



N.S.N.C.

# Trolley Times

Vol. 20

• News of the North Slope Neighborhood Coalition •

August 2000

## Ethnic Fest - July 29-30

Every Summer, on the last weekend in July, the County Parks Department sponsors the Ethnic Fest. A weekend of good international food, drink, music, dance, and normally lots of sunshine.

The event is held at Wright Park between Division and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and this summer, the North Slope Historic Neighborhood Coalition is participating with a booth, give aways and historic district-inspired T-Shirts for a \$12 donation.

If you would like to help out from 12:00-6:00 on either July 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>, give Bill Johnston a call at 627-6860. If you can just spend an hour, that's fine - if you want to do the day - that's fine also!

For those of us who have attended the Ethnic Fest in the past, take our word for it - it is a really great event for all ages. If you haven't been, you

need to. Come join us on July 29 & 30 at Wright Park.

## No August Coalition Meeting

The North Slope Neighborhood Coalition is made up of the people living between I and Grant Streets from Division to Steele Streets. "Trolley Times" newsletter has been published bi-monthly for several years. Meetings of the coalition have been scheduled the first Saturday from 9-10 a.m. of the even numbered months. We originally met at the Bavarian Restaurant, then St. Patrick's, and now Immanuel Presbyterian.

Because the North Slope is participating in Wright Park's Ethnic Fest July 29-30, and National Night out August 1, **there will not be a coalition meeting August 5.**

The steering committee is presently working on long term

plans for programs, speakers and social functions. The committee welcomes input from all who have suggestions. You may telephone any of the listed phone numbers with your comments.

Thank you to:

**Tacoma Cares**

for the printing of the newsletter. We appreciate your support!

## Dates to Remember (see related articles for details)

July 25 & 28<sup>th</sup>: "Alice in Wonderland" and BBQ at Wright Park

July 26: Friends of Tacoma Public Library Meeting

July 29-30: Ethnic Fest at Wright Park

August 1: National Night Out

September 9: 10:00 a.m. litter pick up - meet at Immanuel Presbyterian

## Annual Neighborhood National Night Out - August 1, 2000

The North Slope Neighborhood is sponsoring two Neighborhood National Night Out parties. Everyone is welcome to come and join the festivities at either location.

The 800 block of "J" Street will be having a Dessert Potluck starting at 7:00 p.m. Please bring a small dessert for sampling and a chair so you can park yourself and relax. If you would like more information, contact Julie Turner at 383-2329.

The second location will be in front of 1601 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street. The BBQ's will be warm and ready around 6:30 p.m. Please bring your own meat, a small potluck dish to share, and a chair (sometimes we are a little short on furniture). There will be bubbles and sidewalk chalk for the kids. If you would like more information, contact Velda McDonald at 627-4192.

This year we have invited the makers of **Celebration Kettle Popcorn**. This organization has been at several supermarkets in the area selling their yummy product. The proceeds from the sales of the bags of corn go to support a local food shelter. Please stop by and support our efforts to give to the community, even if you can't make it to the potluck.

## Are You Looking for a Great Neighborhood Preschool???

We are pleased to announce that Grant Co-op Preschool is moving into the North Slope Historic District. We will be residing at Christ Episcopal Church at North 3<sup>rd</sup> and K Streets.

We are currently enrolling for September of 2000. We offer classes for 2, 3 and 4/5 year olds.

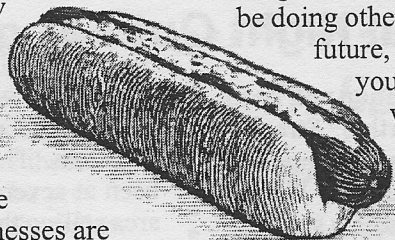
A co-op preschool is a wonderful way to begin your child's early education. Parents work occasionally in the classroom and also volunteer with various aspects of running the school. We have a warm and loving teacher who has over 12 years of preschool teaching experience. Our preschool focuses on age-appropriate play, socialization and the creative arts.

For more information, please call Debbie Kepl at 383-4930.

## A Play in the Park

"Alice in Wonderland" is coming to Wright Park as a free performance for the whole family. The open air performance is presented by the Tacoma Little Theatre's Summer Theatre Institute. The play dates are Tuesday, July 25 and Friday, July 28. Both shows begin at 7:00 p.m. Bring a blanket and get ready for a great summer evening!

To add to the fun, the Stadium District Businesses are holding a BBQ right at the same spot on both play nights. Don't worry about dinner - just grab your blanket and the kids and head for the park around 5:00 p.m. The price of the BBQ is only \$5.00 including tax and the menu is



chicken breast sandwiches or foot long hot dogs, including baked beans, potato salad, cookie and a pop. The profits from the BBQ will be used to start a fund by the Stadium Historic Business District to paint a beautiful mural on the side of the Tacoma Little Theatre building. The business district will be doing other fundraisers in the future, too and I'll keep you posted as to how we can all help.

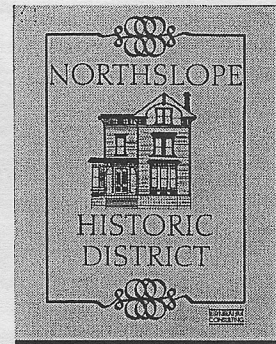
For now, come and have fun at the BBQ and free showing of "Alice in Wonderland" at Wright Park.

Denny Faker  
President, Stadium Historic  
Business District

## Historic District Expansion Complete!

Just in case you weren't aware, the Tacoma City Council voted to complete our historic neighborhood this past April 4. The North Slope Historic District now stretches from North Grant to North I, roughly, between Division and Steele. Not only did they vote to complete the district on that date, but our street signs were installed in time for the May 2000 Historic Preservation celebration! The North Slope Neighborhood Coalition applied for and received an innovative grant to pay for the signs. The art work was donated by one of our neighbors and the city did the installation.

The development has taken close to eight years. Most of that time was spent trying to make sure that every property owner was contacted and asked to support the effort. The City Council meetings,



on the final expansion, were a reward for those from our neighborhood who attended them. The Council appears to be quite proud of this historic neighborhood.

We have two brochures explaining the Historic District guidelines. If you have any questions or would like to have copies of the publications, contact Velda McDonald at 627-4192. She'll be glad to drop them by for you. If you have new neighbors, Velda will provide copies of the guidelines to them, too. If you live further downhill (J Street vicinity), you may call Julie Turner for the guidelines at 383-2329.

## Historic Preservation

The North Slope Historic District is now complete. The final phase of expansion has passed the City Council with flying colors! This is no small accomplishment; a few die-hard volunteers put in unknown hours to make the NSHD a reality. Everyone in the district, actually, everyone in the city owes these hard workers a big THANK YOU! Not only is the neighborhood a more desirable place to live and the value of the homes increases, the whole city becomes a place of distinction. Distinction derived from having such a large residential historic district.

There are a few vocal people who contend that for something to be declared worthy of "preservation", it should be a major element in a pivotal period, event or connected

to a person who shaped history. The nay-sayers don't want to be bothered by everyday historic details: "Why preserve something if it is not even interesting enough to bother reading about. I am too sophisticated to waste my time on the little details".

I contend that it is the little details that make historic preservation meaningful. The details give the big, showy items perspective and scale, details are the background of the big picture. It is like a fine silk brocade with gold threads. The gold is what draws the attention and comments, but it is all the other threads in the fabric that make the gold so valuable. We need all the warp and welt of our history to truly see the fabric.

The ALBERS MILL preservation fight is the same struggle: big, showy, significant verses the "fabric". Albers Mill is the last remaining shred of fabric of our industrial past on the waterway. The mill can be woven into the new without detracting from the new or the old: they work together and become bigger and better than the sum of the parts. A talented architect working to do the right thing for the good of the community, and not just serving his ego, can overcome the obstacles the profit takers conger up. To tear Albers Mill down because it doesn't fit in with the new is a direct denial of our heritage. Embarrassed by our parents? Get over it, forget the ego and celebrate who we are and where we came from!

The North Slope Historic Neighborhood is alive and well today and celebrating our heritage!

Roger Johnson  
North Slope H.D. Representative to  
Landmarks Preservation Commission

## Police News

Sector Two Lt. Miller has been reassigned and Lt. Stan Fisk has returned as temporary Sector Two

lieutenant until a permanent appointment is made in September.

The date for the next quarterly police/community meeting will be announced later. Lt. Fisk may be reached at 591-5697, Liaison Officers PPO Kothstein at 591-5290, and PPO Stark at 594-7837.

## Tacoma Cares/ Minimum Building Code

It's been a year since the Minimum Building and Structures Code went into effect and the results have been positive. Of the 426 sites inspected (residential and commercial), 123 of these have been totally repaired to code. Another 228 are being repaired or have plans for repair. Property owners have demolished 20 buildings and another 53 are under the citation process. As you can tell from the numbers, the code has been a very effective tool for preventing the decay of buildings. We have also been making a very concerted effort to get information out to low-income, elderly and disabled folks about programs available to assist them. If you have any questions about this information, please call Lisa Wojtanowicz, Tacoma CARES coordinator, at 591-5267.

## Friends of the Tacoma Public Library to Meet on July 26th

The Friends of the Tacoma Public Library will hold an organizational meeting for new members at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday evening, July 26<sup>th</sup>, in the Olympic Room of Tacoma's downtown Main Library (1102 Tacoma Avenue South).

The Friends of the Tacoma Public Library is a non profit volunteer organization of people who believe that libraries are an important part of the Tacoma community. The purpose of the Friends is to support the Tacoma Public Library through volunteering, raising funds, and sponsoring special programs and services. Through these activities, the Friends work to focus public attention on the Library, stimulate use of library resources, and support the Library's overall growth and development.

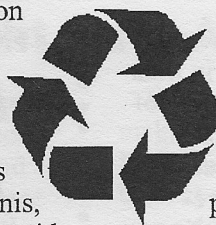
While inactive for the past five years, the newly reorganized group aims to increase community support, involvement and funding for the city's 10 libraries.

Longtime Tacoma resident, educator, and former Library

## Adopt-a-Spot

Saturday, June 3, North Slope volunteers picked up litter on North I Street. We must be making a difference because this time we collected about 60 pounds as compared to 100 pounds in February! Thanks to Vilnis, Linda, Chet, Patty, Nick, Cassidy and Marilyn...good job!

Because there will not be a morning meeting in August, we will plan our last 2000 clean up for Saturday, **September 9** at 10:00 a.m. We will meet in the parking



lot behind Immanuel Presbyterian, at North 9 and J. Tacoma CARES furnishes safety vests, gloves and plastic bags.

If you would like to participate but are not able to on that particular date, you may sign up for doing a block on your own time by calling 627-4537. Hope to see some ecology-minded neighbors at 10:00 a.m. September 9!

Trustee Persis Shook serves as president of the revitalized group. "Libraries play an important role in the cultural, educational and social life of the community. If we value libraries... if we value the Tacoma Public Library... then we have a personal responsibility to help libraries thrive and grow." The library has a wonderful array of resources and programs, explained Ms. Shook. The Friends, she says, will work together with Library staff and administration to bring new learning and cultural experiences, emerging technology and community services to children and families in each and every library in the city of Tacoma. "An active Friends group can make a tremendous contribution to the continued success of the Library," said Shook.

Persons interested in learning more about the Friends of the Tacoma Public Library are encouraged to attend the July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. In addition to information about the revitalized group, Library Director Susan Odencrantz and library staff will be present to discuss library plans, upcoming programs, and volunteer opportunities. For more information, call the Tacoma Public Library's Community Relations office at (253) 591-5688, or visit the Library's web site at [www.tpl.lib.wa.us](http://www.tpl.lib.wa.us).

## Tips for Creating a Safer Home

Thousands of Americans die each year as a result of accidents in their homes. Millions of others, many of them older adults, suffer disabling injuries. The majority of these domestic accidents can be prevented by incorporating the following safety tips in your home:

- Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms throughout the house and in the garage and be sure to check the batteries regularly. A good rule of thumb is to replace the

batteries each time we change our clocks for daylight savings time/standard daylight time.

- Keep fire extinguishers in the kitchen and garage and know how to use them.
- Never smoke in bed or around combustibles.
- Do not overload electrical outlets with extension cords and be sure to turn off appliances when they are not in use.

- Keep flammable material such as curtains, aprons, and dishtowels away from the stove and never wear loose clothing while cooking.

- Make sure all carpeting and rugs are securely fastened and have no loose corners.

- Keep hallways and stairs well-lit and free of clutter.

- Place nightlights in convenient locations.

## Committee Contacts

**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

*In lieu of a Coalition meeting,  
join your NS neighbors at the  
Ethnic Fest July 29-30  
and  
National Night Out August 1*