



Roosevelt Neighborhood Association Newsletter

April 2006

*the Roosie is online @ <http://www.rooseveltneighborhoodseattle.org>*

## Along Roosevelt. . . A Monthly Update by RNA President Jim O'Halloran

**H**ere is my monthly roundup of news and activities in the Roosevelt Neighborhood....

**2006 Roosevelt Bull Moose Festival** – Big News! In just our second year, The Bull Moose Festival has been officially sanctioned by SEAFAIR, and now becomes a traditional Community Event as part of the regional summer SEAFAIR celebration. Approval by SEAFAIR will greatly increase publicity and exposure of the Bull Moose Festival on July 29<sup>th</sup>, raising the profile of the Roosevelt Neighborhood. Watch for updates at [www.bullmoosefestival.org](http://www.bullmoosefestival.org).

**Skatepark Update** – Please read Jennifer Keys's article in this issue of *The Roosie*, and plan to attend the April 25<sup>th</sup> RNA meeting to learn more about a proposed skateboard park near the freeway. Carefully designed with community input, this could be a great amenity for our neighborhood.

**Art Corridor Project** – Also at the April RNA meeting will be an update on the public art project along NE 65<sup>th</sup> Street by project manager Barb Luecke of the County's cultural services agency, 4Culture.

**First Tuesday Art Walk** – The monthly neighborhood Art Walks have begun; the first of the season was held on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The next Art Walk is scheduled for Tuesday evening, May 2. Things get underway around 5:30 PM at Whole Foods Market. Check it out!

**Latest on Light Rail** – The state legislature scrubbed Sound Transit's plan for a November 2006 vote on North Link funding, which would pay for extension of light rail through Roosevelt and up to Northgate. A combined mass transit and roads tax package may be ready for the ballot in the Fall of 2007. In my opinion there is no question that light rail is coming; it's just a question of when and how it's funded.

**NEDC Rep Needed** – The RNA has traditionally sent a representative to the Northeast District Council (NEDC), one of 13 district councils in the city which meets monthly. We're looking for someone to fill this role. Contact Jim O'Halloran for more information. 523-1770, [jim@ohalloran.cc](mailto:jim@ohalloran.cc)

**Celebrate Trees** – Don't miss a short talk and book-signing

by noted author, Arthur Lee Jacobson, at the April RNA meeting. Mr. Jacobson has prepared a list of notable trees in the Roosevelt neighborhood which will be available at the meeting. More info inside this issue of *The Roosie*.

**High School** – Also joining us at the April RNA meeting will be a Vice Principal from Roosevelt High School, to provide an update on events and activities as the school prepares to reopen in the Fall.

**IMPORTANT: Neighborhood Plan Survey** – This issue of *The Roosie* contains a survey of neighborhood issues and priorities. It's very important that we have your input on these topics as we revise the neighborhood plan. The survey is simple and will take just a few minutes to complete and return. Please pull out the colored survey sheet and have your say. Do it now! Thank you!

- ◆ Tree talk and book signing by Arthur Lee Jacobson, author, *Trees of Seattle*, Second Edition
- ◆ Skateboard Park presentation
- ◆ Art Corridor update
- ◆ Roosevelt High School Update
- ◆ RNA officer elections

## Seeking 100-Year-Old Houses

Roosevelt neighbor Teri Stephens is seeking information on any houses 100 years or older in the neighborhood. She is working on a long-term history project to help people preserve their older homes, and she is also planning a photo display for the Bull Moose Festival. Contact Teri at 206/524-0063 or at [robteri2000@hotmail.com](mailto:robteri2000@hotmail.com) if you know of such a house.

# Skate Park Planned for ArtPark Area Under I-5 Overpass

Skateboarding was enjoyed by over 10 million Americans in 2004, a rate that has remained relatively stable since 1987, when participation data first became available. Since 1973 — when the urethane wheel was first produced — and the late 1950's — when the first kid nailed metal roller skate wheels to a 2x4 — skateboarding itself has ridden a series of revolutionary waves that have pushed it further and further into our cultural and physical landscape.

Although Seattle has two skate parks (one in Ballard and one near Seattle Center) the demand is growing for more spaces, particularly for beginning skaters. Lower Woodland Park is expecting a skate park this summer and a group of skate park enthusiasts have built a Do-It-Yourself park, with blessings from the Seattle Department of Transportation, near Marginal way. Now a group of boarders, community residents and artists wants to create the first-ever art/skatepark in Seattle.

The I-5 overpass at Ravenna has been a sore topic since it was built in the 1960's. It cuts off Greenlake from the Roosevelt neighborhood, it is a magnet for abandoned vehicles and car campers. And it is not a very pleasant or safe-feeling part of our community. Former King County Councilwoman Cynthia Sullivan set a plan in motion several years ago to beautify this area. Plans are

now in place for public artwork along 65th under the freeway, and talks are underway for a skate park that incorporates the artwork and includes skatable art and an earth works garden.

Parents for Skateparks is a non-profit organization that is hoping to gather community support for a park in this integrated public space. The organizers hope the park will bring people, both participants and spectators, to the newly created park. Having people in the newly created park makes the park safe, and that feeling of safety allows more people to enjoy it.

Improving our existing public space will strengthen our community by providing additional recreational opportunities, decreasing crime, increasing art and aesthetics, and making Roosevelt a strong destination for families in our truly urban village. These skateparks and others in Seattle's future will help provide relevant, alternative recreational opportunities for everyone.

Come to the Roosevelt Neighborhood Association meeting on April 25, 2006 to hear about the plans for art, skating and the support of your neighbors to the south for this innovative project.

Jennifer Keys

# Update of Community Plan Seeks Neighborhood Opinions

With the coming of a light rail station in Roosevelt's commercial core, and other changes in the neighborhood, an update of our "Neighborhood Plan" is a priority item. A year ago a committee was formed to revise Roosevelt's plan. This "Neighborhood Plan Update Team" (N-PUT) has worked to assess the existing plan, secure funding, and hire an urban designer. It is now creating and refining a draft of the updated plan's content.

N-PUT has 20 members and is open to anyone interested in volunteering. We want to make sure that the ideas, viewpoints and work of the committee reflect the opinions of the community. Thus, during the next three months there will be a number of public outreach opportunities.

These efforts begin this month with a survey of public opinion. A copy of the survey will be delivered with every *Roosie*, and additional copies will be available at April's general meeting. This survey will determine the community's highest priority desires and concerns, and as such will guide the focus of the revised plan. Earlier this month there was a special meeting with business owners and operators, both to inform our commercial residents about the plan update and to gain an understanding of their concerns.

In May the team will analyze the survey results and continue to work through the issues addressed by the plan; and there will be a report on progress and survey results at the general meeting.

On June 6th, in cooperation with the Roosevelt "First Tuesday Art Walk," there will be an urban design

open-house and community forum. This event will present information about proposed changes to the plan and offer an opportunity to comment on specific areas of neighborhood planning which remain unsettled.

With all of the input gathered from these various efforts, a proposed draft of the updated neighborhood plan will be completed and presented to the community at the June general meeting. A period to submit any additional public comments will then run into Mid-July, at which time any final changes will be made and the document will be sent to the city for approval.

As members of this community it is important that you take part in this process. Please mark your calendar and help guide Roosevelt's future. To review, besides joining N-PUT (which you can do by contacting Andy Reay-Ellers), opportunities for public participation include:

Late April	Initial public survey
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	N-PUT Meeting
May 23	Progress report at RNA general meeting
June 6	urban design open house and community forum
June 8	N-PUT Meeting
Jun 27	Presentation of Draft Plan at RNA general meeting
July 13	N-PUT Meeting
Early July	final comment period



Relaxing under one of the state's oldest dogwood trees, in Roosevelt's P-Patch.

## States Celebrate Arbor Day at Different Times

Although in 1970 President Richard Nixon declared the last Friday in April as National Arbor Day, Washington celebrates Arbor Day on the second Wednesday of April, this year on April 12. Primarily in order to take advantage of the best time in their climate area to plant trees, different states celebrate on different days. Each state has a state tree, and Washington's is the Western hemlock.

The holiday was the brainchild of Nebraska journalist and politician Julius Sterling Morton, who felt that the then relatively treeless plain would benefit from planting trees. On the state's first Arbor Day, on April 10, 1872, Nebraskans planted over one million trees. In 1885, Morton's birthday of April 22 was proclaimed Arbor Day in Nebraska, and declared a legal holiday.

## April Speaker Writes of Trees in Pungent Manner

In an article for the April 1 "Home and Garden Section" of the *Seattle Times*, Valerie Easton writes of Arthur Lee Jacobson, "He must have tasted, sniffed, harvested grown, climbed or otherwise studied each of the hundreds of different kinds of trees he describes." Jacobson, renowned writer of books about trees and native flora of the Northwest, will be the featured speaker at the April 25 meeting of the RNA. His latest book is the second edition of "Trees of Seattle." An example of one of the book's descriptions, quoted by Easton, is that of the Oregon Myrtle: "No tree has a stronger odor; the penetrating pungency of its bruised leaves can cause pain or dizziness if deeply inhaled." From his most recent research, Jacobson has compiled a list of trees that can be found in and around Roosevelt and, more importantly, where to find them. This list will be distributed at the April meeting. With it you can walk the neighborhood and find the specimens that grace our area.



Jonathan Andrews, age 4, begins to climb a native poplar, badly needing protection from invasive English ivy, in Froula Park.

Tree Pictures are by Bess Steiner

## RHS Trees May Be Gift from Roosevelt Home

Four large trees in the southeast corner of the Roosevelt High School yard were planted near the time the school was built in 1922. RHS lore has it that two of the trees, a scarlet oak and a ginkgo, were the gift of the foundation of Sagamore Hill, the New York estate of Theodore Roosevelt, for whom the school was named. Margery Gamble, the school secretary, says that people used to come into the office asking where the trees were, and that she assumes they were getting information from a book. The Seattle Arboretum was unable to find the source. When the new addition was being planned, efforts were made to designate the four trees — the ginkgo, the oak, a black walnut and a Japanese cherry — "Seattle Trees of Significance." At that time no written documentation of the Sagamore connection could be found, according to Andrea Wilson, local expert on all things RHS. Nonetheless, the significance of the trees was formally asserted, and they were protected during the reconstruction. The cherry is in blossom now, and in several months the full splendor of the four will be seen without the visual impediment of construction chain-link fencing.