



N.S.N.C.

Trolley Times

Vol. 14

• News of the North Slope Neighborhood Coalition •

August 1999

Coalition Meeting Location Change

The meeting site for our North Slope Coalition has been changed to Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 901 North J. Meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall (same location where we vote) which has two entrances, one off the side street of North 9th, and one from the alley parking lot behind the church.

Immanuel was chartered as a mission in 1888 and used a nearby school, a large tent, and a temporary wooden building until the present structure was built in 1909. Ambrose Russell, architect, planned a California Spanish mission-cathedral style

building with reinforced concrete instead of sun-baked adobe. There is a bell tower at the rear. The church school building was added in 1929.

The pastor is Paul Galbreath and parish associate is Jenny Rake-Marona.

The church sponsors Prime Time, a program for children of working parents, and supports Operation Nightwatch, Associated Ministries, Emergency Food Network, hospital chaplain, Habitat for Humanity, and senior activities.

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, **August 7** at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 9th & J St. Coffee and doughnuts are provided.

Thank you, Immanuel, for allowing us use of your facilities. And thanks go to St. Pat's for hosting our meetings last year.

Our House on the THS Home Tour - *Alias:* Let's Get Chores Done - Fast!

In May, 1998, our home at 817 North J Street was included on the Tacoma Historical Society Home Tour. Ironically, my husband, Jay, was the one who said, "Yes, we'll do it." I KNOW he didn't consider the

many little chores such a "yes" would bring. We painted things we'd meant to paint for years, rearranged pictures, moved furniture here and there, and cleaned out cubby holes. Then he thought we were done!

However, the biggest eyesore in

our house was the main upstairs bath and I had been urging a re-do on it for years. My chance had come! I insisted on refurbishing the bathroom and Jay finally said okay. The centerpiece was to be a 6' 6" claw foot tub that needed to come up from the basement to the second floor - two steep, narrow flights. He swore it weighed 650 pounds and he wasn't going to do it. I was sure there was a way, because I longed to have a large, deep, cast-iron tub for leisurely soaks.

So I invited several young, sturdy male family members to a lasagna dinner; I said we'd eat after the tub was upstairs. These fellows said, "No sweat." Ha!

These husky men have weight

continued on Page 2

Tacoma Historical Society Home Tour 2000

The Tacoma Historical Society, Historic Home Tour House Selection Committee is presently searching for houses in the upper North Slope area (Job Carr farm property) for the May 6-7, 2000 tour.

Home owners residing in this area who might be willing to open their homes for the annual THS tour are encouraged to call the Society number at 472-3738 and leave a message for Esther Keelean, Home Tour Chairman.

"Our House" cont'd from Page 1

lifting equipment and lift all kinds of weights for fun. But when it came time to put that muscle to work, things were different. "But Auntie Julie, this tub is heavy!" they exclaimed. They did sweat moving that tub and they earned their dinner. Jay earned his dinner, too because he did tag along behind giving encouragement. Me, I joined in on "One, two, three heave."

Problems didn't end there. Jay had to find out how to pick this tub up so he could put a new floor down under it. I had to figure how to move it so I could paint it. I painted it green, at Jay's suggestion (only to find out later that he was joking). And the rest of the bathroom is in contrasting colors. It looks good if I do say so myself. We were pleased with the results and happy to be done - finally.

Done! Well, not quite. Two weeks later we had a waterfall in our dining room - right below the new bathroom. It took that long for a leak to decide to show up and let its presence be known. So, more tear up and more repairs and more painting, the dining room this time. Now we were done. Let the tour start.

Tour? What tour? We left that day and shuddered when we were told that over 1,000 people saw the new bathroom. Was it worth it? Come by the house, see the little plaque by the front door and ask Jay what he thinks. I might even let you take a bath!

And do try having your home on the tour. You learn a lot about your house, meet new people, and yes, get a lot of chores done.

Julie Turner

Your Project & Landmark Compability

The Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) is charged with

reviewing architectural plans for designated historic buildings and districts. The properties subject to review have been found to possess significant historic (events and/or people) or architectural importance. In the case of districts, maybe no individual property is hugely significant, but taken as a whole, many properties add up to more than the sum of the parts.

The LPC reviews designs with historic preservation guidelines (U.S. Department of Interior guidelines) acting as the compass to keep projects on line with the goals of the original historic designation. It is very easy to make little compromises here and there and before long, the original historic fabric is torn. The LPC approves or guides the applicant's design to a historically-compatible conclusion.

The process for review by the LPC is quite simple. Secure an application from the city's historic

preservation officer, answer the questions, and set up a time to present your project to the commission. Along with your application, it is best to submit some detailed drawings (to scale). The drawings should show BEFORE and AFTER with details clearly shown; you can do them yourself - they don't have to be professional. When you come to the commission review, bring photographs if you have them. The review is a pretty relaxed process - a group of people, all with the same goal, sitting around a table talking about your project and landmark compatibility.

When your design is approved and the project finished, you can look at it with pride and confidence and know you are contributing to the wholeness and character of your community.

Roger Johnson, NSHD Representative to the LPC

Host Homes Needed for Progressive Dinner

The 5th Annual Progressive Dinner and Walking Tour is scheduled for **Saturday, November 6**. We need people to volunteer their home as hosts for the four categories: appetizers, soup or salad, entree, and dessert. If you've thought about doing this but have been unsure of what the commitment is, you can ask any host that has participated in the past and they'll be the first to tell you how much fun it is!

While the primary goal of the progressive dinner is to raise money for an immediate neighborhood need, a secondary goal is to have an event that gets people in the North Slope involved. This, in turn helps us to get to know one another. If you are new to the neighborhood or just have never been involved before, this is a great ice breaker. **Consider being a host home!** Any ques-



tions, contact either co-chair: Judy Martin, at 272-0609 or Angie Klein, at 272-0938.

P.S. Tickets this year will again be available through Judy. To order your ticket(s), you may call Judy at 272-0609 and leave a message. She will be sure to contact you to reserve your preferred seating. Since we anticipate selling out of all our tickets for each time slot again this year, you may want to contact Judy early to guarantee your spot on this year's tour.

One Down, Two to Go?

July 14 was the date for the Landmarks Preservation Commission hearing to consider the FINAL addition to the North Slope Historic Special Review District. By the time this hits print, we will know if the expansion was recommended and forwarded to the Planning Commission. This is the first of the three opportunities for public comment. Were you there to hear those comments?

If you were not there, you missed a chance to voice your support. But even more important, you did not hear the opposition! And there has been opposition at each of the other Historic District formation/addition meetings. We need you to attend each public meeting so that the Planning Commission and finally the City Council have a good picture of the amount of support for inclusion in the Historic District. The opposition does not always live within the boundaries of the area being considered.

There are two brochures explaining the Historic District. If you have any questions or would like copies of the publications, please call me at 627-4192. I'll be glad to drop them by your house.

See you at the next two public meetings!! (I'm thinking positively).

Velda McDonald, 627-4192

National Night Out

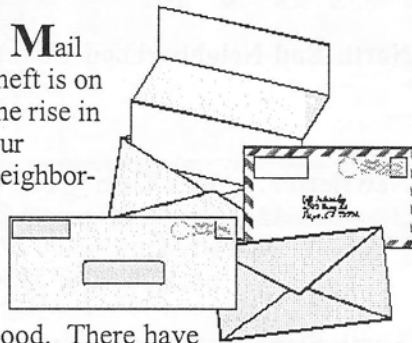
Tuesday, August 3 is the 1999 National Night Out, celebrated nationwide.

Perhaps some of our more active blocks can arrange an evening potluck - there's lots of ways in which to celebrate.

For information about street closures, free soda pop and fire truck visits, look for notices in the local newspaper. Tacoma coordinator is Chino Ramirez, Safe Streets, at 272-6824.

Mail Theft Hits N. Slope Again...

Mail theft is on the rise in our neighborhood.



There have been some instances where homeowners have actually witnessed people going through their mailboxes, looking for anything the thief might deem "interesting"! There are some things you can do to reduce or eliminate mail theft from happening to you.

The North Slope's regular U.S. Postal mail carrier suggests that where possible, create a mail slot where the mail is actually deposited inside of one's home. A mail slot can be cut into the front door, or you can make a slot right in the wall of your house, but cutting your door is probably easier. It will run you about \$30 in supplies and approximately a half hour in time. Not a bad deal, considering the security it brings. The second best thing is to have a locking mail box, but that becomes a hassle for the mail carrier, and to you, as well. Lastly, you might want to consider a Post Office Box. It can be a bit of a nuisance having to go to the post office to pick up your mail, but this is certainly still a good option.

If you see suspicious activity, report it to the police and the post office. It's also a good idea to try and catch our regular mail carrier and make her aware of the activity.

It's unfortunate that we have to take these measures but hopefully, by choosing one of the three methods above, you will not become the next victim of mail theft in our neighborhood.

Adopt-a-Spot

Directly following the August 7 Coalition meeting, we will do our third litter pick up along I Street, as part of Tacoma Cares Adopt-a-Spot program. Have you noticed the two signs at 3rd and 13th on I Street that credit the North Slope Coalition with litter patrol?

If you would like to participate on August 7, wear hard-soled shoes and light or bright clothing. Plastic bags, gloves and safety vests are furnished.

Thanks go to the eight volunteers who spent an hour collecting 50 pounds of litter during the June 5 clean up!



The Trolley Times needs more people to volunteer to deliver the newsletter. It takes about an hour to cover six blocks. If you can volunteer on a regular, or even a substitute basis, please call Angie at 272-0938. Thanks!

Thank you to:
Tacoma Cares
for the printing of the
newsletter. We appreciate your support!

Monday, September 6: *Labor Day*
September 11: *First day of Rosh Hoshanah*
September 20: *Yom Kippur*



Tips for lazy gardeners: Go "Native"

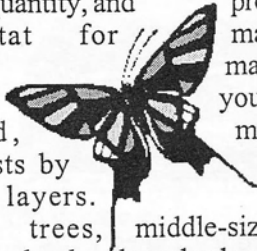
Lush gardens and forests, salmon-filled streams and sailing the blue waters of Puget Sound are what many people think of when they picture life in our Pacific Northwest. How can we have it all, without a massive amount of work?

That picture of green gardens and woods, clean streams and Sound, and thriving salmon runs are all within easy reach of the lazy gardener. The secret? Landscape with native plants and trees. By landscaping diversely, densely and with lots of natives, we can reduce yard work, improve water quality and quantity, and provide habitat for many animals. In your own yard, mimic forests by planting tall trees, middle-sized trees and shrubs, low shrubs and groundcovers. This kind of gardening will soak up stormwater, slow it down to prevent flooding, and let rain percolate into the ground to replenish wells and streams. Even small yards can be planted in layers, with small trees for the canopy.

Consider blending native plants with whatever is already in your garden. Once established, native plants won't need extra water during most dry spells. And they won't need garden chemicals or fertilizers. You'll save a bundle on maintenance time and costs.

Natives are also a good choice for wildlife. For example, the rufous hummingbird migrates to Puget Sound in early March, and counts on salmonberry flowers to provide nectar before other flowers bloom.

As Puget Sound's cities grow, using native plants in the yard helps preserve the natural beauty of our Northwest.



Committee Contacts

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

North End Neighborhood Council: "Tom" Tomberg @ 572-1532
Walter Evanishyn @ 272-2425

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

North Slope Coalition Steering Committee:

Nick Kristensen & Patty LeBlanc @ 272-2884
Julie Turner @ 383-2329
Dan & Angie Klein @ 272-0938
Velda McDonald @ 627-4192
Judy Martin @ 272-0609

Other: Ed Aviles, **Safe Streets:** 272-6824
Lisa Wojtanowicz, **Tacoma Cares:** 591-5267

Next Coalition Meeting @ Immanuel Presbyterian Church: August 7, 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:

- Tacoma Historical Society - A representative from the Society will attend to talk about recruiting homes for the May 2000 tour
- Landmarks Commission Hearing Update & Next Steps
- Historic District Signs Update
- 1999 Progressive Dinner - Host Homes Needed
- Citizen's Patrol - New Coordinator Needed
- Treasurer's Report
- New business from floor

Directly following the Coalition Meeting -- litter pickup on "I" Street.

1999 Coalition Meeting dates:

Saturday, October 2
Saturday, December 4