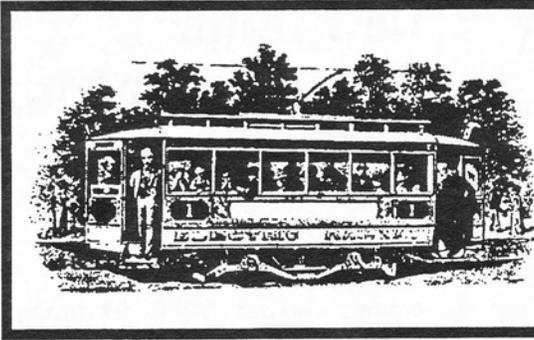


N.S.N.C.

# Trolley Times



Vol. 19

• News of the North Slope Neighborhood Coalition •

June 2000

## North Slope... Remodeling for CommUNITY

Tacoma's built environment is not old in comparison to cities in most other parts of the world. Our son, Matt, lives in Paris. Everyday on his way to work, he passes buildings that were ancient when there was only a small Indian settlement along the banks of what we now call the Thea Foss Waterway. My wife, Ann, is from a small village in Ireland. It was a trading center before Columbus set sail for America. Because Tacoma is not an old city and because we can easily research its roots, I believe it is all the more important to preserve and enhance neighborhoods like the North Slope. They are the source of our community life and pride.

Just as a river is shaped by the landscape through which it flows, the landscape itself is shaped by the river. So too, with us. Just as we are shaped into a unique community by the work we accomplish together, the work is shaped by the unique contribution of each member of the community. Creative working together has shaped the North Slope and has resulted in the preservation of one of Tacoma's premier neighborhoods. Creative working together has resulted in historic designation status for the North Slope. Working to-

gether allows all of us to share our vision for Tacoma. Working together allows all of us to be empowered as a community.

I once attended a Habitat For Humanity meeting in a small church in the North End. It was dark in the large room and there was only one light above the table in the center. There were blackboards on the walls and even though it was dark, I could make out the word UNITY on one of the boards. The Sunday School teacher had chalked the word over and over again so it was easy to read. But then, as my eyes adjusted to the darkness, I realized that there were actually four letters...COMM...very lightly chalked in front of the word UNITY: COMMUNITY. Under the "key word" the teacher had written, "It's the UNITY in COMMUNITY that gets the job done!"

I congratulate all the residents of the North Slope who have worked hard and continue to work together to build community. As an At Large City Councilperson, I work with neighborhood activist groups in other sectors of our city and I have used and will continue to use the example of what you have accomplished in the North Slope. Keep rebuilding, remodeling, restoring and renewing. It works!

Bill Evans

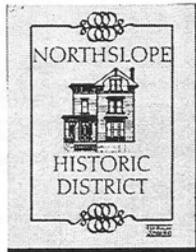
The North Slope Neighborhood Coalition is made up of the people living between "I" and Grant Streets from Division to Steele Streets. If you live in this area as a property owner or tenant, please join us on Saturday morning, **June 3** at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 9th & J St. Refreshments will be provided.

P.S. Bill Evans is one of the new Tacoma City Council members, representing the whole city but with a particular interest in the North End because he lives here and his business is here. He welcomes comments by telephone (591-5112) or e-mail (BEVANS2@ci.tacoma.wa.us)

## Historic Neighborhood News

Did you see all the people walking our neighborhood during the May 6-7 Tour of Historic Homes? People unfamiliar with the North Slope enjoyed the sunny stroll and tour of eight older houses and the Apostolic Faith Church. Built between 1890 and 1921, homes included 242 N. 21<sup>st</sup>; 414 N. J; 701 N. J; 520 N. L; 916 N. L; 720 N. Sheridan; 718 N. Ainsworth; and

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1020 N. 12<sup>th</sup>.

May 14-20 was Tacoma Historic Preservation Week 2000. Two-hour walking tours of the upper North Slope area were held May 20.

## Historic N. M Street Annual Garage Sale

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual M Street Garage Sale is just around the corner. This year it will be held July 15 and 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-3:00 each day. The sale is open to all who live in the North Slope.

It's a great opportunity to clean out your closets, make some money and get together as a neighborhood. A map will lead buyers through the neighborhood to your home.

Sunday after the sale, a neighborhood potluck will take place.

Call Judy for details at 253-272-0609.

## Adopt-a-Spot



After the Saturday morning meeting on June 3, North Slope volunteers will pick up litter on North I Street from Division to Steele. The last pick up on February 5 collected about 100 pounds of trash.

Tacoma Cares provides safety vests, gloves and bags. Wear sturdy shoes and comfortable clothes.

It takes about an hour when we all help. See you June 3!

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

## New Traffic Signal Coming to Division & K Intersection

Relief is on the way! For anyone who has tried to get through that intersection (corners of El Toro Restaurant/Tacoma General & Group Health Hospitals) during one of the more busy times of the day, you know the frustration. Just when you think there's a gap in the traffic and you can safely enter the intersection, a pedestrian needs to cross the street. Or someone changes their mind and is now making a left hand turn and you must yield. You know the drill — many times you have to sit there for quite a while before another opportunity presents itself.

The City will be installing a traffic signal at that intersection to help move the traffic safely along. It's a Federally funded project and came about initially because of multiple citizen requests. The City goes through a ranking process based on the traffic volume for the area, the

## A Little Patience, Please

For many of you in the North Slope, the Trolley Times magically appears on your porch. You scan the articles, glean whatever is useful to you and when finished, perhaps it makes it to your recycling bin.

What you may not realize is all the effort that goes on behind the scenes prior to it reaching your doorstep. Every aspect of putting the newsletter together and getting it delivered is done by *volunteers*. These are people who give their time, their ideas, and provide the footwork. While we try to get each edition out 1-2 weeks prior to our Coalition

meeting, sometimes that's not possible because of hectic schedules. Remember, these are *volunteers* who have jobs, families, homes and other outside interests, all competing for valuable time.

For those of who deliver the newsletter - a big thank you! Without you, obviously the newsletter would not make it to the doorsteps. Keep in mind that if you aren't able to deliver it prior to the Coalition meeting, go ahead and deliver it when you do have the time. There are still lots of articles



of interest besides serving as the notification for the meeting.

For those of you who don't receive your newsletter in a timely manner — please be patient.

We are *volunteers* and we'd be more than happy to recruit some more!

If you're interested in helping with the newsletter, contact anyone on the committee (on back page of newsletter).

Thank you,

The Trolley Times Newsletter Committee

number of accidents that have occurred, how much help it can offer to pedestrians crossing the street, what is around the area, and whether it's located in a business district. Points are awarded for each category and the Division & K intersection ranked high enough to garner a signal. Advertising for bids will take place this summer with construction probably in September.

Hang in there - help is on the way! The signal will be a welcome addition to our neighborhood!

## Tacoma Bridge is for the Birds

Tacoma's Murray Morgan Bridge - also called the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, City Waterway Bridge and Thea Foss Bridge - is now earning a new name.

It's "Home, Sweet Home" for a pair of Peregrine Falcons, an endangered species. The bridge is part of the old State Route 509 across the tidflats (before the new SR 509 alignment and cable-stayed bridge were built further inland).

A Seattle-based Falcon Research Group recently contacted the Department of Transportation (the bridge is still maintained by WSDOT) about placing a nesting box on the bridge. A box was hoisted to the top of the bridge but the birds chose to ignore the nesting box and build a nest of their own design.

Jim Lyles, a hobbyist bird-watcher, has been observing the male falcon for five years from his workplace at the US Geological Survey office in Tacoma. Lyles reports that this is the second year that the young female has spent with the male in downtown Tacoma - and possibly the first year that she's old enough to lay eggs.

Lyles believes the falcons may be attracted to the bridge in part because there is little interference from people, but mostly because it

affords them a good view for hunting. Tacoma bird watchers reported that Falcons were swapping incubation shifts. No one has yet been able to confirm the number of eggs, but a hatch was expected to happen last month.

Providing accommodations for the feathered pair is not only good from an environmental perspective, but provides benefits to the bridge as well. The falcons help with the pigeon problem on the bridge and that's good since pigeon droppings can corrode the painted surfaces and contribute to rusting.

Lyles added these thoughts, "It's a thrill to have these really wild birds over downtown Tacoma - they're magnificent creatures and have become mascots for this part of downtown.

"It's a sign that they're coming back and can co-exist with us. It's a satisfying symbol that some things are right."

## June is National Safety Month

The problem is, safety is boring!

Think about it...if everyone acted safely, we'd all live to 99 (at least). There'd be few gory stories to tell. Very little rubbernecking to do on the roadways. Orthopedic surgeons would be pretty much out of work except for fixing an occasional bone problem due to an inherited condition.

Auto body workers would face a slump, too: Collisions would rarely happen because everyone would

keep their vehicles well maintained, and only a sudden storm on the horizon could precipitate a car crash. Even then, damage would be minimal because everyone had their seat belts on.

At work and home, people would voluntarily don appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment) like respirators and chemical-resistant gloves every time there was the danger of injury. Good housekeeping would be the rule of the day and no office worker would let 30 minutes go by without a body stretch. Too unreal to even consider??

Not really. Remember back to the last time you and your family had a nice dinner out or went fishing. Neither of those feel-good events existed in a vacuum without safety - in fact, safe behaviors, sound engineering, good maintenance practices, and safe-mindedness have probably been part of every good experience you've had.

When safety takes a back seat in your life, you constantly face disasters and personal tragedy, saying "If only I had... (let someone else drive after I drank; installed a carbon monoxide detector at home; worn glasses to shield my eyes...)"

Viewed in that light, safety isn't so boring after all. It helps you take home a paycheck. It's an on-the-job enjoyment booster. It's an underpinning, an attitude, something to wear like a second skin. It doesn't quit there: Not only can it save your own skin, but protects the ones you love.

You might not be able to change the entire world, but you can change your world for the better, and the right PPE for the job is SAFETY.

## Congratulations to all our North Slope Graduates!



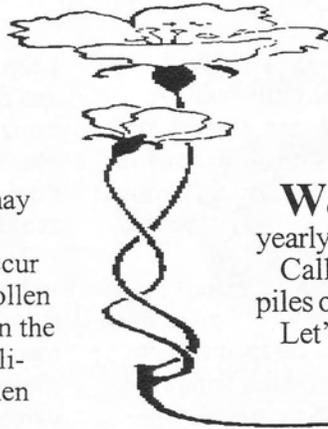
## Achoo!! Gesundheit!!

Spring allergies, also called hay fever, affect about 15 million Americans each year. They occur seasonally in the spring when pollen released from trees is highest, in the early summer when grasses pollinate and in the late summer when ragweed pollen is highest. In addition to pollen, allergy sufferers can be allergic to animal dander, tiny dust mites, smoke, fumes and airborne powder granules.

If you suffer attacks of sneezing, runny nose and itchy, tearing eyes at certain times each year or when exposed to specific substances, you probably have spring allergies.

Ease symptoms or prevent future attacks with some of these tips:

- Keep ragweed and other pollinating grasses near your home mowed. But, have someone else do the mowing.
  - Have outside pets instead of indoor ones.
  - Dust your house often and avoid clutter or heavily upholstered furniture.
  - Try to remain indoors in the early morning as pollen counts are usually highest between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m.
  - Use central heat and air conditioning in your home.
  - Dry clothes in a dryer instead of hanging them on a line where they collect pollen.
  - Wear a dust mask when you go outdoors.
  - Keep windows closed in your house throughout the high pollen seasons of spring and summer.
  - Get rid of house plants that produce pollen.
  - Drive your car with your windows rolled up and the air conditioner set on recycled air.
- When all else fails, there's some good over-the-counter medications. For more urgent needs, talk to your physician.



## Clean Up

Would you like to use one of your two free yearly pickups of junk from the city of Tacoma? Call 573-2468 to request a pickup of boxes and piles of trash from your parking strip. Let's keep the North Slope looking clean!

### 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  
Thomas Hudson @ 973-3700  
Bill Johnston @ 627-6860

**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  
Marilyn Torgerson @ 627-4537  
Dennis Faker @ 572-6508

**Other: Safe Streets:** 272-6824  
**Tacoma Cares:** 591-5001

## *Next Coalition Meeting @ Immanuel Presbyterian Church: June 3, 9:00 a.m.*

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

- Ethnic Fest Booth
- North End Neighborhood Council Update
- Update on Park at 8th & K
- Treasurer's Report