



Happenings On Hilltop

Hilltop Neighborhood

Volume 2, Number 8

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HERE WE GO, HERE WE GO!!!

By: Larry

Well, it's that time again. Spring has sprung and the lawn is past due for the first cutting of the season. I hope you were able to get all your bulbs and annuals planted. So far this year, there have been quite a few warm days. As usual, us Washingtonians were out in force wearing our summer clothes and sporting those post-holiday physiques (smile). February was a busy month for the practically everyone I spoke to. Businesses have reported increases. This is good for our community. Let's continue to keep the funds flowing on The Hill.

As we begin making plans for the spring and summer vacation times, let us not forget to set aside some time for volunteering in our community. With a recession looming over our heads, it is imperative that we fill the gaps where funding or agencies can not. Check with the local schools or various agencies to see where you can help out. Even an hour a week can make a world of difference. And as always, we can use more articles for the newsletter.

We finally have a copy machine. Well actually, we made a deposit on one. This is a step in the right direction. Now we can be more consistent in bringing you the news every month. In March a number of people came forth asking how they could help. Phil Morris who owns Morris-Bates Mortuary located on 11th and L Street, offered to print this months issue of the newsletter (thank you Phil). Scott Perks who is the new manager of Catalina Apartments, wrote an article and made a donation to the newsletter. It is evident that our community is beginning to take ownership of our local newsletter. With ownership comes pride. With pride comes productivity. With productivity comes the neighborhood we all envision. Let's just do it!!! Oh yes, we have added more names to the list of places where you can find our newsletter. A hearty welcome to them.

Happenings on Hilltop can be found at the following locations starting the first week of each month:

Location	Address	Location	Address
Safeway	11th & Sheridan	7-11	19th & K Street
A.M./P.M.	19th & K Street	Kentucky Fried Chicken	6th & Sprague
Maytag Laundromat	6th & Sprague	Pinches Deli	6th & Division
K Street Bar & Grill	11th & K Street	Lucky 7	9th & K Street
Sam and Terry's Barber Shop	17th & K Street	Bob's Bar-B-Q Pit	911 So. 11th Street
* UTRA	1023 So. K Street	* Your Fish House	1814 So. K Street
MLK Center	1424 Tacoma Ave. So., Suite A	* Silver Screen Video	2024 #G 6th Ave.
University of Puget Sound, Cafeteria		Tacoma Community College, Cafeteria	

* Indicates new arrivals.

If you are a business, or organization and would like to have Happenings on Hilltop for your customers, call Larry Norman at 272-8133. We will be more than happy to get you started. Please note; the views contained in some of the articles in this newsletter, are not necessarily those of the staff of Happenings on Hilltop.

We have received a few calls concerning spelling accuracy and punctuation. Our staff is working towards producing the best newsletter we can. We appreciate your objective criticism and will continually work to eliminate spelling and punctuation errors. Thank you.

So without further ado, let's get rolling and see what's HAPPENING ON HILLTOP!!!

EDITORIAL

by Larry Norman

It has been almost two years since I moved back to Hilltop. I have lived all but seven years of my life in this area. The time spent away from Hilltop was very enlightening. I was able to see how others people lived and how they viewed issues such as public assistance, the poor, the disabled, Vietnam veterans and minorities. Being a minority, I began to see the "color" issues in a new light. I began to see that black and white has now come to mean economic status. If a person is well-to-do, generally he is considered "white" economically, regardless of his race. By the same token, if a person is, say, below middle class, he is generally considered "black" economically.

I began to think about all the issues involving black and white. I remembered the old cowboy movies. Who was always the good guy? The man dresses in white. Who was always the villain? The man dressed in black. Whenever there was a major catastrophe, how was it named? Remember "Black Tuesday", or "Black Friday"? How is Jesus portrayed? White in a white robe. If I am not mistaken, Bethlehem is located in the Middle East. Most people in that area are generally of a darker complexion.

These and other thoughts have weighed heavy on my mind. Considering that many people, both black and white, have called for an end to racial inequality and yet racial intolerance still exists, I feel there is something gravely amiss.

Gazing out my window at the streets of my neighborhood, I see beautiful children playing. My heart saddens because for the rest of their lives they will be treated differently in our society. Their only crime is the color of their skin. I meet with one of my neighbors who served during the Vietnam conflict. I see how he still torn by the atrocities which took place in another country, only to be condemned when he returned to America. My heart is saddened. When I see a young black man in his early twenties who has already been arrested twice, been shot at, had to live on the streets since he was fifteen, had no exposure to positive role models to give direction and guidance, but is ridiculed by society because he "doesn't fit in", my heart is saddened.

Most of my sadness evolves around the enormous disparity in which hardship is geographically allocated. Are there any shelters in University Place? What about the North End? How many Veterans homes exist outside of the Hilltop/Central area? It is not only unfair to people who fall into the growing population of the needy. It is also tremendously unfair to the citizens of the outlying areas. How can a person gain a sense of sympathy for another person's condition if he has never had to face that which burdens another? How can one truly understand the uselessness of trying to "pull one's self up by his bootstraps" if he has never been exposed to a system which requires a certain number of individuals to remain impoverished in order to justify its budget for welfare and incarceration?

These are hard questions to answer, especially if a person is far removed from the epicenter of the storm. In order to transcend our current state, each of us is required to search within ourself and ask "Am I part of the problem, or part of the solution?", because color is no longer a basic prerequisite for discrimination, yet still allows itself to be the barometer for "guilt by association", the question remains; when will the walls come down? Berlin has torn down hers. So has Russia and China. When will America get out the wrecking bar and begin dismantling her walls that separate the people?

Perhaps I have exposed too much of my mind and thought to you, my readers. 1992 has been intense for a number of reasons. We are faced with issues on a national scale that, if left unattended, could result in the demise of our society as we know it. Maybe that might not be a bad idea after all. Maybe if millionaires had to stand next to poor and jobless people in a bread line, then just maybe we could begin the process of rebuilding our country on the morals and goodwill it was founded on. Maybe if lawyers and politicians were being tried by a citizens court for their improprieties, new legal and governmental systems could arise.

Compassion is what is needed now more than ever. Maybe America, in her attempt to be the greatest country in the world, has forgotten humility. Let us hope not. Let us pray (to whatever God it is that we pray to) that we can begin to exhibit some form of brotherhood towards one another before we reach a point of no return.

PEACE!

THANK YOU LT. WOOTEN

by Larry

It has almost been a year to the day since Lt. Wooten became the Sector 1 Commander. During that time there were a number of challenges posed to the Police Department as well as the Hilltop community. Few residents knew who Lt. Wooten was. Even fewer really understood the importance of police sectoring on our community. Lt. Wooten was asked to juggle personnel schedules, appease community residents, learn "who was who" out on the streets and formulate an effective course of action in dealing with mandates set by the city. This was not an easy task.

I have come to know Lt. Wooten on a number of levels. Our first few meetings were a bit awkward for the both of us. Once we found that we shared common goals on a number of issues, we developed a good working relationship. Not to say that we agreed on all issues. The differences we do have did not stand in the way of our effective communication. I also came to know Lt. Wooten through his involvement with many local groups and agencies.

I was a bit taken back when I learned that Lt. Wooten had taken another position in the Department. It takes a person at least a year to know and understand the "turf". I was concerned that this move might jeopardize the continuity the community has long desired with the Police Department for many years. In a conversation with Lt. Wooten recently, he assured me that this was a career move and that he was going to miss his job as Sector 1 Commander.

So Lt. Wooten, from those who knew the commitment you have shown while serving on Hilltop as Sector 1 Commander, Thank You. I am optimistic that your replacement will be chosen in the best interest of working towards an even better relationship between the Police Department and the citizens of Hilltop. Good Luck!!!

CATALINA APARTMENTS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

by Scott Perks & Sharon Beckham

We would like to say hello to our friends and neighbors in the Hilltop area. We are the new Resident Managers of the Catalina Apartments located at 17th and Yakima. The new owners, Northwest Life of Canada, are going all out to make Catalina Apartments a safe, low income complex that our residents can be proud to call home. The quality work is being done by Parkcrest Development, M.P. Construction and Joe Yates Landscaping. Drive by and take a look at all the changes at Catalina. For question about rental information please call 627-5211. Our office hours are 10:00 to 3:00.

RESIDENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS FIND OUT:

What's New In '92

by Erin Ford & Larry Norman

On Thursday, February 20, we held a gathering at the UPPER TACOMA RENAISSANCE ASSOCIATION. The purpose was to inform area residents of the services that are currently being provided by various organizations. Phil Carter from the YMCA told us about "Friday Night at the Y" program which offers recreation and supervision to area youths from 9:00 to 1 a.m. each Friday. Phil mentioned that currently nearly 200 kids participate and that there is a great need for supervision and volunteers. Kids between the age of 14 and 20 are asked to participate. They must have valid I.D.

Lourie Walker and Darlena Gray were on hand to represent the Hilltop Action Coalition. They spoke on the 1992 missions:

1. Combat and control drug and gang activity
2. City garbage problems - clean up the community
3. Better lighting
4. Address the housing issue
5. Gain community and city support

The attitude at HAC is that this mission will be accomplished block by block, one day at a time (keep up the good work!!!)

Erin Ford gave a presentation from Safeway. Since becoming the store manager last summer, Erin has jump in with both feet helping local organizations and local residents. Over the holidays the local Safeway store donated food baskets and items to those in need. Erin is also involved in assisting with local youth activities. Plans are in the works for a car wash in the Safeway parking lot to help raise funds for youth activities. Erin has also worked hard to improve customer relations at her store. The response has been positive.

Bill Conner spoke to the audience about some of the housing programs which are being offered in the Hilltop area. Bill indicated that residents who have been renting, may be able to qualify for buying a home. He also indicated that there are funds available to provide assistance in paying closing cost and down payments. There is also an opportunity for the community to get involved in designing the types of homes that are going to be part of a 50 unit new construction project here on Hilltop. Bill stressed that while these are opportunities for residents of Hilltop, the opportunities would also be open to residents outside the Hilltop area. So it is important that our community take advantage of this program while the focus is mainly on Hilltop residents.

Commander Whitehead from KFOX radio stopped by and spoke briefly on the Black History Spectacular to be held February 29 at Peoples's Community Center. There has been much support from various local vendors in support of this program. The sponsors were the Hilltop Merchants Association and the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma. Commander indicates that there will be more activities to come (we appreciate the support, Commander!!!).

Larry Norman (that's me) gave a brief history about the newsletter. Currently there is a circulation of about fifteen hundred. Larry spoke of the purpose of the newsletter and the importance of community support of the newsletter. "This newsletter is an opportunity for our residents to have a say on any issue and to provide information and inspiration".

Overall, the meeting was a success. Many organizations were in attendance. After the meeting, people exchanged names and numbers. That's the way it should be. Exchange of information is vital in creating a network of user friendly services. Let's keep the goodwill flowing. Remember, together we stand, divided we...

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

by Larry Norman

I spoke with a number of residents over the last few months. Many have shared with me an intimate, heart-felt part of their life. I wish to offer a few brief words to some of my fellow Hilltop residents:

ROCKY - Hold your mud. You know the brothers is pullin for ya. Keep the faith!

LAURETTA - I know things are difficult right now. Stay in school. Keep a positive attitude. Your new addition is depending on you.

LORRETTA - Keep takin' that test. If its for you, you'll soon be flyin' the friendly skies. Love your determination.

MIKE and THE GANG - Brotha's, you all know what time it is. Keep bringin' it back. We need ya. There's guys younger than you that will soon be looking to ya'll for guidance. Steer them the right way. I know you can do it.

MRS. HARRISON - You've always been an inspiration to me. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

MR. YOUNG - I love you. We'll get together soon and play some bones! Hang tight.

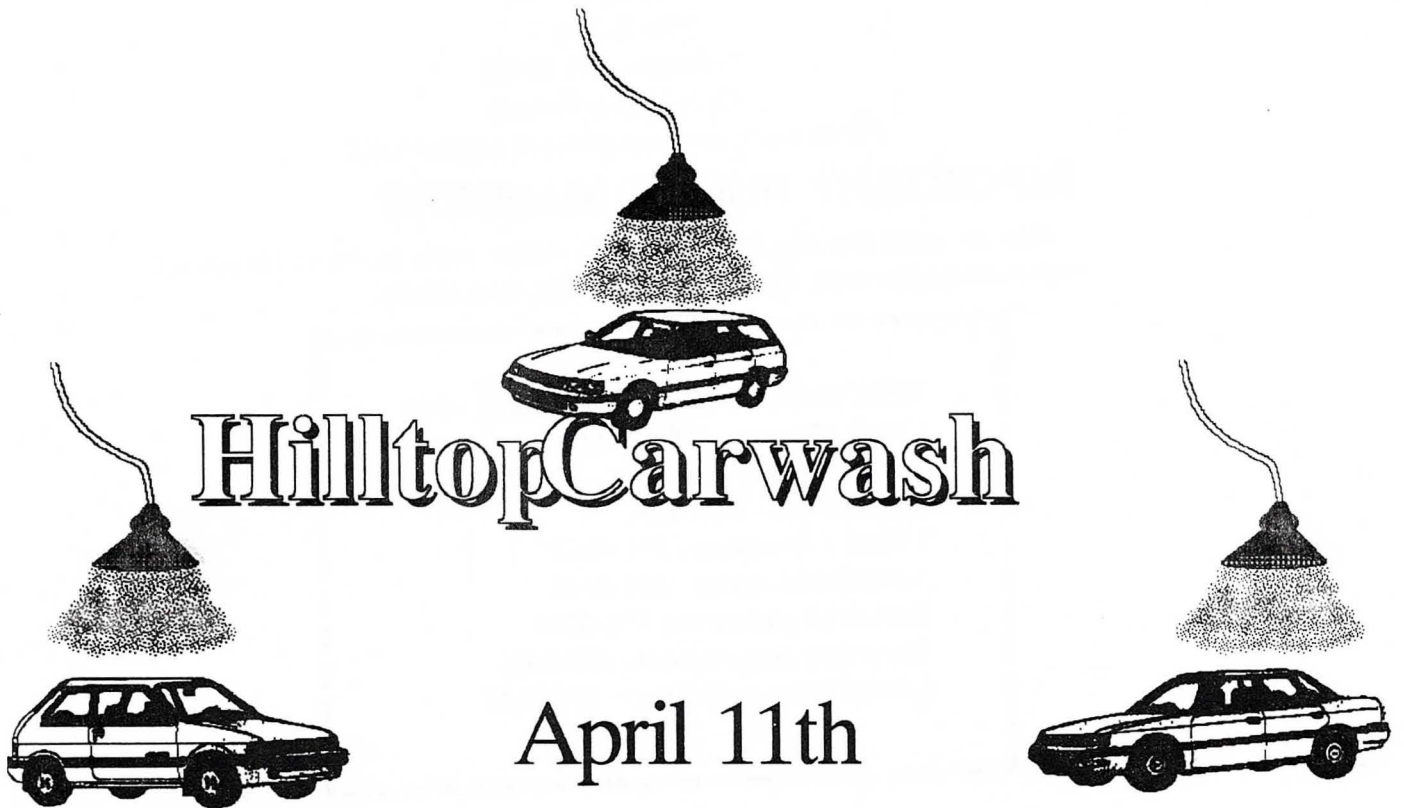
T-MONEY - Man, I know this has been hard for you. I admire your strength in dealing with all of it constructively. Thanks for listening and doing your best to do the right thing. I love ya.

PHILLIP - What can I say? Let's keep it together. You are a source of light and hope for many people. As always, if theirs anything I can do, you know where to find me. I love ya, man.

Erin - You're the greatest. Thanks for all the talks, words of encouragement and the coffee. Look forward to continually working with you in the 'hood.

NIKI and DON - My little angels. Thanks for all that you've given daddy. You have given me a reason to keep doing it. I am grateful that you chose me to be your father.

And to all of you who read the newsletter, thank you. If there is but one person who has gained some form of assistance through our continued effort to bring you this newsletter, we have succeeded. Keep encouraging us. We need your support!!



Hilltop Carwash

April 11th

from 11:00 to 3:00 pm

Safeway parking lot

11th & M St.

Music, food

Donations to Support
Hilltop Youth Program
