



Trolley Times



Volume # 29

News of the North Slope Historic District

Oct.-Nov.-Dec. 2002

We're Going National

by Jay Turner

The National Historic Preservation act of 1966, created the National Register of Historic Places, the official roster of properties significant in illustrating the heritage of the United States. Today, more than 62,000 properties are listed in the register, which is maintained by the National Park Service. Listing in the National Register contributes to preserving historic properties in a number of ways:

- Recognition that a property is of significance to the Nation, State, or community.
- Consideration in the planning for Federal or federally-assisted projects.
- Eligibility for Federal tax benefits.
- Qualification for Federal assistance for historic preservation, when funds are available.
- Eligibility for certain tax provisions

Listing honors our homes and our district by recognizing its importance to our community's history. It is the city-recognized District that would be "Going National", with all of our homes included. Roger Johnson, our representative on the Landmarks Commission, summed it up for us when he said, "Designation as a National Historic District will add another layer to our already rich historic district." The fact that we are already a Tacoma Historic District makes the process of submitting the application to the state a lot less time-consuming; the research has already been done. All additional work will be performed by volunteers.

Our nomination, after a sign-off by the Tacoma's Landmarks Commission, will be submitted to the Washington State Office of Historic Preservation for review. After the state review board approves the nomination, it is sent to the National Park Service to be considered for listing. When our district is approved by the National Park Service, it is officially entered in the National Register. This process takes months.

The Criteria for evaluating the NSHD for eligibility are that the properties and homes are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, and that the properties embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. Owners of listed properties may be able to obtain Federal historic preservation funding, when funds are available. Tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions may apply.



One of the most common questions that property owners have about the National Register is, "Will there be restrictions on my property after listing?" There is no downside to being on the register. A direct quote from the National Park Service: "Under federal law, owners of private property listed in the National Register are free to maintain, manage, or dispose of their property as they choose provided that there is no Federal involvement." (In our case, we are the North Slope Historic District, a City of Tacoma District, so the building review commitments of our local Tacoma district still apply.)

There are about 950 real-estate properties to evaluate and the National Park Service requires that we look at ALL OF THEM. That is being done now, which is a very time-consuming data-processing project. The application also requires photographs of all the different types of properties, both contributing and non-contributing. Secondary structures, like the detached garages, will be included too. All this must be done in National Park Service format and according to National Park guidelines. Web site to visit: www.cr.nps.gov/nr



Next North Slope Meeting

The next meeting of the North Slope Historic District will be Wednesday, October 16 at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, North 9th and J. Refreshments will be available at 6 p.m., with the program starting at 6:30. The earlier start this time is for the convenience of our guest speaker. Historic Preservation is the topic. Tacoma's new Preservation Officer, Jennifer Schreck, will talk about types of historic designation, our district's ordinance, building permits, and other areas of historic interest. She will discuss energy efficient ideas and weatherization for older houses. Jay Turner will tell about our project working towards national recognition. A question and answer period will also include Roger Johnson from Landmarks Commission, and other NSHD organizers. Come to learn more about our neighborhood, and be prepared to get your questions answered! Remember our earlier start--refreshments at 6 p.m., program at 6:30 on Wednesday, October 16!

For those who may want to telephone Jennifer for help with their home improvements, her number is 591-5220.

National Night Out

More than 75 North Slope neighbors attended National Night Out in our new park August 6. A few scattered raindrops didn't bother the adults and children who enjoyed the dessert potluck. We were joined by a fire truck and firefighters, our three sector 2 police community staff, and councilman Bill Evans. Thanks to Angie Klein and Bev Lord for chairing the event.

See you the first Tuesday in August 2003 for the 20th Annual National Night Out, an American tradition for neighborhoods!



Need Info?

A number of North Slope houses have sold in the past few months. We have a packet of information about the North Slope available for new owners. Please phone 383-2329 or 627-4537 to request the material.



Adopt-a-Spot News

Six neighbors met August 22 to collect over 50 pounds of trash on North I Street for Tacoma Cares Adopt-a-Spot program. The volunteers enjoyed dessert and coffee afterwards. We welcomed a new volunteer, Nancy. After a winter break, the next pickup will be in early March. During the interim, let's all pick up litter around our yards and parking strips to keep the North Slope looking attractive!



Street of Treats

The Stadium Business District is sponsoring its 4th annual "Street of Treats" on Halloween, Thursday, October 31, from 3 to 6 p.m. The free trick-or-treat will take place on Tacoma Avenue between Division and North 1st Street. Free tractor driven hayrides begin at Wright Park, across from the Chevrolet dealer, 3 to 6 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church is having an indoor-outdoor carnival also. All North Slope children are welcome to attend these activities. For further information, call 572-6508.

Salmon Stickers

About 30 volunteers installed over 200 plastic curb markers by North Slope storm drains Saturday, July 20. The markers, showing a salmon swimming, replace the former stenciled white paint "no dumping" signs.

Whatever flows into Tacoma's storm drains---oil, paint, soap, pesticides, pet litter---goes directly into our local waterways. This pollution hurts salmon and other aquatic animals. The City of Tacoma Environmental Services and Citizens for a Healthy Bay sponsored the two hour work party, and provided pizza and drinks afterwards.

If you haven't seen the markers, look for the colorful (blue, pink, white) 3"x5 1/2" oval markers on the curbs above drains.

Thanks to the North Slope neighbors who participated!

Make a Difference Day

Saturday, October 26, is the 12th annual "Make a Difference Day," when American communities come together to serve others. "Make a Difference Day" is sponsored by USA Weekend Magazine, Points of Light Foundation, and Paul Newman's Own.

Our neighborhood completed the salmon/bay marker program in July, and we have a three-times-a-year litter pickup for Tacoma Cares. For this October 26 date we will collect food for the food bank, which is always in need of more. (Recent news stories listed Washington as second highest state in number of households with hunger.)

When you come to the October 16 NSHD meeting, please bring some non-perishable items for our local food bank near Wright Park. And, perhaps some North Slope residents can do something in their own block to make a difference!



Dates to Remember

October 14--Columbus Day
 October 16--North Slope meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 October 26--Make a Difference Day
 October 27--Set clocks back an hour
 October 31--Halloween
 November 5--Election Day
 November 11--Veterans' Day
 November 28--Thanksgiving
 December 22--Winter
 December 25--Christmas
 January 1--New Year's
 January--Next newsletter



Police/Community News

Sector 2's new officer is Lt. Robert Ruiz. You can reach him at 591-5697.

At the July 9 police/community meeting, Tacoma's Crime Free Housing program was discussed. The next training for property managers, realtors, and owners of rental units will be October 15 and 16. For information about the free program designed to decrease criminal activity on rental property call Mary Beth Riggs, 591-5160. The training discusses screening, drug and nuisance abatement, and resources.

Tacoma is participating in the national program, "Watch Your Car." By registering with the anti-theft plan, vehicle owners certify they are not normally on the road between 1 and 5 a.m., and authorize law enforcement officers to pull over the car if being driven then. For more information about this window decal idea, call community liaison officers Kothstein, 591-5290 or Stark, 594-7837.

Two sites for the new Sector 2 Police Substation were discussed at the July 18 sector meeting. Residents in attendance preferred the North 21st and Proctor over the North 26th and Baltimore location. The recommendation is being forwarded to the Police Department, and to Tacoma City Council for final approval. The NSHD steering committee has also endorsed the Proctor site.

Identity Theft

Photocopy both sides of all the cards in your wallet so you'll have that information available in case of theft.

After a theft, call the three national credit reporting organizations to place a fraud alert on your name and social security number.

Equifax 1-800-525-6285

Experian 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion 1-800-680-7289

Social Security Fraud Line 1-800-269-0271



The Back Page...

North Slope Historic District Steering Committee:

Thomas Hudson	973-3700
Brian & Betsy Johnson	274-9344
Bill Johnston	627-6860
Dan & Angie Klein	272-0938
Chuck Kohler & Stacy Schell	779-8757
Nick Kristensen & Patty LeBlanc	272-2884
Kathryn Longwell	627-0423
Bev & Charles Lord	572-5742
Velda McDonald	627-4192
Judy Martin	572-3059
Mitch Robinson	272-0165
Barbara & Ralph Tomberg	572-1532
Marilyn Torgerson	627-4537
Julie Turne	627-7329



New Delivery Volunteers Needed

Several "Trolley Times" deliverers have moved, and we need more volunteers. It takes about an hour to deliver approximately 50 papers in a 3 to 6 block area. We have 4 issues a year. If you would like to help deliver, please call 627-4537 to leave your name and phone number. It's another way to meet neighbors as well as get some exercise! Thank you!



Thank you to:

Tacoma Cares

for the printing of the newsletter. We appreciate your support.

Recycling Tips....



Household Product Management

A wise guide to the safe use, disposal, and recycling of household chemical products:

1. Read the label
2. Buy only what you need
3. Use safely
4. Store safely
5. Use up or share leftover products
6. Know first aid if needed

(City of Tacoma Environmental Services---591-5588)



Abandoned Autos

If you have an abandoned car parked in your neighborhood, phone 591-5926 to leave car make, color, license # and location on the recording.



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