

Trolley Times

Volume # 24

News of the North Slope Historic District

July - August - Sept. 2001

National Night Out

National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 7th. This year's North Slope event will take place on North 9th and K Streets, beginning at 7 p.m. Neighbors are asked to bring desserts to share. Coffee, cold drinks, plates and utensils will be provided.

Families are encouraged to bring children, as there will be some activities for them. Those who prefer to sit on the grass may bring a blanket, but bring a lawn chair if you can.

For further information call Paul Britt at 383-3099

Mark August 7th on your calendar now, so you can join your friends in this annual celebration for American neighborhoods.

You may notice in this issue of "Trolley Times" that we have changed our neighborhood group's name from North Slope Neighborhood Coalition to North Slope Historic District. It will match the street signs and tee shirt logo, and perhaps better fit our purpose at this time.



Ethnic Fest

The North Slope Historic District will participate again this year in the Wright Park Ethnic Fest. The gala event starts on Saturday, July 28th, and runs all day Sunday, the 29th.

We will once again have our booth festooned with flags of various nations (If you want the flag of your ethnic background flying just bring it along).

Last year's historic district booth volunteers handed out material about our neighborhood and Tacoma's Neighborhood Councils. We also sold North Slope T-shirts to Ethnic Fest attendees.

Of course we could use some volunteers who would handle the booth for at least a two hour shift sometime during the event. You don't want to miss this – over 50,000 people attended last year! So just come down and put in two hours in the booth; then join the crowd!

There is a continual stage show of dancing and music, medieval battles going on, so it is impossible to be bored, and the food is great. All kinds of food from all over the world are available. You could eat your way through the two hours in the booth.

Help your neighborhood and have a great time while you are doing it. If you can volunteer a couple of hours, just call Bill Johnston at 627-6860 and we will schedule a convenient time for you!!!

See ya at Wright Park July 28-29!



Park Work to Start in September

The Metropolitan Park District's Curtis Hancock met with the Steering Committee in June and shared the plans and schedule of completion for the tot-lot park at North 8th and K. The expected starting date is September, barring any number of glitches, with completion in October.

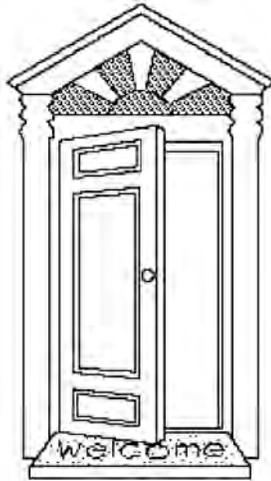
The names suggested for the park came up with a "Valerie" in nearly all. The Steering Committee will check with the city on the procedure for naming and then decide on how to proceed. Expect further up-dates.

Charming / Inviting Doorway & Porch Contest

Show us your heart warming, charming, and inviting front doorway and porches. Everyone is invited to participate. Papa John's Pizza and Bronson Construction announce the first ever "North Slope Historic District Porch and Home Entryway Contest" The 'Grand Prize' winner will receive \$25 cash and a free Pest & Dry Rot inspection. Also, each contestant will receive a free large Papa John's Pizza delivered to your door.

Winners will be announced at the August 7th National Night Out North Slope Block Party. To sign up, leave your name, address, and phone number no later than **Friday August 3rd**.

Call 253-370-5578 or email Thomas@imrhistory.com
Judging will start Saturday, August 4th and will last till Monday August 6th.



Dates to Remember

- July 28-29, Ethnic Fest
- August 7, National Night Out
- Late August, Adopt-a-Spot
litter pick-up
- September 3, Labor Day
- September 5, School starts,
Jason Lee re-opens
- September 18, primary election
- September 22, Fall begins
- September, police / community
meeting

"Windows"

by Roger Johnson, North Slope Representative to the Landmarks Preservation Commission

It is often said that the doorway to a person's soul is through his eyes. His spirit is revealed in his eyes; happy or sad, lively or weary, the eyes tell us a lot about the contents inside.

The same can be said about a house. When the older homes were designed and built the materials dictated a method of construction. When they were built the styles and mind set of the times were inherently incorporated into the finished home.



Windows are one of the major features of a house. Aside from the size and general style of the house, windows are the dominant feature of the exterior, helping to define the architectural style of the house. High Victorian, Craftsman, Colonial, Italianate, Tudor, etc., all have a distinctive style of window that helps identify it. They tell us a lot about the home and the period when it was built. Another important consideration is the aesthetic. The original windows were of the house style and in the appropriate scale. All elements work together to create a distinctive style and pleasing appearance. Today, with the knowledge of their past and their contribution to the present, the older homes are a treasure.

The current energy crunch makes it seem important to have energy efficient windows. "Get rid of those old drafty windows and put in modern high "E" windows"...Wrong! The old windows can be made energy efficient with just a little effort. Modern caulking and weatherstripping thoughtfully installed can stop the drafts. Make sure the glazing is in good condition and tight. To further enhance the "R" factor of old windows, a good storm window can be added to the outside. A good storm window is one that stops all moisture and air movement on the surface of the primary windows. It should match the slope and light arrangement of the original window it covers. The worst thing to do is replace the original windows with vinyl windows! Vinyl windows rarely duplicate the original style and they have a different scale and light arrangement. The plastic of the new windows comes in just a few colors (white being the most popular) and they cannot be painted. The pleasing nature of the original windows is lost; in their place is a jarring, flat glassed, white plastic surrounded hole. The soul of the house has been defiled. It reminds me of those sad paintings of the little waif with huge glassy eyes; the soul is empty.

One popular excuse for using vinyl windows is cost; vinyl is cheaper. You get what you pay for. You lose style and grace for an easily produced clunky product. The glassy eyes of the waif surrounded by glaring white vinyl. It is a soul robbing quick fix to install vinyl

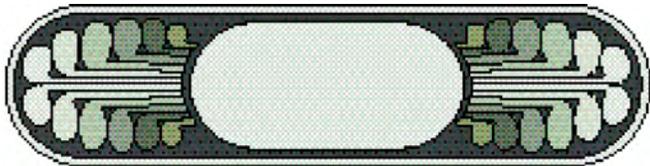
Adopt-a-Spot News

windows instead of fixing the original windows in an older home. There are many things to do to save precious energy and still save the original windows. In the long run fixing the windows saves more money than replacing them.

Seven North Slope residents picked up litter on I Street on Saturday, June 2. Finishing just before a rain shower, about 75 pounds of trash was collected. Thanks to all volunteers, and hello to a new helper, Mary!

The next Adopt-a-Spot pickup will be at 6:30 p.m. on a warm evening in late August, followed by dessert and coffee. If interested, please call 627- 4537 to leave your name and phone number. You will be called a few days before the litter pickup.

Perhaps those neighbors who are not able to participate in Adopt-a-Spot clean-ups can be a patrol in their own block, collecting trash to help the North Slope look more attractive!



Alcohol Impact Ordinance

Tacoma's City Council passed an ordinance in February 2001, "that sales of cheap 'high kick' fortified wines and beers be restricted within an identified boundary." (You can access a story and map on the TNT's website, www.tribnet.com – look up May 31, 2001.)

Under state law, a trial period of six-months is required to allow stores licensed to sell-off-premises to voluntarily comply with the ordinance. The six-month period is up in September, when a consortium of neighborhood groups plans to ask the City Council to petition the State Liquor Board to make compliance mandatory.

Approximately half of the affected stores have signed to voluntarily comply. The benefits for neighborhoods around the North Slope are high. Cutting down on single-bottle cheap alcoholic beverages, that appear to be a leading cause of public drunkenness, litter and panhandling, will help our neighborhood. One of the most troubled areas is Wright Park and the streets to the north, where several small stores have declined to comply.

In our immediate neighborhood, the Park Way Tavern on North I and Hank's Tavern on North K have signed the agreement not to sell these products. However the North K Corner Store, the 7-11 on I street, and the Short Stop on Division and M Streets had not complied with the voluntary agreement at the time of Trolley Times publication.



Police/Community Meeting

The next Sector 2 Tacoma Police/Community meeting will be in September. Watch the News Tribune for a date and time prior to the meeting. Sector 2 staff includes Lt. Fedderson and liaison officers Kothstein (591-5290) and Stark (594-7837).

They remind us to prevent car prowls by not leaving valuables visible and parking in well-lit areas. Lately there have been many break-ins with missing CD players, stereos, laptops, cell phones, and broken windows.

Free CPR Class

The Tacoma Fire Department offers free CPR classes lasting 3 1/4 hours to groups of at least 9 people. The North Slope will arrange the instruction on a Saturday morning in October at Immanuel Presbyterian if enough people are interested. If you would like to learn CPR or take a refresher course, please call 627-4537 to leave your name and phone number.

Historic District Signs

Have you noticed the fade-away on the North Slope Historic District signs? Yes, they have gotten fainter over the months and this spring one was returned to Cole Screen Printing for analysis.

It turns out that indoor ink was accidentally used to print the signs, so they are being reprinted. Expected date of completion is sometime in July. It is still to be decided when and by whom the new signs will be put up on the posts.



The Back Page...

North Slope Historic District Steering Committee:

Julie Turner @ 383-2329
 Dan & Angie Klein @ 272-0938
 Velda McDonald @ 627-4192
 Judy Martin @ 572-3059
 Marilyn Torgerson @ 627-4537
 Paul Britt @ 383-3099
 Scott Johnson @ 503-2032
 Bill Johnston @ 627-6860
 Nick Kristensen &
 Patty LeBlanc @ 272-2884

Are you interested in being a member of the steering committee? If so, call one of the steering committee members and leave your name and phone number!



Vote for your favorite inviting front doorway and porch in the North Slope. Please call or email your choice by Monday night, August 6th. Call 373-5578 or email Thomas@imrhistory.com

The North Slope has a fax machine for sale, cheap! For information, call 383-2329

Thank you to:
Tacoma Cares
 for the printing for the newsletter.
 We appreciate your support.

Get Your North Slope T-Shirts!

Available for your wearing pleasure - 100% cotton Tees in slate blue or a soft buttery yellow with our historic street sign "logo" on the front. T Shirts are available in M, L, XL & 2X for \$12.00 each.

Polo shirts are available also in Lake Blue with "North Slope Historic District" embroidered in yellow. Polos are \$25.00 each. Both styles of shirts are available at North Slope meetings or by calling Patty LeBlanc at 272-2884.



The Tacoma Historical Society Home Tour Committee has been meeting and plans are being made for the THS Home Tour 2002.

If you are interested in sharing your talents, would like to open your home, be a docent, or work in the reception center, please call 253/472-3728 now.

The North Slope Historic District is made up of the people living between "I" and Grant Streets from Division to Steele.

Consider joining us for our October meeting, to be held at the newly remodeled Jason Lee!

