

TIDBITS from TEN

A Newsletter from your HAC Area Representatives

Vol. I, Number 3

February, 1991

Neighbors and Landlords

Pitch In

By Larry Norman

One Saturday in February an important event took place in the 2300 block of South Wilkeson. Earlier that week, neighbors had called me expressing concern about garbage accumulating on the property of a neighbor. I talked with the landlord and he indicated that he would handle the matter quickly. I suggested that he allow some of the neighbors to assist him and he agreed.

Saturday morning the landlords, a concerned neighbor, and myself, donned our rain gear and pitched in. It didn't take long for the job to be completed. Working together solves everyone's problems. Working together introduces landlords and neighbors to one another, and they can share their concerns. A cleaner neighborhood also insures higher property values. We need to begin pitching in. Maybe your neighbor just needs a little assistance to get things in order. Then, he or she can help you at a later date.

A world of thanks to Wendy, Dan, Knox, and Jay. You showed what a little team work can accomplish. Now, maybe more landlords and neighbors can begin working together. Remember, its easy to complain but it takes prides in ones self to lend a helping hand when needed.

H.A.C. Representatives

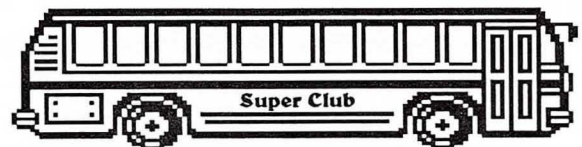
Bill Charles 272-7503

Larry Norman 272-8133

Let's Be Safe

Hilltop has had a dramatic decrease in burglaries. However, a number of homes in our area have recently been victimized. The burglaries have occurred usually during daylight hours (7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.). We cannot stress enough the importance of having dead-bolt locks on your doors and getting to know your neighbors. Good neighbors are perhaps the best security system available, and they cost you nothing.

If you have not already done so, contact your block leader for information on how you can join a phone-tree. Let's send a message to would-be burglars that they are not welcome in our neighborhood, and that some one is always watching them.



The Super Club Bus is Coming!

If you have youngsters who would like to have some good, wholesome fun on Saturdays, why not sign them up for the Super Club (formerly the Super Snoopy Club)? Beginning April 6, a bus from Life Center Church will start picking up youngsters and bringing them home with smiles after a morning of fun. The club is designed to develop wholesome values, Christian faith, and good citizenship in the lives of the children of Tacoma. For further information call 756-5300. Super Club is also looking for volunteers to assist with the program.

Housing Cooperative

by Tony Balk,
chairman of HAC
Housing Committee.



Hilltop has
one of the
highest rates of

rental property in the city of Tacoma, approximately 70%. Many of these rentals are owned by absentee landlords, who do not adequately screen their tenants, properly maintain their property or respond to legitimate neighborhood concerns. Absentee landlords contribute to the over-all deterioration of a neighborhood and toleration of drug dealing.

One tool to combat the problem of absentee landlords is to establish a private non-profit organization that will provide a vehicle for purchasing and rehabilitating housing stock and responsibly managing property. Several years ago the Martin Luther King Housing Development Association (MLKHDA) was established for this purpose. The MLKHDA works largely in the Hilltop.

Hilltop Action Coalition (HAC) has entered into an agreement with MLKHDA. The purpose is to insure MLKHDA activity is responsive to Hilltop resident's concerns. The agreement states that MLKHDA will work with HAC to:

- * Preserve the character of the neighborhood.
- * Evict tenants who create nuisance to the neighborhood.
- * Properly maintain their property.
- * Respond in a timely manner to legitimate community complaints.
- * Respond to HAC recommendations to purchase specific houses.

HAC and MLKHDA working together is only one strategy for combating absentee landlords. Another strategy is to voice the legitimate concerns of the neighborhood to the landlord and secure from the landlord a commitment to address these concerns. HAC members will then work together to insure that the landlords fulfill their promises.

TCI to Reopen

by Larry Norman

Remember the TCI Cable Building on 12th and K street? Late last year, TCI sold the building to the city. The city has plans to re-open the facility as a municipal Television and Police training center. While there is no date set, plans to begin remodeling should begin soon. Genelle Birk of the General Services Department, has indicated a desire to have the community take part in the remodeling. This is an excellent opportunity for Hilltop residents to take part in the restoration process. We can show our commitment to the future of Hilltop by taking this opportunity and acting upon it. Our level of involvement on projects such as the TCI Building could allow a greater voice on other issues in the future. Let our actions speak for themselves.

Good Luck Sergeant Smith!

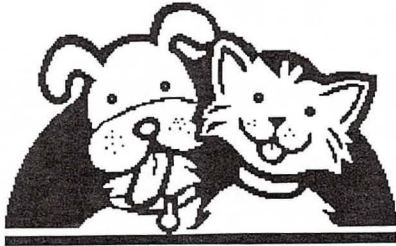
by Larry Norman

For many years, Sgt. Steve Smith has been for most Hilltop residents, the only link to our Tacoma Police Department. He has been a member of the Drug House Elimination Task Force as well as Sgt. to the Hilltop Substation. As the police department begins its transition to what is termed a "precinct or sector policing," Sgt. Smith's role may change. While he may become less visible, Sgt. Smith will remain as an important liaison to the Hilltop Community. Sources from the Assistant City Planners Office, and the Police Chief's office have indicated their support of the ground work Sgt. Smith has paved towards better community/police relations.

The Hilltop community wishes to thank Sgt. Smith for the time and effort he has put into making Hilltop a better place in which to live. Sgt. Smith indicates that he wishes to continue his involvement with the community. And we, the Hilltop community, look forward to working with you, Sgt. Smith. Good Luck!

Responsible Pet Ownership

by Kathy Charles



“Mommy, I’m afraid that dog is gonna bite me!” Each year 35,000 dogs and cats and various other animals come to the Tacoma-Pierce County Humane Society. Two-thirds of these animals are surrendered by their owners. Every year in the U.S., approximately 7.6 million cats and dogs are euthanatized because lasting, loving homes cannot be found for them. There is an overwhelming need for more responsible animal-ownership, and for assigning greater worth and dignity to animals.

As a pet owner you accepted a responsibility to care for the needs of your pet. The Humane Society urges all pet owners to care for and control their pets, and to comply with local animal

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be measured by the way in which its animals are treated."

Mohatma Gandhi

ordinances. This way, pet owners and non-pet owners alike will enjoy a better quality of life in Tacoma and Pierce County. A partial summary of the local ordinances follows:

* Any dog off the owner’s premises must be on a leash.

* Any dog or cat over seven months of age must wear a current license. There is a \$10 late penalty if the current year’s license is not purchased by March 31. New residents and pet owners have 30 days in which to acquire their

pet’s license.

* No person may allow a potentially dangerous dog to be unconfined or unrestrained, on or off the premises.

* Stray animals running at large are a nuisance, and may be seized and impounded.

* It is unlawful for a pet owner to keep a dog which disturbs the neighborhood by frequent or habitual howling or barking.

* Every female animal in heat must be confined as as to prevent breeding. This means in a building or secure enclosure. Being tied out is not sufficient.

* It is unlawful for any animal to run loose on public property including parks, playgrounds and school grounds, and beaches.

The Humane Society fills the needs of the community in various ways. Their duties include: returning lost pets to owners, housing stray and unwanted animals, placing animals in homes, selling pet license and I.D. tags, resolving neighborhood problems related to pets, enforcing city, county and state animal welfare and animal control laws, rescuing animals in distress, investigating and prosecuting cases of animal abuse. Did you know that they also visit institutionalized persons with “pet therapy,” support legislation which will protect animals, and provide volunteering experience for people who care about animals?

Responsible pet ownership includes not contributing to the surplus of stray dogs and cats. By having your pet sterilized you can reduce the number of unwanted animals. This way each animal will get the care and respect it deserves. When pet-related problems do occur, the Humane Society is there to help. Give them a call : 383-2733.

Phone Numbers

- Emergency (Fire, Police).....911
- K St. Substations591-7832
- Sector 1 Police Sergeants591-5952
- Crack Hotline475-CRAK

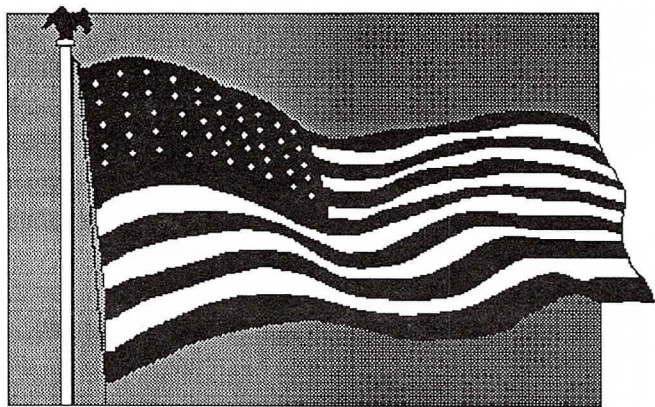
Today

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry— two days which should be kept from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is Yesterday with its mistakes and cares, its aches and pains, its faults and blunders. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. All the money in the world cannot bring back yesterday. We cannot undo a single act we performed; we cannot erase a single word we said. Yesterday is gone.

The other day we should not worry about is Tomorrow with its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and poor performance. Tomorrow is beyond our immediate control. Tomorrow's sun will rise either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds— but it will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in Tomorrow, for it is as yet unborn.

That leaves only one day— Today. Any man, by the grace of God, can fight the battles of just one day. It is only when you and I add the burdens of those two awful eternities— Yesterday and Tomorrow— that we break down. It is not the experience of Today that drives men mad— it is remorse or bitterness for something that happened Yesterday and the dread of what Tomorrow may bring. Let us, therefore, Journey but one day at a time.



Support Our Troops

Upcoming March Events

March 11 (Monday) Area #10 Meeting
6:30 Unity Church

March 16 (Saturday) Clean-up of Irving Park and Area #10. Meet 9:30 at Irving Park (25th and Hosmer)

March 23 (Saturday) Easter Egg Hunt and Coloring Contest for Area #10 children.
10:00 at Irving Park

Look for more information on these events in next month's Tidbits!

Recipe Corner

By Kathy Charles

Mini Cherry Cheesecakes

Preparation time: 35 min.

Baking time: 20 min.

Makes about 2 dozen

1-1/2 c. graham crackers

1/4 c. sugar

1/4 c. margarine or butter, melted

3 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened

1 (14 oz.) can Eagle Brand Sweetened
Condensed Milk

3 eggs

2 tsp. vanilla extract

1 (21 oz.) can Wilderness cherry pie filling

Preheat oven to 300°. Combine crumbs, sugar and margarine, press equal portions onto bottom of 24 lightly greased or paper cup lined muffin cups. In large mixer bowl beat cheese until fluffy. Gradually beat in sweetened condensed milk until smooth. Add eggs and vanilla. Mix well; spoon equal amounts of mixture, about 3 Tblsp. into prepared cups. Bake 20 minutes or until set. Cool. Chill. Top with filling (any flavor pie filling can be used). Refrigerate leftovers.