



# Trolley Times



Volume # 32

*News of Tacoma's North Slope Historic District  
National Register of Historic Places*

July-Aug-Sept 2003

## ***NSHD Historic Celebration***

About 90 guests celebrated our National Historic designation on a hot 90 degree day, June 7, at Jay & Julie Turner's house. Mayor Baarsma presented a certificate of appreciation to Jay for his leadership in



historic preservation, and a framed print, signed and numbered by Sara Clementson of the "Three Domes of Tacoma," to both the Turners.

Michael Houser, Architectural Historian at the Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation in Olympia, explained the significance of historic designation. He mentioned the seven other Tacoma sites that have national designation: Old City Hall, South J Street, Stadium-Seminary, Wright Park, Union Depot Warehouse, Brown's Point, and Camp Six.

Jay spoke about the historic project, and the next mission---zoning!

The North Slope has plaques available for attaching to front door areas. The engraved brass plaques cost \$50 and may be ordered from Ralph Tomberg. (See article on pg 2.)

The NHSD Steering Committee has a zoning committee which is working on writing a new zoning category for residential historic districts. This category would be applicable to the NHSD neighborhood and to any other neighborhoods placed on the Tacoma Historic Register.

## ***NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!!!***

National Night Out, an event dedicated to making safer neighborhoods by getting to know our neighbors, is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5. The NSHD plans a dessert potluck beginning at 7 P.M. at our North 8th & K park.

There will be tables, chairs, plates, cups, utensils, napkins, and soft drinks. Please bring a favorite dish to share--dessert, fruit, chips, etc. You may want to bring another folding chair, or a blanket if you prefer to sit on the grass. Activities for children are planned; usually a fire truck and patrol car visit. Available at this event will be North Slope Historic District T-shirts. The price is \$5.00 each and they are available in blue or yellow, large and x-large. Buy yours now!!

Last year over 75 neighbors attended. It's a great time to see both old and new friends.

Mark your calendar now for Tuesday, August 5 after 7 P.M. Join North Slope neighbors in this 20th annual celebration of American neighborhoods. More than 9,000 groups across America participate in this "community mobilization," helping to rebuild neighborhood social values, regaining control, and deterring crime.

If you have any questions, please call Bev Lord at 572-5742. See you there!

**P.S. Leave your porch light on.**

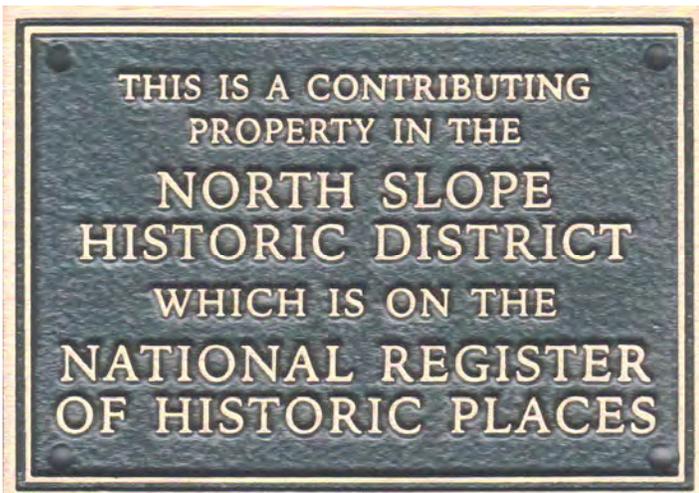


## ***North Slope Tea Party & Tour***

Join us on August 17th at 2 pm for tea and ground floor tours of some of our neighborhood gems. This tea tour will focus on the American Four-Square architectural style. There will be 5 homes on the tour and at each there will be tea and accompaniments served. Tickets are \$10 each and must be purchased in advance. Tickets will be available at National Night Out or by calling Julie Turner @ 383-2329.

## *North Slope Historic District Plaque For Individual Homes*

The NSHD Steering Committee has arranged for the manufacture of brass plaques for individual homes within the North Slope Historic District to perpetually recognize the District's new status as being on the National Register of Historic Places. The pictured plaque is cast of solid brass and will be a permanent symbol indicating your home's status as a contributing historic property. Plaques cost \$50.00 each, including shipping, when ordered in lots of 25 or more, or may be ordered individually at a cost of \$84.10 each. If you are interested in obtaining a plaque for your home, please contact Ralph Tomberg, (572-1532) 510 N. Sheridan Ave, to put your name on a list. An order will be submitted when at least 25 people have signed up and paid for their plaque. Checks should be made out to the North Slope Historic District and will not be processed until an order is submitted to the manufacturer.



## *Block Watch*

Would you like to start a Block Watch on your street? Safe Streets is scheduling a two-hour training for community members who can learn the basics of organizing their block. The sessions will be held from 6 to 8 P.M. on August 26, or on September 23, at the Slavonian Hall, 2306 North 30th. For more information, call Robert Young at 272-6824.

## *FROM THE ARCHIVES . . . .*

*of the National Historic Register*

The North Slope has had two Hollywood stars living here during their childhood.

Bing Crosby's father, Harry Crosby, was a bookkeeper and county treasurer. The American Foursquare house at 1112 North J was built in 1902. The facade is dominated by a flat roofed covered porch supported on paired turned columns.

The front windows are not original but the external siding is. Bing was born there



in 1903, and moved to Spokane three years later. His 100th birthday was celebrated last May 3.

The George Millers lived at 914 North M in the 1930s and 40s. He was vice-president of Winthrop Motor Company. Their daughter, Marjie, won a Shirley Temple look-a-like contest in 1935, and moved to Hollywood in 1950 to pursue modeling, radio, television, and movies. She changed the spelling of her last name to Millar. This craftsman bungalow built in 1925 has a brick chimney centered at the roof ridge. The porch is supported on round tapered columns and the siding is entirely clad in wood shingles.



*To look up data in the National Register Archive book, please call Jay Turner at 383-2329.*

## Adopt-a-Spot News

About 35 neighbors attended the May 17 Saturday morning North Slope meeting. The agenda included reports from committees on zoning, the park, historic designation, and other projects. Afterwards six volunteers picked up about 50 pounds of litter on North I Street.

The next litter pick-up will be on a warm evening in late August, to be followed by dessert and coffee. Sign up will be available at National Night Out, or those interested may call 627-4537.



Have you lived in the North Slope 30, 40, 50 years? We'd like to print some remembrances from long-time residents about the North Slope, past and present. If you have a story to share please call 627-4537.

## Ethnic Fest

The North Slope Historic District will participate in the Ethnic Fest to be held at Wright Park on July 26 & 27. We will have a booth, distribute brochures about our neighborhood, and sell T-shirts. There are many informative booths, arts and crafts sales, and lots of food stations. Entertainment takes place on various stages. It is an interesting summer festival involving people of many cultures who live in the Tacoma area.

If you would like to volunteer for a 2-3 hour shift in our booth, please call Bill Johnston, 627-6860, to schedule a time.

Take your family to Ethnic Fest for a fun day!

## Dates to Remember



July 26 & 27---Ethnic Fest, Wright Park  
 August 5---National Night Out, NSHD Park, 7 P.M.  
 August 17---NSHD Tea Party & Tour  
 September 1---Labor Day  
 September 3---Candidates Forum, 7 P.M.  
 September 23---Autumn begins

## Police/Community News

Sector 2 Police report a number of apartment laundry room burglaries in our area. Someone forces open the coin box and removes the money. Police staff are Lt. Ruiz 591-5697, CLO Stark 594-1837, CLO Rush 594-7961, and CLO Kothstein 591-5290.

The city of Tacoma has reinstated the Abandoned Vehicle Enforcement Program, which had been suspended due to budget reasons. Citizens may telephone 591-5926 to leave information on the recording about cars parked more than 7 days on city streets. Vehicles need to be in disrepair, missing license plates, or nonoperational.

Grant Cooperative Preschool at 310 North K is enrolling 2 to 5 year olds for the fall school year. For further information call 370-1858.

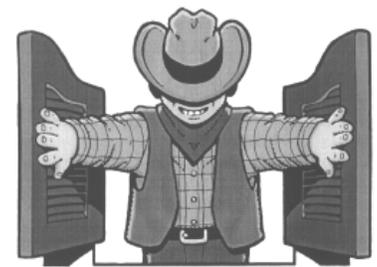
To sign up for the national do-not-call list intended to block phone sales telemarketing, phone 1-888-382-1222 or go online at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov).

The Tacoma Little Theatre will be doing two performances of "Spirit of the West" in Wright Park, at 7 P.M., on July 29 and 30. The free theater performed by

Tacoma children, aged 9 to 17, is a musical legend about America's western cultural history.

Bring the family, bring a picnic, enjoy this free family

entertainment. For more information, call 272-2281.



## 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.

# The Back Page...

## North Slope Historic District Steering Committee:

Victoria Hankwitz	404-1061
Thomas Hudson	973-3700
Brian & Betsy Johnson	
Bill Johnston	627-6860
Dan & Angie Klein	272-0938
Chuck & Stacy Kahler	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 Turner	383-2329

### Candidates Forum

*Tacoma City Council At-Large Positions 7 & 8*  
**Wednesday, September 3**  
**7 to 8:30 P.M.**  
 Immanuel Presbyterian Church  
 for information, call 272-7222

### Handy Phone Numbers

Abandoned Auto Hotline	591-5926
Building permits	591-5030
Garbage	591-5543
Historic Preservation	591-5220
Metro Parks	305-1000
Police non-emergency	798-4721
Recycling hotline	565-5955
Streetlights (outage)	591-5287
Street repair	591-5495
Utilities cust. service	383-9600

Thank you to:

## Tacoma Cares

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

## Plant Your Thoughts

Bring your questions and join our guest experts for an evening discussion on plant care at our Wednesday, October 8th meeting. The meeting will take place at 7:00 pm at Immanuel Church, North 9th & J.

Don Stewart is a fountain of knowledge. Don is a master arborist, horticulturalist, gardener and speaker. He will talk to our interests and also tell us about new advances in effective inoculation (by injection) of plants against diseases and pests.

Chris Hogan comes from "In Harmony", an organic-based landscape maintenance and design company. He will describe the practice of using beneficial organisms for healthy soils and landscapes.

## Thank You Corner

Bernie's Lawn Care has arranged his schedule to provide regular lawn services for our Park.

Thanks also go to Roger, Chet, Jay, Nick, Cassidy & the "Bernie Clan" for interim mowing.

Jim Hoard has been dandy, arranging for a grant & a contractor to expand our Park's sprinkler system to attain complete coverage.

A sunny morning of "Exercise at the Park" was attended by Geoff, Marshall, Jean, Jim & Nick. In less than three hours, this intrepid team "pumped" ten yards of donated wood chips (twice what was expected) into the nooks and crannies ... and valley... that they were to go into in order to suppress weeds and retain moisture. Thanks galore to all!!

## National Night Out

Tuesday, August 5, 7 P.M.  
 North Slope Historic District Park  
 North 8th & K  
**SEE YOU THERE!**



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