who the awful singers were.) Now they know.

You can help by joining us. The 3rd Annual North Slope Caroling event will take place Sunday, December 12. Mark your calendars either to join us, or to escape!

## 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:** Thomas Hudson @ 274-0839

**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

Thomas Hudson @ 272-8699

**North Slope History Project** (temporarily on hold) Kim Moreland @

593-4319

**1999 Progressive Dinner:** Judy Martin @ 272-0609

Angie Klein @ 272-0938

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

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

## April Edition Article Deadline

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

Angie Klein, 272-0938

Marilyn Torgerson, 627-4537

Patty LeBlanc, 272-2884

no later than Monday, Friday, March 12. 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



*Don't fret -- Spring is just  
around the corner!*

### *Next Coalition Meeting*

*@ St. Patrick Church:*

*February 6, 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:

- North End Neighborhood Council Update
- Treasurer's Report
- Crime Patrol Update
- New business from floor

### 1999 Coalition Meeting Dates

Saturday, February 6

Saturday, April 3

Saturday, June 5

Saturday, August 7

Saturday, October 2

Saturday, December 4