

TIDBITS from TEN

A Newsletter from your HAC Area Representatives

Vol. I, Number 6

May, 1991

Bar-B-Que & Hoe-Down Update



Just a reminder. Saturday, May 18th is just around the corner! Remember we will be at Irving park at 10:00 am to fire up the first grills.

This is a Bar-B-Que Contest for the BEST SAUCE. For those of you entering, make enough sauce to keep your grill going throughout the day. Please let us know by Saturday, May 11 if you are going to be entering your sauce in the contest. Or for those of you needing help transporting your grill to the park and back home phone Barbara at 272-8133 by the same date so we can make arrangements for transportation.

Remember to bring enough chicken or ribs to feed you and yours and one side dish to share. Don't forget lawn chairs, utensils, paper plates, etc. We will supply iced tea, lemonade, and iced cold watermelons!

The Hoe-Down will officially be at 12:00 noon, however, warm-up sounds are welcomed prior to that! For those of you participating, please check in upon arrival to get your number so you will know when you will be performing. You must be 50 or older to play/sing in the Hoe-Down, but no restrictions on ages as to who can enjoy the

fun!!

We look forward to seeing you all there...let's continue to pray for sunny skies. I don't know about you, but I don't think I'm going to eat for several days before (or probably after). I'm saving myself for this Bar-B-Que!

Ahhhh! I can almost smell it now.....!

P.S. In the event of real rain, we will re-schedule. Even if it is cloudy on May 18th, please drive by the park to check and see - we may be there!

Too Big for it's Britches

by Larry Norman

Last December Bill and Kathy Charles and myself sat down and stared at each other trying to put into perspective the task before us; organizing and involving an entire neighborhood. What would we do? How could we help people to become concerned and begin making a difference? These and other questions swirled around the room, until finally we arrived at the idea of a newsletter. Of course! A newsletter would serve many purposes: information, editorials, inspiration, upcoming events... the possibilities are endless.

May marks our sixth newsletter. We have seen a tremendous change in attitude throughout Area 10. Now, there is a good chance that Tidbits from Ten will be published for the entire Hilltop Community! We will continue to give our readers interesting articles, editorials, and safety tips. We will also be starting a column for children and young adults.

Do you have any ideas? It would really help if we could get more of us involved writing articles, doing activities, etc. Your participation and feedback will determine how long the newsletter can continue to function and serve it's purpose. You can make it or break it! If you would like to get more involved, call Kathy Charles 272-7503.

Thank You and Farewell!

by Bill Charles

As everything else in life, all good things come to an end. It has been my pleasure to get to know and work with my neighbors in Hilltop Area #10. My family and I are regretfully moving to Waterloo, Iowa at the end of June. We will leave behind many warm memories of our relationships with block members and friends in Area 10.

We have lived on hilltop for the past eight years. We watched our quiet neighborhood being invaded with drug dealers and gangs. After numerous thefts in our immediate block we decided that it was time to make a difference. We were one of the first blocks in our area to become organized in our fight against crime. We established a working phone tree and learned to be watchful neighbors. We worked together to fight to close a drug house and continued to work on other problem homes in our area.

We have come a long way since the infamous "shoot-out" on South 23rd and Ash. Some may look back and say it was a bad thing to happen, but I say it was something that had to happen in order to wake people up to the fact that we had a problem on the Hilltop. That disturbance was a galvanizing force that got neighbors talking to one another. We began to work together to weed out drug houses and upgrade our neighborhood. The Hilltop Action Coalition (HAC) was formed shortly after this incident.

I made the decision to get further involved in the organization of our community and area by becoming an area representative to HAC. I envisioned a vital organization of citizens working together toward a common cause. Larry Norman and myself sat down and brainstormed as to what it would take to organize our area. We formulated goals as to what we would like to see happen within a time frame. Some of our ideas were to organize every block with block leaders and active telephone trees, to organize neighborhood meetings, to publish a newsletter to keep our citizens informed, and new street lights for the area. We have made great strides towards making our area a viable place to live.

Pride is being instilled back into our area, but pride and respect do not come cheap. It's like everything else, you have to earn it the old fashioned way through lots of toil and sweat. It also starts with ourselves. We must ask ourselves the following questions if our neighborhood is to improve. How bad do we want to make the Hilltop a better place to live? Do we really want a good neighborhood? Do we have the fortitude it takes to clean-up our homes, streets, and alley-ways? Everyone needs to work together towards meeting these goals.

We now have block leaders for almost every street in our area. The street lights obtained through a neighborhood block grant are being installed now. People are beginning to clean up around their property. This is only the beginning - we have a long ways to go! It is our hope and dream that the area will continue to grow. Continue to work as an organization to better our living space. Make the Hilltop a place to be proud of. Continue to fight the reputation that Hilltop has gotten through bad media. Work to upgrade our homes so that property values will again be realized here on Hilltop.

We owe our thanks to many people who have courageously stepped forward and given of themselves to work to meet these goals- Larry Norman, John Rieber, your block leaders, and you- our neighbors. These people are to be commended for the work they have begun to do. It involved a lot of hard work in getting organized and we want you to continue the good job you are doing. We encourage more of you to get involved. Take that first step. It is fun to get to know and work with your neighbors. We leave behind many good friends that we never would have met had we not gotten involved in the neighborhood.

Thank you and keep up the good fight!

Bill Charles and family.

H.A.C. Representatives

Bill Charles 272-7503

Larry Norman 272-8133



Good Weather Ahead!

by Kathy Charles

The weather man is predicting more nice sunny days ahead. That means more people will be outside enjoying the sunshine and fresh air. We all need to be concerned with keeping our streets safe and making our neighborhood a better place to live and play in. It is everyone's responsibility to work together to make this become a reality for our neighborhood. Here's a few ideas to start you thinking about what you can do to make a difference here.

Good weather brings young and old alike outdoors. You will need to **drive slower** so that you can be alert for the children chasing that fly ball that got away. This includes driving slower in the alleys. The alleys are used as access to our homes in some instances and for our garbage collection. You never know when someone may be stepping out of their yard. Slower speeds also keep the alley rock dust to a minimum.

Be respectful to your neighbors! What does that mean? You may enjoy your stereo blasting while you are in the backyard, but maybe your neighbor doesn't. Maintain your yard. That includes keeping your grass cut and the garbage picked up around your home. Take that extra minute to insure that your garbage gets in the dumpster, not next to it and close the lid! You might even offer to assist your elderly neighbor in seeing that their yard gets mowed. Why not lend a helping hand. Let's return to the good neighbor routine.

Be alert to suspicious activity. Just remember that while you are out back enjoying the sun, someone may be entering the front of your home. Keep doors locked and windows only opened a crack. Trimmed trees and shrubbery will not provide cover for a burglar while they are breaking into your home. Also, watch out for your neighbors home. Call 911 if a break-in is occurring at present or to report any other emergency, or use

the Tacoma Police Department Suspicious Activity line (591-2030) to report ongoing activities that may need attention. Use your phone tree to call neighbors to keep them informed about neighborhood happenings.

Get to know your neighbors! Alert your neighbor that you are going out of town for the weekend so that they can watch your property. Have them also pick up your mail and newspaper while you are gone. Why not return that favor to them? Kind deeds beget the same!

Pet owners please **keep your pets under control.** Keep them in your fenced yard or on a chain. Barking dogs can be annoying but when your neighbors dog is barking, take a look out your window. They may be barking for a reason - to alert you to prowlers.

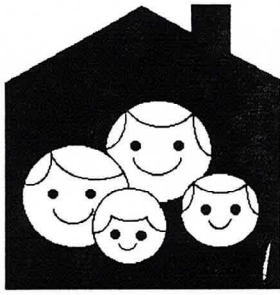
Parents, **be alert to your children** and keep a watchful eye on their whereabouts. Insure that your children are dressed appropriately for the weather. This includes wearing shoes, and using sunblock. Keep poisonous weed control chemicals out of the reach of children. **Train your children about summer safety techniques** such as staying out of the street, water safety, bicycle courtesy and safe riding skills.

Have fun in the sun but let's keep it safe and happy!

Get out and Register to Vote

Teacher's strike...Housing...City Counsel...State Representative... There are a number of issues with which we are confronted. With the latest string of events, both locally and nationally, it is now more important than ever to register to vote! It is also necessary to use your vote to make a difference.

"What good is one vote going to do?" "They are going to elect who they want anyway, so why bother?" Sound familiar? Well, if you feel like that think about all those men and women who just returned from Saudi-Arabia. They were sent as a representative to the world so that we here in American might continue to protect our principals to the highest level. Our right to vote has been at the root of many altercations here and abroad. Let's use this right that many have given their life to protect. If you need assistance in getting registered or getting to voting precincts call your block leaders or area representatives.



Schools In, Schools Out

by Larry Norman

With the recent teachers strike being lifted, a number of concerns have surfaced for parents. Day Care, summer school and vacations, idle young minds and hands; all these concerns and more have state parents questioning the validity of the reasons why teachers are striking (what seems like) every year. It's becoming a sore subject. Families are split as to loyalties when it comes to who is at fault; the teachers, the legislature, the parents. We are all to blame to some extent. We should be looking at ways to prevent this sort of thing from happening again, and what we, as parents, can do in the event this should happen again.

One of the major things we can do is take more of an active role in our children's study habits. If our children are coming home routinely without homework, we should contact the school to find if there has been any homework assigned. If there hasn't, then we as parents, have a right and obligation to question the school as to the reason for not issuing homework.

If the child just isn't bringing his or her homework home, then we should question our child as to why they are not interested in school. This is where an active involvement in your child's study habits can help: if the school your child is attending is not offering the classes they want, you can look into after school activities offered by the Parks Department, library, or a number of other resources. This may give your child the motivation they need to come home, study, and then attend a special activity that they choose.

Another thing your active involvement with your child's learning can produce is a lot more shared time. This, in turn, may just be the thing

that gets our children to start talking about (rather than acting out) their problems. Plus, it brings the family closer together. Also, if children are involved in constructive activities there is less chance that they will end up in the streets looking for "something to do."

If we, the family, begin to work on the areas that we can effect, then certain issues that the schools and legislature have to currently deal with (absenteeism, gang affiliation, and dysfunctional family situations) can be addressed in the home. This will in turn provide a more motivated student body, and stimulate teachers to focus more on education and less on legalities. This might just give the state legislature the breathing room to begin formulating long term solutions to teacher/student issues. In the event of another strike, if we have already implemented alternative activities for our children, then chances are we will all be able to weather the storm and come out O.K. And if you or your family are experiencing problems (whatever they may be) that may be keeping you from setting up a family program for education, why not call me, Larry Norman @ 272-8133. I have a number of resources to assist you and your family in developing a safe, comfortable, and healthy home environment. Remember, there are no such things as problems, only situations that require solutions.

Happy Mother's Day



Block Leaders

1900-2100 So. Wilkeson

Saverio Dodaro

2300-2500 So. Wilkeson

Samuel Dodaro

1900 So. Ash

Jack & Rita Payne

2100 So. Ash

Rich & Sherry Flor

2300 So. Ash

Brad Cooper

2500 So. Ash

Bill Foulk

1900 So. Hosmer

Craig & Lesa Keith

2100 So. Hosmer

Robin Williams

2300 So. Hosmer

Kandi Weinegar

2500 So. Hosmer

Leon Owens

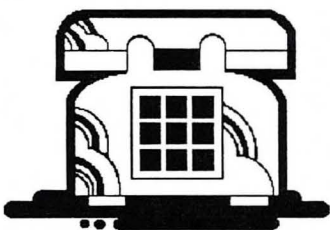
1900 So. Sprague

Gracie Mazar

2100-2300 So. Sprague

Carol & Gary Goodwin

These people are your block leaders. Block leaders are your liasons with your area HAC representatives. They are your contact person if you have a problem. They in turn contact your area representatives to begin working toward resolution of a problem. Your block leaders and area representatives are trained by Safe Streets to know how to effectively work together to use the available resources. Block leaders organize your block for a House watch, including names and telephone numbers of your neighbors. These telephone trees serve as reference to contact neighbors in case of emergency for help, and it can also be used as an important information source to share activities within the neighborhood. For information about how to contact your block leader, please call your area representatives. We encourage you to get to know your block leaders.



**Keep These Phone Numbers
Handy for Easy Access**

Phone Numbers

Emergency (Fire, Police)	911
Sector 1 Police Sergeants	591-7832
Crack Hotline	475-CRAK
Hilltop Action Coalition	597-4808
Safe Streets	272-6824
Crime Prevention	591-5883
Abandoned Autos	591-5926
Vice-Narcotics-Intelligence	591-5871
Public Works	
Street Light Outage	591-5287
Dangerous Bldg. & Property	591-5003
Senior Services	591-5040
Recycling Hotline	565-5955
Refuse Department	591-5544
Bill Charles (HAC Rep.)	272-7503
Larry Norman (HAC Rep.)	272-8133
Block Leader	_____