



# Trolley Times



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

Volume # 38

Apr-May-June 2005

## Plant EXCHANGE!

Are you interesting in plant sharing? On Saturday, May 7, Immanuel Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a neighborhood plant exchange from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking lot at North 9th & I.

You can dig up extra plants, bulbs, shrubs you would like to share from your yard to bring, and look for some other plants to take home. You don't have to bring a plant to take one home. Both household and outside plants are welcome.

A Master Gardener will be available to answer questions. A limited number of Native Plant posters and rain gauges will be given out. This is a fun, easy, and free community event. Church school children will have a bake sale, also. Plan to attend!



Plants may be dropped off on Saturday morning starting at 8:30, or Friday afternoon between 4 & 6 p.m. at the alley entrance to the church (door facing the parking lot).

### *Julie Anderson Remembers...*

Councilwoman Julie Anderson recaps 25 things she remembers about her first year in office. Among them are: City Council forms five working committees, environmental emphasis, amount of bonded debt, City and Port joint retreat, smoking ban, HUD crisis, City Manager search, Charter review, gambling moratorium, police accountability, WASPC Report, weapons and drug paraphernalia ban, computer system performance, and the '05-'06 Budget and \$29 million shortfall.

For further news from Julie visit her web page, [www.position7tacoma.org](http://www.position7tacoma.org).

## North Slope Meeting

Please join us for our next NSHD Program!

Landmarks Preservation Commission: Processes & Policies, plus: a mini-session on Historic Color Palettes

Want to replace your windows?  
Thinking about building a new garage?  
Adding a porch onto your house?

Property owners within the North Slope Historic District are obligated to have certain architectural changes approved by the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission. The Commission uses guidelines that are designed to keep the North Slope Historic District from drifting too far from the unique, diverse, vibrant and historic area that we all enjoy now. But, when do you need to undergo the design review process? How much does it cost and how long does the review take? How can offenders be reported? Tacoma Historic Preservation Officer Reuben McKnight will be on hand to explain the process and answer questions.

Additionally, if you're thinking about painting your home in the next year or two, you won't want to miss our Historic Color Palettes mini-session led by NSHD Board Member Marshall McClintock. Marshall will guide homeowners toward resources that will help you determine what color(s) your home might have been painted when it was first constructed.

No excuses, parents: Free baby-sitting will be provided! Questions? Call 272-0165

North Slope Historic District Meeting  
Thursday, May 12, 2005  
7:00 p.m. Coffee at 6:30 p.m.  
Immanuel Presbyterian Church  
901 North J ( side entrance)

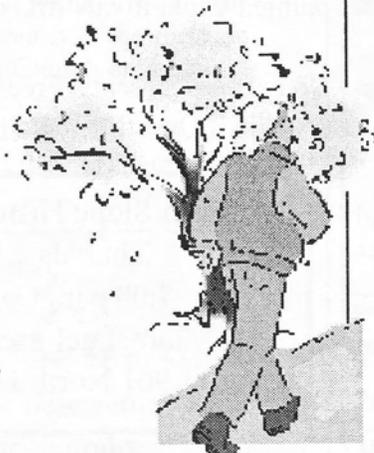
## Sidewalks of Tacoma

by Velda McDonald

*Have you ever noticed the old sidewalks in our neighborhood? Do you know where to find "N. N. St.?" Or, how about "N. O. St.?" That's one of my favorites. The street I have never found is "N. P. St." There was one, at one time.*

What have fascinated me the most, though, are the contractor's marks (Is it a Western thing to brand the sidewalk, I wonder?). In some places, there will be a different mark on each side of a joint. That happens even in the middle of a block. We had to replace our sidewalk along Ainsworth and lost the contractor's mark. That was when I realized that one day all that history would be gone and started to think of ways to document it. First there was the idea of making rubbings of each different one. I bought the paper, charcoal and started out. It didn't work; the sidewalks are too rough. How disappointing that was.

Then, last week, walking down North 8th Street another possibility came to mind. Would a digital camera work to take pictures of the sidewalk? I tried it. It works great. I met Julie Turner coming out her front door and we set out to find as many marks as we could before it got dark. I actually ran out of pixels just as it was getting quite dark. The surprise of the night was finding a metal cap imbedded in one of the sidewalks with what appears to read: Tacoma Gas Lt Co. Many of our older houses were originally lighted by gas. I need good images of two contractor's marks. We found the crescent and the circle with a five-pointed star but they are not clear, or not readable. So, I guess I'll keep walking and looking at our old sidewalks of Tacoma.



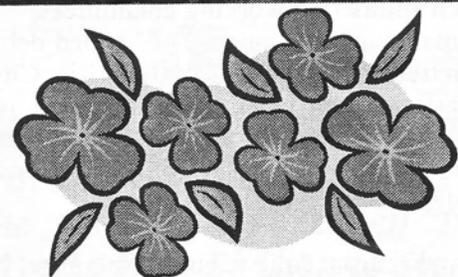
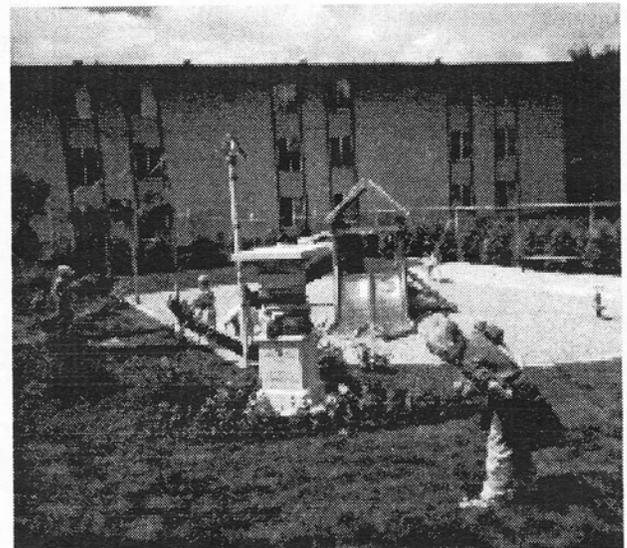
## FROM THE ARCHIVES . . . .

*of the National Historic Register*

The North Slope Historic District Park at 1017 North 8th was dedicated June 8, 2002 to the memory of Valerie Sivinski, former Tacoma Historic Preservation Officer. There is a grass border along the street, and trees and shrubs near the play area that was designed for tots. There are old signs and fencing from the substation days.

Tacoma City Light purchased the vacant lot in 1951 for a distribution yard for transformers with connecting power lines. It was later called a substation and remained in active service until decommissioned in 1983. The power equipment was removed and the lot left vacant so City Light could verify that the land was not contaminated.

In July 2000 Thea Foss Bond money was the source of funds for the City of Tacoma to purchase the site for \$30,000, approved by Tacoma Power in April 2001. The City owns the land and Metro Parks maintains the park. Neighborhood volunteers weed and water. During the last budget crisis we also mowed and edged.



## Adopt-a-Spot News

The next Adopt-a-Spot litter pickup will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 4. Meet in the parking lot behind Immanuel Presbyterian Church at North 9th and J. It takes less than an hour to collect trash on I Street. Thanks to two new volunteers, Brian and Katrinka, who participated in a pickup after the February meeting.

Tacoma CARES sponsors the program, for which NSHD does four yearly cleanups to help keep our area looking more attractive. Individuals have sponsored J, K, and L Streets. Anyone else interested in taking care of a street may call Mike Teskey at 591-5634.

Every fourth Tuesday of the month Safe Streets conducts Block Leader training for neighborhood volunteers who want to start up or strengthen a Block Watch. For information about location and time for the May 24 and June 28 meetings, call Safe Streets at 272-6824.

The new bus shelters, benches, and litter baskets for Pierce Transit riders on North I Street have been installed. Thanks to the Neighborhood Councils' Innovative Grants Program for these amenities!



## Dates to Remember

April 29	Arbor Day
April 30 & May 1	Tacoma Historical Society Home Tour
May	National Historic Preservation Month
May 1	May Day, Law Day
May 8	Mother's Day
May 12	North Slope Historic District meeting, 7 p.m.
May 21	Armed Forces Day
May 30	Memorial Day
June 4	Adopt-a-Spot litter pickup, 10 a.m.
June 14	Flag Day
June 19	Father's Day
June 20	Summer Begins
July 4	Independence Day
July	Next newsletter
August 2	National Night Out



## Police/Community News

Tacoma Police Sector 2 Staff are:

Lt. Roberts---591-5697

CLO Kothstein---591-5290

CLO Rush---594-7961

CLO Stark---594-1837

Their office is in the Wright Park Community Center.

CLO Gordon Stark reports that vehicle prowls are prevalent now, all over Tacoma as well as in the North Slope. He urges people not to leave valuables in cars, and not to put purses in the trunk or under a blanket thinking they're hidden. Instead, leave valuables at home. When walking or jogging, take a key and ID in your pocket.

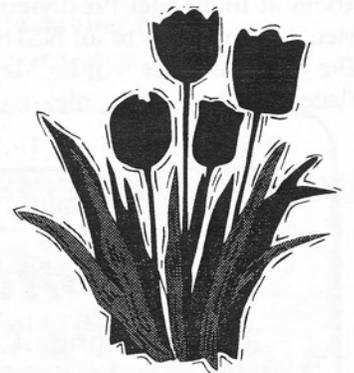
*Identity theft has become a prevalent crime in America. Here are some tips to prevent ID theft:*

- . use secure mailboxes
- . pick up new checks at bank not by mail
- . memorize Social Security number and passwords
- . don't include SS number or driver's license on checks
- . don't carry SS number, PINs, or passwords in wallet
- . use ATMs wisely and take receipts
- . close accounts before disposing of cards and checks
- . shred personal documents before throwing them out
- . keep thorough records of all transactions
- . check monthly financial statements carefully with receipts
- . get credit report yearly and check for mistakes
- . report loss or theft ASAP

## Historic Homes Tour

The Tacoma Historical Society will present its annual Historic Homes of Tacoma Tour 2005 on April 30 and May 1. Hours are 10 to 5 Saturday, and 1 to 5 Sunday. This year's homes are in the Allen C. Mason area.

Tickets are \$15, and may be purchased at Stadium Thriftway and Pacific Northwest Shop. For further information, call 472-3738.



# The Back Page...

## North Slope Historic District

### Board of Directors:

President: Ralph Tomberg	572-1532
Members:	
Mary Boone & Mitch Robinson	272-0165
Deborah Cade	593-4569
Thomas Hudson	973-3700
Kathryn Longwell	627-0423
Judy Martin	572-3059
Marshall McClintock	572-5474
Velda McDonald	627-4192
Holly Minniti	572-8226
Tiffany Price	396-9047
Ralph Tomberg	572-1532
Marilyn Torgerson	627-4537
Julie Turner	383-2329
<i>NSHD Representative on Landmarks Commission:</i>	
Roger Johnson	431-3959
Kathryn Longwell	627-0423
Tim McDonald	572-4512

North Slope Historic District Web Page:  
[www.tacomanothslope.com](http://www.tacomanothslope.com)

### North Slope Board News

Almost 40 North Slope neighbors met Saturday morning, February 5 at Immanuel Presbyterian for an election of board members and an informative report about zoning, nonprofit, Landmarks Commission, and other matters that the District has been involved with. A litter pickup on North I followed, as part of Tacoma CARES Adopt-a-Spot program.

Names and phone numbers of the new Board are listed above. Any of them may be called with questions or for information. Board meetings will be held the fourth Wednesday of odd- numbered months in the Fireside Room at Immanuel Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. Meetings are open to all NSHD owners and residents. The next meetings will be May 25 and July 27. To be placed on the agenda, please call the president.

Thank you to:

## Tacoma Cares

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

### Random Acts of Kindness

1. Meet a neighbor.
2. Pick up litter.
3. Practice courtesy.
4. Forgive a grudge.
5. Leave a generous tip.
6. Return a shopping cart.
7. Give a compliment.
8. Write a thank you note.
9. Give a soldier a phone card.(1-800-876-7469)
10. Write US Military overseas.  
 (www.patrioticpenpals.com)  
 (www.operationdearabby.net)

To use a junk mail reduction kit go to [www.cityoftacoma.org/junkmail](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/junkmail) for the electronic kit that provides addresses for some of the biggest junk mail producers. Print out the forms, fill in the information, and mail.

Cell phone numbers have now been released to telemarketing companies. To block your cellphone number for five years, call 1-888-382-1222 from your cell phone to register on the Do Not Call list.

Wash your car parked on grass or gravel instead of the street or driveway, where runoff flows into storm drains and goes untreated out to local streams and bay waters. By doing that we help keep soap from polluting fish waters.



North Slope Board Members



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