

Trolley Times

News of the North Slope Historic District

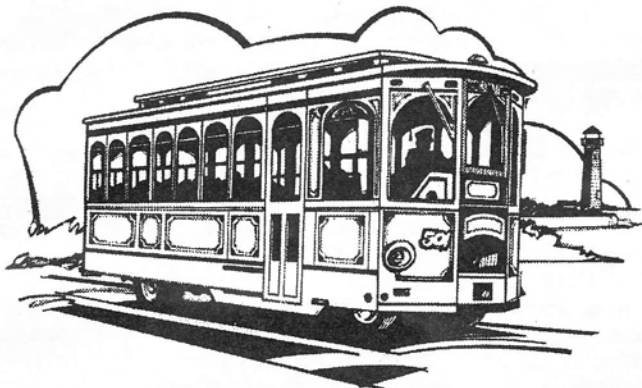
Oct.-Nov.-Dec. 2001

Volume # 25

Elizabeth Anderson Leaves City Preservation Post

The City of Tacoma is initiating a search for a new Historic Preservation Officer after the resignation of Elizabeth Anderson, who held the post for three years. Ms. Anderson shepherded the final phase of the Historic District through the hearing process to final completion. In addition she worked on many other preservation projects in the city, as well as answering thousands of questions from Tacoma residents about what to do to preserve their historic homes or buildings. She will now be operating her own business, Heritage Planning Associates, specializing in historical interpretation of heritage tourism (writing of brochures, tour guides, walking tours) and analysis of the best uses of historic resources.

In addition, Ms. Anderson will serve as the Historic Preservation Officer for the city of Steilacoom.



Next North Slope Meeting

Our next meeting is planned for Thursday, Oct. 18, at 7 PM at Jason Lee Middle School. There will be refreshments, a few announcements, and a tour through the newly remodeled historic building. Students have spent the past two years at the former Truman building while construction was going on. They returned September 5th to a technologically modern facility. Mark your calendar now, and enjoying seeing your school bond monies at work! Meet at 7 PM, October 18th, in the auditorium. Bring canned food items for the food bank if you can.

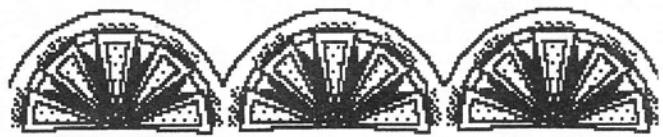
Park Construction Set for October

Construction of the Tot-Lot Park on the vacant Tacoma Utilities property at North 8th and K street will begin in late September, according to Curtis Hancock, of the Metro Parks District. Construction should take about 30 days and will include new landscaping, as well as play equipment for SMALL children.

The Steering Committee has decided on a name, North Slope Historic District Park. Tim McDonald, Valerie Sivinski's husband, will be designing the sign, which will include a dedication to Valerie. Details of an additional dedication plaque are currently in the works. A May 2002 date is being considered for the dedication ceremony.

Ms. Sivinski was the Tacoma Historic Preservation Officer who guided the North Slope residents in the writing of the ordinance and the formation of much of the Historic District. She was the inspiration for the district – the preservation of a historic neighborhood that contained a pattern of development from the 1880s to the 1940s.

Stop by North 8th and K during October and watch the park take shape!



Safe Streets Fund Raiser

Are you looking for an interesting activity for you and your family? Safe Streets is having a FUNdraiser on Saturday, Oct. 13, from noon to 6 PM. The Grand Prix raised \$25,000 for drug, violence, and gang-free communities the first time in March.

In Fife at 2105 Frank Albert Road E. (behind Sportco) is Grand Prix indoor track. Teams will race in three-time slots 12-2, 2-4, and 4-6 PM. At 6 there will be a winner's circle to distribute prizes in various categories. In the parking area there will be a safety fair, food vendors, music, and children's activities.

For visitors not on a registered team, there will be open times to race on a donation basis.

For further information call Rebecca at Safe Streets, 272-6824.

National Night Out

Almost 100 people attended National Night Out at North 9th & K on Tuesday, August 7th. Many thanks to Paul Britt for chairing the event. Many neighbors met new friends as well as enjoying seeing old friends. Families brought children, and also a few dogs!

There were several other block parties in the North Slope. We'll do it again Aug. 6, 2002. Perhaps it will be at our new North 8th and K Park.

Safe streets reported over 50 block parties in Tacoma, and over 15 and the north End. A new park, Washington Hill, by UPS off of Union and 10th, had a grand opening in conjunction with National Night Out.

For other information about the national event call Abe Cortez at Safe Streets, 272-6824.

The Steering committee is considering ideas for social events. People seem to turn out for potlucks and dessert parties. Please call a Steering member if you have ideas for a future meeting, perhaps in February.

Dates to Remember

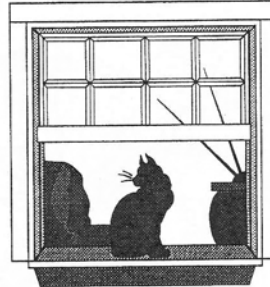
September 26-Police/Community mtg, 7 PM
 October 13 - CPR class, 9 AM
 October 18-Jason Lee tour/meeting, 7 PM
 Oct. 27-Make a Difference Day
 October 27-turn clocks back one hour
 October 31-Halloween
 November 6-Election Day
 November 11-Veteran's Day
 November 27-Thanksgiving Day
 December 25-Christmas Day
 January 2002-Next Newsletter



Walk Your Park

"I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in." JOHN MUIR

Napoleon Bonaparte wanted to make Paris more livable. So, he reconstructed the city core to include ornate water fountains and public restrooms. He also built public parks, understanding that the laboring class would also need spaces to relieve and refresh spiritually. New York City spent millions purchasing and planning the acres of Central Park, on prime urban real estate, to create pastoral space for the teeming masses. Today, everything about parks is bad accounting. But even in this age of corporate values, people seem to agree: parks are vital to the health of an urban populace.



A city park is the antithesis to suburban living: you cannot hide from your neighbor in a park. To take respite in its shade is to mingle with all elements of a neighborhood. Likewise, if a park is neglected, neighborhoods have turned away -- from each other, and from the human need to play. Then, a city is in trouble. Check the condition of your local Wright Park. What does it tell you about your city?

Wright Park is home to a cherished Victorian conservatory. The park is a stunning arboretum of antique deciduous trees, and one of the best places to see color in Fall. But petty theft is rampant. Strollers, even diaper bags are not safe. Drug dealing near the park is on the rise. This summer a man was beaten nearly to death in broad daylight, amongst his neighbors.

Recently, a focus group of Wright Park's surrounding neighborhoods formed: The Wright Park Neighborhood Association. We represent Stadium, North Slope, Bryant Neighbors, and area churches and apartments. We will be working with Metro Parks and the Tacoma Police Department to find practical solutions. But new playground equipment and better policing will do nothing to heal the park unless you, the neighbors, are present in it.

Wright Park is a metaphor for a city which began with great intentions. Wright Park was planted by visionaries. But the spirit which lives there now is sadistic and violent. Our park cries for an exorcism, and for the touch of positive human souls to cultivate it anew. The beautiful irony is, our most powerful weapon against the forces now at work is *play*. Playing transforms places and people. Playing bids us let go of attitudes, and tap into our creative selves. After time amongst the natural rhythms of a park, we stumble into our creativity, afterwards finding ourselves wanting to write a poem, cook dinner, or visit an old friend. In this way, a new spirit reclaims Wright Park -- and, perhaps, an entire city. If we dedicate ourselves to the serious business of play, we cannot help but discover the same energy which fueled the dreams of Tacoma's pioneers. And if we succeed, we will send a powerful gust to the sails of a rebuilding city.

Take part in the change by putting on some comfortable shoes, and going out for a walk. Play an instrument? Set up your music stand on a grassy knoll. Write? Take your notebook and do your wordsmithing under an ash or an oak. Roll down a hill. Have a picnic. Instead of the gym, make the park your playground. If you cannot walk, have someone take you to the park -- and make it a regular habit. While you are there, imagine how Tacoma's pioneers might have looked as they enjoyed the park, amongst trees a fraction of the size they are now. (We now live in the houses those same people built.) Your kindred spirits of the past believed the trees of Wright Park -- and Tacoma -- would grow grand. Go to Wright Park, and contribute to an ongoing dream.

For more information about the Wright Park Neighborhood Association, call: Barbro Rakos 383-5684

Adopt-a-Spot News

Nine North Slope residents collected about 50 pounds of litter on North I for the Adopt-a-Spot Tacoma Cares program. They worked an hour the evening of August 15, then had dessert and coffee for a backyard social hour. Four new volunteers participated. Welcome to Del, Carol (and Star), Gail and Gordon. Thank you!

We will take a winter break and meet again in February or March. The next newsletter will announce the date.

Let's all be responsible homeowners and keep our yards, sidewalks, parking strips, and alleys free of litter.

Dog walkers-Please continue to clean up after your pets!

We all thank you.

Make a Difference Day

Throughout America communities are planning events, volunteering to help the less fortunate and improve the towns and environment. National sponsors include USA Weekend, Wall-Mart, Paul Newman's Own, Points of Light Foundation and Jim Henson's Productions. Last year over 2 million Americans helped 25 million others on the 10th annual Make a Difference Day.

The North Slope will be collecting nonperishable food items at the Jason Lee October 18th meeting. There will be boxes as you enter the auditorium for your donations that will be taken to a local food bank. We will also be participating in installing plastic markers near storm drains, to remind us that what is dumped down storm drains goes directly to local waterways and the Bay, thus endangering salmon. This project will be done in phases until all the North Slope is covered. If you would like to help install the markers, call 627-4537 to leave your name and phone number. You will be called back with a date of the work party.

Of course, each of us can celebrate "Make a Difference Day" in our own way, doing something "nice" for others. Maybe we can even do it more than one day!

Thanks for helping those not as fortunate as we are!

***Are you seeing a potential car theft in progress?
Call 911!
Our streets and alleys have been targeted lately.***



Police/Community Meeting

The next Sector 2 Tacoma Police/Community meeting will be Sept. 26th at 7 PM at Metropolitan Park headquarters at 4702 South 19th Street.

The program will be about building code issues and blighted property. If you have an interest in this topic be sure to attend.

Sector 2 staff includes; Lt. Fedderson (591-5697), PPO Kothstein (591-5290), and PPO Stark (594-7837).

Citizens Academy

A 13 week Tacoma Police Citizens Academy starts Wednesday, September 19, 6-9 p.m., in the County City building. The free classes about police work include field trips to the county jail, criminal justice training center, communications center, and patrol ride-a-longs. For further information call 253-591-5914.

Free CPR Class

The North Slope is sponsoring a CPR class at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, at North 9th and J, on Saturday, Oct. 13th from 9 AM to 12 noon. The Tacoma Fire Department teaches the free classes for beginners and those who want a refresher course. Preregistration is required. Please phone 627-4537 to sign up.

Historic District Signs

Thank you to Jay Turner for replacing the faded North Slope Historic District signs with the correctly dyed ones.

***We appreciate your time, Jay.
Good Job!***



The Back Page...

North Slope Historic District Steering Committee:

Paul Britt @ 383-3099
 Scott Johnson @ 503-2032
 Bill Johnston @ 627-6860
 Dan & Angie Klein @ 272-0938
 Velda McDonald @ 627-4192
 Judy Martin @ 572-3059
 Mitch Robinson @ 272-0165
 Ralph & Barbara Tomberg @ 572-1532
 Marilyn Torgerson @ 627-4537
 Julie Turner @ 383-2329
 Nick Kristensen &
 Patty LeBlanc @ 272-2884

Are you interested in being a member of the steering committee? If so, call one of the steering committee members and & leave your name and phone number!



Grant Co-op Preschool at 310 North K is now enrolling ages 2-5. School starts in early October.

For information call:

Carolyn McCarty at 573-0033

Thank you to:

Tacoma Cares

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

Get Your North Slope T-Shirts!

They are going fast! Available for your wearing pleasure - 100% cotton Tees in slate blue or a soft buttery yellow with our historic street sign "logo" on the front. T Shirts are available in XL & 2X for \$12.00 each (Sizes M & L have sold out!).

A few Polo shirts are available also in Lake Blue with "North Slope Historic District" embroidered in yellow. Polos are \$25.00 each. Both styles of shirts are available at North Slope meetings or by calling Patty LeBlanc at 272-2884.



Handy Phone Numbers

Tacoma Cares 591-5001
 Safe Streets 272-6824
 City Council 591-5100
 Humane Society 383-2733
 Library Information 591-5666
 Abandoned Vehicles 591-5926
 Light Outage 591-5287
 Recycling 565-5955
 Trash Pick-up 573-2468

The North Slope Historic District is made up of the people living between "I" and Grant Streets from Division to Steele.

