



TROLLEY TIMES

Volume 41

Tacoma's North Slope Historic District

Jan / Feb / March 2006

Meet Councilman Jake Fey

North Slope residents and property owners are invited to meet one of Tacoma's newest City Council members on Saturday, Feb. 25, during the district's next general meeting. The program will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 310 N. K Street (**NOTE THE NEW LOCATION!!!**)

Fey was elected to the Tacoma City Council in 2005 and represents Council District 2 (which includes the North Slope). Fey served on the Public Utility Board 2002 through 2005 and has also been an active board and committee member for First Place for Children, Boys and Girls Clubs of Pierce County, the Metro Pierce Chapter of the American Heart Association.

Come with your questions and concerns.

Put it on your calendar:

NSHD General Meeting

Program: Meet City Councilman Jake Fey

Saturday, Feb. 25, 2006

9:30 a.m. social time / 10 a.m. program begins

Christ Episcopal Church

310 N. K Street

Free babysitting provided!

Go Online -- Learn More

Want information about the next North Slope program? Wonder how to get in contact with the Landmarks Commission? This information and much, much more is available at the click of your computer mouse.



Visit us at www.tacomannorthslope.com to learn more about your neighborhood. If you'd like to

receive electronic updates and reminders of meetings, send a request to postmaster@tacomannorthslope.com. You won't be bombarded with junk mail and we promise not to share your email address with any other groups/businesses.

Research Your Home's History

Wonder who used to live in your house?

With a little digging and attention to detail, it's likely you will be able to uncover your home's story – who built it, who lived in it, information about things that happened there, photos, blueprints and more.

Brian Kamens, library associate assigned to the Tacoma Public Library's Northwest Room, will present a program at the NSHD's March meeting designed to help homeowners in their quest for information about Tacoma buildings and homes. He'll share research tips and point you toward some terrific resources.

Kamens created the Pierce County Buildings Index, which offers all the available information on each home and building in Tacoma: the architects and contractors, blueprints, photos from the library's photography collection (which he also helped put online), articles from Tacoma newspapers and local history books, and more. He constructed a web page showing people how to research their homes and has become a popular speaker on Tacoma history.

Put it on your calendar:

NSHD General Meeting

Program: Research Your Home's History

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

6:30 p.m. social time / 7 p.m. program begins

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

901 N. J Street (use the 9th Street entrance)

Free babysitting provided!

Clip and Save:

2006 NSHD Programs/Dates

- 2/25 Meet City Councilman Jake Fey (10 a.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 310 N. K St) * #
3/15 Research Your Home's History (7 p.m.) * #
5/6 Walking Tour of the North Slope (various times and sign up information to be announced)
7/8 NSHD Garage Sale (all day at individual homes throughout the district)
8/1 National Night Out (6 p.m. North Slope Park / rain location is Immanuel Presbyterian Church)
9/21 Weatherizing Your Home (7 p.m.) * #
11/5 Progressive Dinner (ticket price and host homes will be announced soon)
12/13 Cocoa and Carols (6 p.m.)
12/18 Judging for NSHD Holiday Home Decorating Contest

* Indicates these programs will include a short business meeting to update residents on relevant issues/concerns. Social time begins 30 minutes prior to scheduled start for these events.

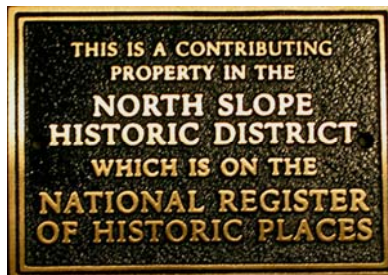
Indicates free babysitting will be provided at these events.

Unless otherwise noted, programs will be held at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 901 N. J Street.

Additional events may be added to the schedule. Check the website and watch future editions of this newsletter for updates.

Plaques for Sale

Is your home still without a plaque? We have a small number of 5x7-inch brass plaques on hand and available for purchase for \$75 each. The impressive-looking plaques indicate your home is a contributing property in the North Slope Historic District which is on the National Register of Historic Places.



Call/email Mitch or Mary at boonrob@msn.com or 272-0165 NOW to reserve yours ... they won't last long!

From Your NSHD President

The NSHD Board has started a new year, and for some reason they decided they wanted me to lead the charge for awhile. So here I am, and my first order of business is to thank Ralph Tomberg for his hard work as president over the past year. Not only did Ralph spearhead the effort to get our tax-exempt status and by-laws drafted, he also was instrumental in the success of our recent NSHD zoning change. Ralph has the tenacity and commitment to pour through planning commission reports, zoning documents and building codes that make my eyes glaze over if I get within 10 feet of them. So, thanks Ralph. I know we all look forward to having your continued help as a Board member.

This past November was a very significant month for the North Slope. The City Council approved the zoning change we had long been seeking. When our neighborhood was designated a historic district a few years back, we got some important protection. We believed changing the underlying zoning would cement that protection.

Let me briefly summarize what this zoning change means for us:

First and foremost, all of the North Slope is now covered by one zoning category with the appropriately bureaucratic name "Historic Mixed Residential-Special Review District" (HMR-SRD).

Second, the new zoning removes the possibility of placing of large conditional-use facilities in our neighborhood. Smaller-sized facilities (usually 6 or fewer residents) are allowed, just as in areas zoned single-family residential.

Finally, the change provides additional protection for the southern uphill portion of the NSHD which was previously zoned R2. The new zoning makes it clear that in cases of conflicts between what zoning ordinances and the Historic District allow, the historic guidelines and criteria prevail. I know this seems very confusing, but help is on the way.

The city is planning a booklet to be distributed to all NSHD property owners that will explain these issues in detail. But if you have questions or concerns, please contact me or one of the other Board members.

– Marshall McClintock

Sector Police Officers

Tacoma Sector 2 Police staff includes:

Lt. Alan Roberts 591-5697
CLO Eric Kothstein 591-5290
CLO Pam Rush 594-7961
CLO Steve Thornton 594-7837

The sector office will be moving this spring from the Community Center at Wright Park to its new location at N. 26th and Baltimore.

Local Government 101

For a deeper understanding of how government works, consider attending The Government Leadership Institute. The Institute, a cooperative effort of the City of Tacoma's Neighborhood Council Office and the University of Washington Tacoma's Urban Studies Program, features a series of free public sessions designed to empower citizens and involve them more deeply in city affairs.

The sessions are held from 6:45 to 9 p.m. at the Keystone Auditorium, 1900 Commerce St. The remaining programs include:

Feb. 13: There ought to be a law: Creating a system for safety and criminal justice

Feb. 22: Is there room at the inn? Housing costs and keeping a home in Tacoma

Feb. 27: Am I blue? Voting and elections in Washington State and Pierce County

March 6: Google this: Perceptions of Tacoma and the media

No registration is necessary; participants may attend one or all of the sessions. For more info, contact Tacoma's Neighborhood Council Office at 591-5229.

De-Junk Your Life

Do you have an old refrigerator you want to get rid of? Tired of looking at the water heater you replaced months ago? Does your house have other household items you want to get rid of? Help is just a phone call away.

If you are a City of Tacoma residential garbage customer you can schedule up to two Call-2-Haul appointments each year.

Simply call the Call-2-Haul hotline at 573-2468. Solid Waste

Management staff

will find out how many items you have, what types of items you want collected and will schedule a pickup.



Call-2-Hall will pick up:

- Up to three large items, such as refrigerators, water heaters and sofas.
- Up to 15 smaller household items, including bags and boxes, light enough for one person to lift.

The program does not accept construction materials, glass, automotive parts, tires, doors, liquids, hazardous materials, business materials, regular household garbage or recyclables, yard waste, or riding lawn mowers.

NSHD Board of Directors

Mark Bardwil	759-3878
Mary Boone	272-0165
Deborah Cade, secretary	593-4569
Tim Chen	272-9281
Thomas Hudson	973-3700
Jason Gordon	238-9145
Kathryn Longwell	627-0423
Judy Martin	572-3059
Marshall McClintock, president	572-5474
Velda McDonald, treasurer	627-4192
Kyle Price	396-9047
Mitch Robinson	272-0165
Barbara Tomberg	572-1532
Ralph Tomberg	572-1532
Marty Webb	274-9667

The North Slope Board of Directors meets on the fourth Wednesday of odd numbered months at 7 p.m. at Immanuel Presbyterian Church. The meetings are open to all district residents and/or property owners. If you have an item you'd like included on the board's agenda, please phone President Marshall McClintock.

From the Archives

This information comes from the Archives of the National Historic Register:

The single family home at 1501 N. Fifth Street was designed in the Queen Anne Style. The home was built in 1905 by Charles A. Bartz, owner of Tacoma Millwork Supply Co.

Initial estimates were that the house would cost \$3,000 to build; the actual costs soared to \$4,500. The interior of the nine-room home was described as Colonial in style and was finished in "... golden oak with imitation birch floors."

An April 1918 newspaper article tells of a burglary at the home in which the thieves "...carried off a cake, some sardines, bread and butter, about a dozen cigars, a box of cigarettes, and a string of child's pearl beads."



Charles A. Bartz home, 1501 N. Fifth Street

The Landmarks Review Process

If you're planning to remodel or renovate your home, chances are you will need a building permit. The city's building code exists to ensure safety and consistency in systems and engineering.

Additionally, property owners within Tacoma's North Slope Historic District have another set of guidelines that apply to the exterior of our homes. These guidelines (which don't affect paint color or landscaping) help us make decisions about changes to the exterior without losing or significantly altering the historic features and character of our homes. These guidelines are the compass that keeps the ever-changing NSHD

from drifting too far from its unique and diverse past,

Once you have applied for your permit there is one more step to actually getting it. Your plan is reviewed by the Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission, a volunteer committee made up of Tacoma residents and professionals, appointed by the City Council. Commissioners represent a variety of professional expertise, including architecture, history, planning, construction, engineering, real estate, the arts and art history.

For detailed information about design standards and the review process, visit the Historic Preservation Office website at www.tacomaculture.org/historic/standards.asp. Along the right side of this webpage you'll find a link to specific information about the NSHD.

Reuben McKnight, Tacoma's Historic Preservation Officer, also can provide information about the review process. He can be reached at 591.5200 or reuben.mcknight@cityoftacoma.org.

A Smattering of Area Events

2/19 Blues Vespers at Immanuel Presbyterian, a combination of sacred and secular that features some of the region's best blues musicians. Held the third Sunday of each month. (5 p.m.)

2/23 International Film & Food Festival, Blue Mouse Theatre, Thursdays through 4/6. Each night features an award-winning film, food and cultural programs from Tacoma's Sister Cities. Tickets \$15. Visit www.tacomafilmfood.org for info. (Doors open at 5:45 p.m.)

2/25 Christ Church Mardi Gras Masked Ball, festivities include Cajun dinner, dance band, costume competition. The event is a fund raiser in support of the church's sister parish in New Orleans. Tickets available from the parish office at 383-1569 (7 p.m.)

3/2 University of Puget Sound Swope Lecture, Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, founder of the *a capella* group "Sweet Honey in the Rock" will lecture on "Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Contemporary Lessons from the Song Culture of the Civil Rights Movement". Free admission. UPS Schneebeck Concert Hall (6:30pm)