

# Trolley Times



Volume # 37

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

Jan-Feb-March 2005

## Neighborhood Grant

The North Slope Historic District has been awarded a grant from the 2004 Tacoma Neighborhood Council Innovation Grant Program. The cement kiosk located at North 6th and K Streets will be painted and covered with a milestone tubular rubber wrap. A local artist, Lynn DiNino, had previously beautified the four downtown kiosks, and has agreed to do our kiosk.

Work will start when weather conditions are warm and dry. We will need some neighborhood volunteers to help paint and lift the heavy materials. If you are interested in assisting this artistic endeavor, please call 627-4537 and you will be contacted later when weather permits the work to be done.

We will periodically clean up around the kiosk, and post neighborhood communication as part of our follow-up "match" for the grant.

NSHD thanks the Neighborhood Councils for this second grant in two years of grant applications. We appreciate the City's help in beautifying our district.

## Improved Bus Stops on I Street

As part of a 2003 grant by Tacoma's Neighborhood Councils the North Slope has some new bus stop amenities on North I Street. Pierce Transit is in the process of adding shelters at the SE and NW corners on North 4th and I. Benches were placed at North 6th and 12th Streets. Small litter baskets were attached to bus stop poles that didn't already have them, as well as at the two new shelters.

As part of the grant the North Slope agrees to monitor the bus areas and report any damage or litter problems.

Many thanks to Pierce Transit and the Neighborhood Council Innovative Grant Program for these improvements that add to the comfort of those who wait at our local bus stops.

## Next North Slope Meeting

The North Slope Historic District's next meeting will be Saturday morning, February 5. The meeting will start at 10 a.m., coffee available after 9:30.

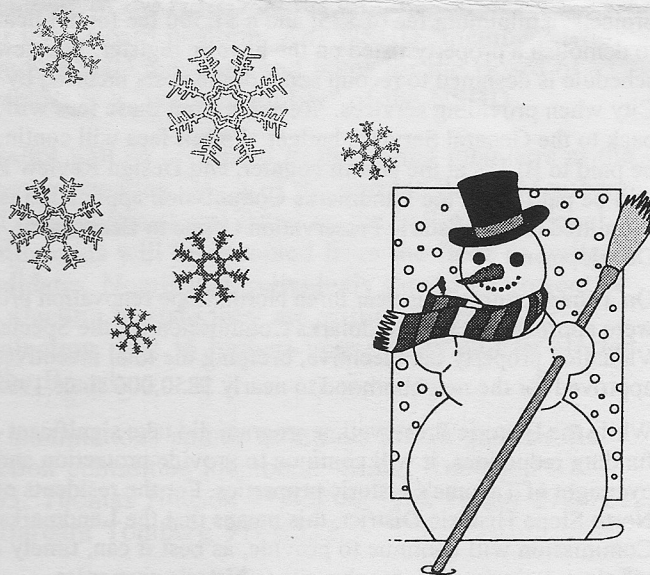
There will be an election of 15 Board members for the 2005 year. Nominations may be made from the floor.

While the election committee counts votes, there will be a North Slope Historic District Trivia Test. You'll learn more about your neighborhood and have the chance to win some terrific prizes! You'll be treated to super-mini programs about topics including:

- History of North Slope (less than 3 minutes)
- Neighborhood zoning changes
- North Slope Historic District Park
- Update on non-profit status
- City resources available to residents
- Brainstorming about future plans

Come and be part of planning the direction of your neighborhood! See you Saturday, February 5 at 10 a.m.! Free babysitting is available.

The regular winter Adopt-a-Spot litter pickup will take place after the meeting, for those interested in helping keep our area neat.





## Historic Preservation Program

by Reuben McKnight

For historic preservation in Tacoma, the past year has had its ups and its downs. North Slope residents Jay and Julie Turner received recognition at the state level for their tremendous effort that culminated in a successful National Register listing for the North Slope Historic District. The North Slope Historic Neighborhood Committee was also successful in its efforts to achieve a new historically compatible base zoning for areas currently zoned R4 and R4L. More homeowners took advantage of the historic Special Valuation Tax program this year than ever before.

However, as most residents of Tacoma are aware, the City is currently wrestling with a major budget shortfall for the next biennium. On December 14, 2004 City Council enacted a budget for fiscal 2005 that contains significant departmental spending cuts, including services, programs and personnel. In addition, Council approved a new fee schedule as a part of its revised revenue forecast.

These changes will have an effect on the Historic Preservation Program that we all will feel. New projects will be put on hold. Impacts will be felt in staff response time, education, outreach, and preservation planning. Funding for publications, expert services, and other expenses is, for the most part, gone. This means that pamphlets and brochures will not be updated during this fiscal cycle. It also means that our ability to research and designate new historic districts is limited for the time being.

The major impact that this new budget will have on owners of historic properties is the new general services fee schedule. Design Review by the Landmarks Commission is one such service that has been included in the new fee schedule.

Currently there is no charge for design review by the Landmarks Commission. The Commission reviews approximately 55-65 projects per year, including 15 or 20 projects in the North Slope, approves an average of over \$5 million in tax incentives per year, and maintains a historic register with over 1,300 properties.

The basics of the new Design Review Fee are: \$25 per \$1,000 of estimated project cost, with a maximum fee of \$2,000 for commercial projects and \$500 for single family residential projects; a minimum fee of \$25; and a \$1,500 fee for applications to demolish a property listed on the historic register. The new fee schedule is designed to recoup some of the costs incurred by the City when providing services. Revenue from these fees will go back to the General Services budget. Permit fees will continue to be paid to BLUS at the permit counter, and Design Review Fees will be paid when the Landmarks Commission application is submitted to the Historic Preservation Office in Economic Development.

On a cheerier note, this year three North Slope renovation projects were approved by the Landmarks Commission for the Special Tax Valuation property tax incentive, bringing the total incentives approved for the neighborhood to nearly \$850,000 since 1998.

While the Historic Preservation program did take significant funding reductions, it will continue to provide protection and oversight of Tacoma's historic properties. For the residents of the North Slope Historic District, this means that the Landmarks Commission will continue to provide, as best it can, timely and efficient design review for changes to historic properties.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES . . . .

*of the National Historic Register*

The William Ross Rust home at 1001 North I was built in 1905 with money from Rust's share of Bernard Baruch's negotiation fee from the sale of the smelter to the Guggenheims. The house was placed on the local register in 1976 and on the national register in 1985.

The house, built for \$50,000, was designed by Ambrose Russell and Ernest Babcock in the neoclassical style. There is a two story portico, classical detail and style, and ornate interior. When designed the house had 18 rooms, 4 baths, 8 fireplaces, and was modeled after a mansion in New Jersey. The well preserved three story Wilkeson sandstone structure has a hip roof surfaced with glazed ceramic tiles. Built at the same time, the detached garage had a turntable. The building is architecturally unique, the only one of its scale in Tacoma.

At age 37 Rust arrived in Tacoma in 1889. He bought the Tacoma Milling and Smelting Company, having spent 13 years in Colorado learning about refining and smelting. In 1890 Rust lit the first furnace, and the smelter used lead, added copper in 1902, and in 1905 the first electrolytic copper refinery on the Pacific Coast was built. Rust remained in charge 26 years until he died in 1928.

Rust had established two company towns, developed mining in Alaska, and managed investments in Alaska.

The Rusts lived at 1001 with their two sons until 1911 when one son died. Then they built a house at 521 North Yakima because Mrs. Rust didn't want to remain in the big house after her son died.

From 1911 until 1983 the house had numerous owners. It had been converted into apartments by 1919. The present owners have lived in the house 21 years.



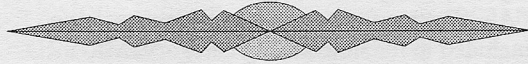
To look up data in the National Register Archive book, please call Kathryn Longwell at 627-0423.



## Adopt-a-Spot News

The next Tacoma CARES Adopt-a-Spot litter pick-up will take place after the February 5 NSHD meeting. We collect litter on North I Street from Division to Steele four times a year.

We always welcome new volunteers. Join us after the Saturday morning meeting, February 5!



Are you a new resident of the North Slope? We have a folder of information about the district available for new homeowners. Please call 627-4537 to request the materials.



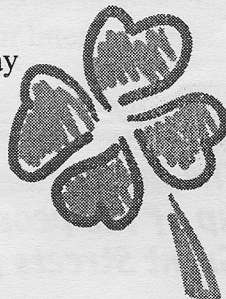
Research from Harvard tells us "that neighborliness---a willingness to help when help is needed and especially to look out for one another's children---has more to do with crime and its absence, than income, race, or family social status." It is the relationships that are important. Each of us can make a difference!

(Safe Streets Spring 2004 Communication)

Did you miss out on getting one of the North Slope Historic District plaques for your front entryway? There are three plaques remaining, available for \$75 at the February 5 meeting, or by telephoning 272-0165.

## Dates to Remember

January 17---Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
 February 5---Next North Slope meeting, 10:00 a. m.  
 February 12---Lincoln's Birthday  
 February 14---Valentine's Day  
 February 21---Presidents' Day  
 February 22---Washington's Birthday  
 March 17---St. Patrick's Day  
 March 20---Palm Sunday  
 March 27---Easter  
 April 1---April Fool's Day  
 April 3---Daylight Savings Time  
 April---Next Newsletter



## Police/Community News

### Tacoma Sector 2 Police Staff

Lt. Roberts---591-5697

CLO Kothstein---591-5290

CLO Stark---594-1837

CLO Rush---594-7961

The Sector office is in the Community Center at Wright Park.



## NSHD Board Election

The North Slope Historic District is now an officially sanctioned 501(C)(3) non-profit corporation. Our bylaws require that we have an elected Board of Directors to act upon the demands and needs of our neighborhood.

The Directors of the NSHD are those individuals empowered by our State Charter and By-Laws to make all official decisions concerning the operations of the NSHD. Such decisions involve keeping our members informed of Board activities, appeals and advice to the City of Tacoma on problems within the North Slope, our efforts to preserve and protect our neighborhood, requests for changes to City policies/ordinances that may have an adverse effect on the District, and all other activities that serve to enhance the District.

Elections for our 15 board positions will take place on Saturday, February 5, 2005, at 10:00 a. m. at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, North 9th and J Streets. Any adult who resides or owns residential property within the boundaries of the North Slope Historic District is a "member" of the NSHD and is eligible to run for the two year term Board position. Any NSHD "member" who attends NSHD meetings and votes for the Board of Directors is a "voting member" of the NSHD.

A ballot will be presented to the voting members at the February meeting. Most of the current Board Members will be nominated and listed on the ballot. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor as write-in candidates. Nominated individuals should be present at the meeting to state they are willing accept their nomination. The 15 highest vote getters will be elected to the Board.

For nominations and/or questions please contact the election committee members: Mitch Robinson 272-0165, Thomas Hudson 973-3700, Jim Hoard 272-7222, or Barbara Tomberg 572-1532.



# The Back Page...

## North Slope Historic District

### Board of Directors:

Victoria Hankwitz	404-1061
Jim & Jean Hoard	272-7222
Thomas Hudson	973-3700
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
Marshall McClintock	572-5474
Velda McDonald	627-4192
Judy Martin	572-3059
Holly Minniti	572-8226
Mitch Robinson & Mary Boone	272-0165
Barbara & Ralph Tomberg	572-1532
Marilyn Torgerson	627-4537
Julie Turner	383-2329

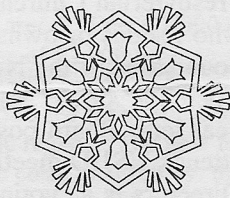
### NSHD Representative on Landmarks Commission:

Roger Johnson	431-3959
Tim McDonald	572-4512



## Handy Phone Numbers

Abandoned Auto Hotline---591-5926  
 Call-2-Haul---573-2468  
 City Council---591-5100  
 Garbage---591-5543  
 Graffiti---591-5691  
 Hazardous Waste---591-5418  
 Historic Preservation---591-5220  
 Illegal Dumping---591-5001  
 Library Information---591-5666  
 Safe Streets---272-6824  
 Sreetlight Outage---591-5287  
 Street Repair---591-5495  
 Tacoma CARES---591-5001



Thank you to:

## Tacoma Cares

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

## NSHD Zoning Update

During 2004, the Zoning Committee of the NSHD worked with City planners to develop a zoning- code change for the parts of the District which were zoned R-4 and R-4L. These zones encouraged the building of multi-unit dwellings of 4 or more units; the Committee felt that for the preservation of our historic structures, these areas of our neighborhood should be zoned for smaller dwelling units. A zoning category which would reduce the pressure to demolish and build multi-units, and which would also include the R2-SRD area, was the Committee's goal. Part of this goal was accomplished with the development of MR-SRD for the area roughly defined by North I, J, K, L, and M Streets. Sheridan, Cushman, Ainsworth and Grant/Sprague Streets, zoned R-2SRD, were not included in the new zoning category, MR-SRD.

At the end of the zoning process, the Committee's goal to unite the District under one zoning category was not accomplished; so, 2005 is the year to work on one zoning category which will include all of the NSHD, and which will offer all the protections which the MR-SRD and R2-SRD zones offer separately.

The NSHD has filed a formal application to modify the zoning code to include the entire District under a single zoning classification, rather than the two zoning classifications within the District, MR-SRD and R-2SRD. The proposal incorporates the best features of each of these categories and will not degrade any desirable zoning feature of either; rather it will improve zoning protections for all of the NSHD and aid in preservation of our old homes.

This proposal will be processed through the normal procedure for annual changes to the Comprehensive Plan. Formal notice from the City for any change generated from this application will be provided probably sometime late summer. We will keep you updated on its progress through the system.

### Next North Slope Historic District Meeting

Saturday, February 5, 2005

10:00 a.m.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

901 North J

### General Meeting

Election of 2005 Board  
 Planning "What's Next"  
 Coffee available after 9:30



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