

# Happenings On Hilltop

Hilltop Neighborhood

Volume 2, Number 3

August - September 1991

## HELLO AGAIN!!!

By: L.F.N.

Well, it's time for another newsletter. August was full of happenings on Hilltop; the weather was warm, there a number of area cleanups, many residents participated in the Night Out Against Crime, more blocks started getting organized and our children began (hopefully) to prepare for the coming school year. August also brought significant changes internationally with the overthrow of the Russian government.

We have some new material as well as some new faces involved with the newsletter. It is refreshing to have the response we did to last months newsletter. People were calling in, responding to various articles or wondering how they get more involved in helping in the local area. Some businesses requesting interviews for

## NEW TO HILLTOP

by: Preston A. Ward, Sr.

First, let me thank you all for having a neighborhood, in which I feel has got some great neighbors. My name is Preston A. Ward, Sr. my wife Peggy and four children have moved from Ft. Lewis, to Hilltop. We originally came from the East coast (Delaware, for anyone who has been there). I have been in the Military for almost 11 years. Recently, I decided that I have given the Army my best years and

articles, contacted us as well as government agencies.

We are hoping for still more input from you, the community. After all, this is your newsletter and opportunity to speak out about things that are important to you. Also, you may have noticed that at this time, we have limited circulation of the newsletter. Happenings on Hilltop can be found at the following locations starting the first week of each month:

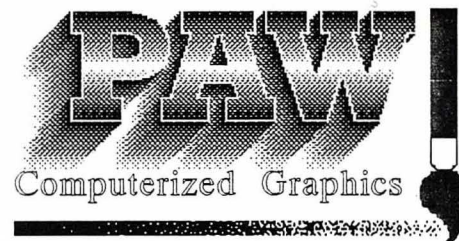
Location	Address
Safeway	11th & Sheridan
7-11	19th & K Street
A.M./P.M.	19th & K Street
Kentucky Fried Chicken	6th & Sprague
Maytag Laundromat	6th & Sprague
Pinches Deli	6th & Division
K Street Bar & Grill	11th & K Street
Lucky 7	9th & K Street

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.

Now, with these items out of the way, let's get rolling!!!

now will be staying here in Washington. I have started a business in Computerized Graphics, doing graphic design for business cards, envelope design, brochures, letterheads, flyers and much more. I enjoy working with the computer, so I volunteered to do layout of the Happenings on Hilltop newsletter. Enough about me. Let me tell you about the most important people in my life, my family. Peggy is an After Hours Worker for the Tacoma-Pierce County Red Cross and also a member of Tacoma Parents of

Multiples. Our four children are; Preston Jr., 5 yrs, Samantha, 4 yrs, and Thomas and Mariana, 2 yrs (Yes, they are twins).



## BRAIN FOOD

by: T.W. Cooker

Excavation-Extrication. Delusion-Illusion. Avert-Divert. Do you know the meaning of these words? Can you (or do) you properly use them? Words can be fun. By learning new and interesting words, you can enhance your vocabulary. All it takes is a little effort.

In each printing of this informative newsletter, we will explore two or three new words. We will learn their meanings and how to apply them in everyday use. Space allowed, we may also have the opportunity to list a few synonyms.

Now that we have a plan, you can get a head start by locating a dictionary and looking up each word that has been underlined in this text. Try to use each word at least five different times a day, for five days.

## HOUSING HORRORS

by: LFN

If you haven't noticed lately, there has been a number of houses going up for sale in the Hilltop area. This is not surprising because the media has listed Hilltop as one of the last bargain areas for real estate in the Northwest, which can be good for the local economy. What is surprising though, is the way the marketing of the area is being handled.

I have had more than a dozen neighbors call me in the past few months angry and scared because their house that they have been renting, is going up for sale. "Where will we move to?", "Where can we find affordable housing?". Both are valid questions. I feel limited in the answers I can give them. In truth, there is little affordable housing available outside of the Hilltop area. And when you consider that more than sixty percent of the property on Hilltop is rental, there is a major concern indeed for those who may have to move because their homes

are being sold.

Another interesting phenomena is the marketing of the Hilltop area as "Upper Tacoma". Maybe you have heard this phrase before. Part of it has to do with the K street business district desiring a positive identity with which to attract business. This very important for Hilltop because K street is our business district. However, for some reason, the program has been expanded to include renaming the entire Hilltop area. I DON'T THINK SO!!! Hilltop don't play that. More effort should be placed in addressing the cause of the certain social ills, than in renaming a geographical area in hopes of revitalizing it.

Lastly, there seems to have been a number of real estate groups and agencies representing large companies in the area trying to persuade long time residents to sell their property. Expansion is great if property used. Our businesses here on Hilltop need space to grow. But when some of these businesses hire individuals or companies (who don't even live in the area) to come in and aggressively hound our residents to sell their property... well, that's not nice. And it really isn't sound business practice either. The elderly man or women that you are trying to force into selling, might just be a very important person in the community. And if community sentiment turns against you...

It is not difficult to find solutions for the housing situation here on Hilltop. There are more than enough prime building lots to keep businesses flourishing while allowing long-time homeowners the respect and courtesy due them to retain their property. There is also enough residential property to allow enormous opportunities for investors, while leaving plenty of affordable housing for those in need of it. We all have to work together to achieve this balance. Business, developers, investors and community residents can all share revitalizing the

area, but we must all choose to work together.

Let's turn Housing Horrors into Happy Homes for all of us! PEACE.

## FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

by: Carol Goodwin

It is important to bring attention to the positive aspects in our community. Recently, my neighbor, the Reverend Roy Fletcher was featured in the Tacoma News Tribune. This is a summary of that article dated July 6, 1991:

In the article, Reverend Fletcher spoke of how he had been tempted to leave Hilltop due to the drug dealing and gang violence that plagued our area. But then he had a vision.

During a spiritual experience in his mind, God told Fletcher to stay in Hilltop, that his mission field was the neighborhood around his church at South 23rd and Sheridan Avenue.

Since then, Reverend Fletcher has been aided by a ninety-five-thousand dollar loan for an addition to his church which will add four classrooms. Before the classrooms were built, classes were held in the church kitchen and dining areas. Fletcher and his members helped build the addition, and the completion has "improved the congregations self-esteem" he says.

Reverend Fletcher realizes there is far more to changing a neighborhood than building Sunday school classrooms. He is concerned about reaching the communities young people who can't find good paying jobs and are lured into joining gangs. "They don't believe anyone really cares about them", he says. His church is doing what it can to reach out to youth and spread the message that "you can be cool, and you can be cool for Jesus".

While there has been a problem with

drug dealing and gang activity near the church, the situation has improved in recent months. Reverend Fletcher believes the improvement is due to increased patrols by the Tacoma Police, neighborhood watch programs and the community-wide efforts of the Safe Streets program.

"I believe that God works with people in this day and time", Reverend Fletcher said. "We're not going to give up".

## TACOMA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BEGIN FALL SCHEDULE

FROM: THE TACOMA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS - CITY OF TACOMA

Tacoma Community Schools begins its fall session the week of September 16. This cooperative effort of the Tacoma Public Schools, the city of Tacoma, and numerous volunteers, provides educational and recreational classes for all ages. Classes are held at Tacoma Public Schools when they are not being used by the school district.

Adult and children's classes will be offered at: Arlington Elementary, Baker Middle School, Gault Middle School, Hunt Middle School, Mason Middle School, Meeker Middle School, Steward Middle School, and Jason Lee Middle School.

Class selection will include, but not be limited to; aerobics, cooking, cartooning, stress management, sign language, computers, science and tutoring. Registration is the week of September 9.

Classes are offered Monday thru Thursday between 6:30 and 8:30 P.M.. Classes offered are free or at low cost. For more information or a copy of class schedule, please call 591-5066.

## EDITORIAL

by: LFN



On August 19th, news of the overthrow in Russia was met with mixed emotion here in the United States. For some, the news meant plummeting stock prices. For others, the news meant further distance between our two governments. For still others, it meant concern regarding relatives still in Russia.

As I pondered the ramifications of such an overthrow, I was reminded of a family I had the honor of meeting last fourth of July. My family was gathered out on the front yard as we had done so many times before, anticipating the Independence Day festivities that were to come. This was to be my two children's first exposure to fireworks and all the hoopla surrounding it.

As dusk began to settle, I notice four young heads peering out a window from across the street. The children appeared to range in ages from three to ten. They were looking on as though they too, had not experienced a fourth of July celebration. I walked across the street to invite them over to join us. I met their mother at the door. She was a beautiful woman with very strong features. She had a smile on her face as big as the great outdoors. As she let the screen door close behind her, I noticed an infant in her arms.

I introduced myself and asked if the children would like to come and join everyone for fireworks. Without changing her expression, the woman spoke two syllables of what sounded like broken english. At first I didn't understand what she was saying. Her oldest son quickly came to the door and began to speak a more fluent english, though he also had a pronounced accent. He explained to me that he and his family had just arrived from Kiev a few days ago. As he continued to explain, I couldn't help but marvel at the wonderful smile on his mothers face. It dawned upon me that she was just happy to be in the United States of America! This was going to be their first Fourth of July!

I asked the boy if it was all right with his mother if he and his sisters and bothers could come and take part in the fireworks. As the boy translated my request, the mother lovingly acknowledged with her ever-present smile.

Upon receiving her blessing, the boy bolted into the house to tell the others siblings the great news. In tandem, they all rushed from the house and across the street. There was a brief moment when the children from Kiev confronted my children along with their cousins and friends. And just as quickly there were broad smiles, handshakes and wrestling that normally accompanies new friendships.

The rest of the evening required little in fireworks, for the sparkle in the children's eyes lit up the evening sky. Their screams and laughter could be heard for blocks. It didn't much matter that they spoke different languages. The universal language of Love said all that needed to be said.

What makes this story interesting is not that this event took place, but where, and with whom it took place. The first experience the family from Kiev had of American citizenship took place on Hilltop. That's right HILLTOP. They did not know enough that the house they were living in was right smack in the middle of what most would consider a war zone. Maybe it didn't even matter because they had experienced far worse in their own country. To them, Hilltop was heaven. The other interesting note is that the first people that welcomed them and befriended the children, were Black Americans. Surely they had been exposed to the negative media image of Blacks here

in America. Surely they would know to lock themselves in their house when they saw me coming. But alas, none of these things happened.

What did happen on that hot July fourth, was a lesson in diplomacy we all could learn from. For one evening, all the barriers to communication were put aside. Martin Luther Kings dream of "little black children holding hands with little white children", was realized. I thought to myself; what if we adults could learn to live in peace as these children do? We wouldn't have to worry about disarmament or nuclear war, even what color another person was, much less where he or she came from. All that really mattered was that we could share the joys of life with someone. We could teach someone about our culture, while learning something about theirs.

It was a memorable night indeed. There were no translators. The children talked with their hearts, not their mouths. There were no misunderstandings reported on that date in front of my mothers house on Hilltop. God Bless.

## WHY A NEWSLETTER

by: LFN

Some of you out there may be wondering why we started putting out a newsletter. In fact, there are a number of local newspapers in circulation already. To some, the idea seemed like a duplication of effort and a waste of money and time.

The Happenings On Hilltop started out as Tidbits From Ten. It was an area newsletter for the residents of area 10 (if you don't know what area you live in, call 597-4808, the Hilltop Action Coalition). We thought we would be able to reach more people by publishing a monthly newsletter, than by trying to get everyone out to a meeting each month.

Progress was slow at first. There was little response. Then, about February of this year (our third issue), things started happening. We got a few calls regarding information that was in the newsletter. People who knew we were writing a newsletter started sharing it with people outside of Area 10. By March, Tidbits From Ten was being read by people who worked in the local government downtown. They liked what they saw. It was even suggested that we consider writing a newsletter for all of Hilltop. In May, Cathy and Bill Charles, who were the co-founders and editor of Tidbits, had decided to move to Iowa. This was a blow indeed. The Charles' had the computer, graphics, printer and the whip to keep us going and encouraged. We took our sob story to a few nice people downtown, who saw it as an opportunity to expand the newsletter.

So there you have it. This is our third Happenings On Hilltop. Each issue is getting better and better. More and more people are reading it. So if you really want to be cool, impress your girlfriend on how informed you are, or just find out how you can get involved, why not start reading the source that goes by the same name as the community it serves?

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Here are some important phone numbers to help you in the event that you are experiencing problems. Cut them out and keep them Handy.

**EMERGENCY (POLICE, FIRE) - 911**  
**Crack Hotline - 475-CRAK**  
**Hilltop Action Coalition - 597-4808**  
**Safe Streets - 272-6824**  
**Crime Prevention - 591-5883**  
**Abandoned Autos - 591-5926**  
**Refuse Department - 591-5544**  
**Recycling Department - 565-5955**  
**Larry Norman (Editor) - 272-8133**



**The purpose of this newsletter is to provide inspiration, information and direction to the residents, organizations and businesses on Hilltop.**