

the
newsletter of
the lettered streets
neighborhood

the Letterhead

summer 2009

New ■ Young ■ A ■ B ■ C ■ D ■ E ■ F ■
G ■ H ■ I ■ J ■ Broadway

Get your licks in Ice Cream Social August 11 2501 E Street

Celebrate this fine El Niño summer we're having at the Lettered Streets' Ice Cream Social, 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 11. If the weather is good—fingers crossed!—bring a lawn chair or a blanket and we'll spread out into the courtyard.

Ice cream and cones are being provided absolutely free by neighbors Claudia and Randy DeWees, owners of the Baskin Robbins shop at the Bakerview Fred Meyer shopping center, 733-0031. Thank you, Claudia and Randy!

Other upcoming Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association meetings & events

Washington Square, 2501 E Street

Tuesday, October 13: 7 p.m. Infill Tool Kit

What does it mean for the Lettered Streets neighborhood?

Tuesday, November 10: 7 p.m. Neighbors in Need

Learn about services on housing, health and seniors available through the Interfaith Coalition located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood.

Tuesday, January 12: 7 p.m. LSNA Potluck

Location to be announced.



This Queen Anne-style home on G Street, more than 100 years old, is one of the cottages that would be part of the Cissna Historic District.

Possible historic district in Lettered Streets

The Lettered Streets—Bellingham's oldest neighborhood—may soon have its own registered historic district.

At the Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association meeting on June 9, Dave Pinyerd and Bernadette Niederer of Historic Preservation Northwest and Katie Franks, a City of Bellingham Development Specialist, presented their recommended nomination for the National Register of Historic Places. The recommended area, dubbed the Cissna Historic District, includes houses on G and H streets roughly bordered by Halleck and Girard streets.

The homes, all in the Queen Anne style, were built by local Bellingham businessman Charles Cissna between 1898 and 1901.

While there are many other homes throughout the neighborhood that maintain their historic integrity, Pinyerd and Niederer felt that the Cissna Cottages stood the best chance of meeting the criteria for a national historic district.

"The cottages have a high degree of integrity and were all built by one man who was important in the history of Bellingham," Pinyerd said.

The nomination process still has a ways to go. In its next step, the nomination will be submitted to the State of Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) in August. If accepted at the state level, the nomination will then move forward for consideration by the National Register of Historic Places.

A final decision at the national level would be made this October.

Getting the nomination process this far along has been possible due to the Preserve America Grant that the City of Bellingham received in 2007. The grant paid for the resource survey work by Historic Preservation Northwest. Additional work hours were donated by the City of Bellingham and a core group of neighborhood volunteers from the Lettered Streets as well as York and South Hill, the other two neighborhoods covered by the grant.

Pinyerd and Niederer traveled from their offices in Albany, OR to Bellingham a number of times in 2008 and 2009. For the survey, they

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PHOTO: LES CAMPBELL

The investment of a little effort in getting your vintage window restored to working order can pay off big with a cool breeze flowing into a hot older house on a summer's day!

Repairing windows in older houses

Many of us live in older, character-filled homes here in the Lettered Streets. And we love them—mostly. We might love them a *little* bit less on hot summer days, however, when we're forced to confront an uncomfortable fact: We can't open our sash windows!

Believe it or not, it might be possible to get those beautiful but painted-shut or warped windows functioning again and bring some cross-ventilation into your bungalow.

The general word on restoring sash windows to easy-gliding glory is that it's labor-intensive but fairly straightforward. It's also a way to cut down on heat loss in winter and improve air flow in summer while still preserving the historical integrity of your home. In fact, according to the Kansas State Historical Society website, repairing an older home's existing windows is just as energy efficient as—and definitely greener than—replacing them with vinyl windows.

So, how does one go about restoring these venerable old windows? Fortunately, the Web has some helpful sources describing techniques for sash window repair:

- At the Kansas State Historical Society website you'll find videos that walk you through the process: <http://kshs.org/resource/windowrepair.htm>
- A recent article posted on OldHouseJournal.com is also a good source of information: www.oldhousejournal.com/how_to_restore_sash_windows/magazine/1600
- And here's an index of additional articles covering older window assessment and repair: www.oldhouseweb.com/how-to-advice/windows/historic-wood-windows



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The Letterhead is the official newsletter of the Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association and is published four times a year.

If you have an idea for an article, or something you'd like to see included in an upcoming issue, please send an e-mail to letterhead.ed@gmail.com.

For the latest news, be sure to visit our website at:

www.letteredstreets.org

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Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association

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LSNA Potluck: Warm gathering on a cold winter's night

Dozens of Lettered Streets neighbors gathered at the First Congregational Church in January to share in fun talk, great food and good times at the annual Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association potluck dinner. Be sure to join us this coming January 12!



PHOTOS: ARLENE FELD

Possible historic district in Lettered Streets

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often walked from house to house—sometimes in bitter cold—taking photos and recording architectural minutia. They and volunteers also performed deep historical research with the help of vintage photographs, city directories and Sanborn maps—some dating well back into the 1800s—from the collections at the Bellingham Public Library and the Whatcom Museum. All this information is being consolidated into an extremely detailed report of Lettered Streets homes, buildings and overall history. Eventually, a booklet will be available to the public.

Pinyerd and Niederer have enjoyed their time in Bellingham. “It’s definitely been a great experience for us,” said Pinyerd, “from the volunteerism, the acceptance of us in the neighborhoods. We’ve never encountered so many people in the street who knew about their houses, knew about their neighborhoods.” He and Niederer said the project’s public meetings attracted more attendees than expected, and that in general there was more interest and public involvement than they had anticipated.

*To follow the progress of the historical resource survey and nomination, go to www.cob.org/services/neighborhoods/historic/index.aspx and click on *Historic Resource Survey and Inventory Project*. You may also contact Katie Franks at (360) 778-8388 or kfranks@cob.org.*

— Rebecca Gleason



Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association dues

Why pay dues?

The dues you pay into the LSNA help make use of funds available from the city. This is how it works: The Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association treasury pays for the printing of this newsletter, then the city (under Neighborhood Association Support Services) reimburses the paid invoice back to the LSNA treasury. This is true of Small & Simple Grants, too.

Your dues make a difference!

Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

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FAN LETTER:

A celebration of people, places and things in the Lettered Streets



PHOTO: LES CAMPBELL

Kjirstin Haugland prepares a smoothie, just one of many delicious treats at the Lettered Streets Coffee House on the corner of F and Dupont Streets.

Lettered Streets Coffee House: Good coffee, good eats, strong community

At the corner of F and Dupont streets, nearly two years ago, I came across two young women painting the inside of the defunct coffee house in the historic Pickett Building. I wasn't the only one who noticed their hard work. Curious, I asked why a *Bellingham Herald* photographer was snapping shots of this event. It turned out the sweat equity was going into Anna Dean and Kjirstin Haugland's very own new business. Former employees of the previous cafe located in the building, they planned to reopen the business as the Lettered Streets Coffee House.

Today, the Lettered Streets Coffee House is thriving. Business people, college students and neighborhood folks of all ages love the beverages, soups, sandwiches, smoothies and shakes. And Anna and Kjirstin are relieved to have ridden through the rapids of starting a business.

One of Kjirstin and Anna's

goals when opening the coffee house was to build a warm sense of community—and they've succeeded. Their friends got married in the coffee house. Two customers shared the big news of their pregnancies with Anna and Kjirstin before they told their husbands. Handy customers fix things around the business

and offer to do errands. Once, when the two owners had money problems, an envelope was slipped under their door. It contained cash and an anonymous note that read, "A little something to tide you over." You can imagine how much this meant to them.

With passion, Kjirstin says, "We couldn't have found a bet-

ter place to have a coffee house than in the Lettered Streets."

You'll find the Lettered Streets Coffee House at 1001 Dupont St. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 6:45 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

www.letteredstreetscoffee.com.

— Arlene Feld

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Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association

Monthly meeting: 2nd Tuesday (most months) at Washington Square, 2501 E Street, 7 p.m.

Next meeting: Ice Cream Social, August 11

Chairperson: Lee Eberhardt
Vice Chair: Michael McAuley
Treasurer: Vince Brown
Secretary: Arlene Feld
MNAC Rep: Howard Steiner



Area 1 Rep: Becky Hutchins
Area 2 Rep: Shirley Mahberg
Area 3 Rep: Rae Edwards
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