



TROLLEY TIMES

Volume 44

Tacoma's North Slope Historic District

Dec 2006 / Jan 2007

Here We Go A Caroling!

Warm up your vocal chords and dig out your mittens: It's time for Cocoa and Carols in the North Slope. Last year's event drew a crowd of more than 50 people of all ages – we hope this year's festivities are even grander.



Neighbors will gather at **6 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 13,** at Immanuel Presbyterian Church. We'll practice a couple of tunes indoors before heading out to serenade neighbors and unsuspecting strangers. Everyone is welcome; song sheets will be provided, Holiday spirit and enthusiasm will make up for any lack of musical ability!

We'll carol for 45 to 60 minutes before heading back the Immanuel Presbyterian for the "cocoa" portion of the evening. Participants are asked to bring cookies or another treat to share; the North Slope Board will provide cocoa. **NOTE:** If you'd like to participate but don't want to sing, give a call to 272-0165. We're looking for a few volunteers who want to stay behind to prepare cocoa and set out cookies!

ALSO: If you or someone you know would like to have these fun-loving and occasionally off-tune minstrels stop by for a song or two, let us know. Organizers will plan a route that takes carolers past as many "special request" homes as possible. Contact Mary Boone at 272-0165 or [mary@boonewrites.com] and let us bring some holiday cheer your way.

Put it on your calendar:

NSHD Cocoa and Carols
Meet at 6 p.m. , Wed., Dec. 13, 2006
Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 901 N. J St.

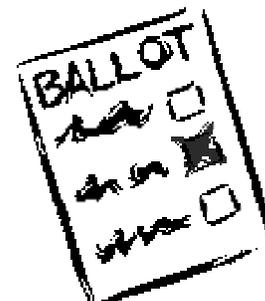
Come Meet the Mayor

Mayor Bill Baarsma will speak with residents at the North Slope's meeting at **7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25.** He'll talk about his vision for the city, streets, safety, zoning, historic preservation and – of course – he'll answer your questions.



Additionally, the North Slope will hold elections in January for nine seats on its board of directors.

The North Slope Historic District relies on its residents to create programs, host events, and improve the overall quality of life within the neighborhood. If you live in or own property within the North Slope, you are eligible to serve on the North Slope Historic District Board of Directors or any of the group's many committees (such as public safety, programming and public works). The board meets bimonthly; board members also attend committee meetings and general NSHD meetings.



All NSHD residents and property owners are invited to vote in this election. Putting your name on the ballot is easy: just email the nominating committee at tipjchen@netscape.net. Questions about board responsibilities? Contact NSHD board President Marshall McClintock at 572-5474.

Put it on your calendar:

NSHD General Meeting and Board Elections
Program: Mayor Bill Baarsma
6:30 p.m. social/ 7 p.m. program
Thursday, Jan. 25, 2007
Free babysitting available

Holiday Decorating Contest

Do your icicle lights glimmer? Is your front yard evergreen festooned in color?

North Slope Historic District residents are invited to compete with their neighbors for "Best Decked" honors this holiday season. Everyone is eligible, but to be absolutely certain we make it past your home, please drop us a note (postmaster@northslope.com) or give a call (272-0165) with your address. Judging (by NSHD board members) will take place Sunday, Dec. 17.



In addition to the sheer honor, those who create the most beautiful holiday displays will receive prize packs from contest sponsors including Espresso By The Cup,

Woodman, Spare That Tree!

This neighborhood features houses built by Washington's leading architects that became home to some fairly famous people. However, the North Slope is home to another treasure – one I didn't even know about until I was taking Geoff's dad on a walking tour of the North Slope.

While I was expounding on Ambrose Russell's incredible design of the Murray House at Division and North Sheridan, Mr. Corso, a retired biology teacher and master gardener, was down the block, pointing to the tree in front of 417 N. Sheridan. "Look at the size of that chestnut!"

It turns out that the tree is indeed very special. It is registered as the second largest American chestnut in Washington. The American chestnut's natural range is the Eastern United States where it was very common until the chestnut blight was introduced from China or Japan sometime between 1900 and 1908. By 1940, the American chestnut was almost extinct. This one was probably planted and owes its growth to the Northwest's rainy climate. We can add this natural wonder to the architectural and historic wonders in our neighborhood. – *Marshall McClintock*

Christmas Tree Disposal

Wondering how to recycle your Christmas tree? Solid Waste Management will pick up your tree at no additional charge with your yard waste at the curb until Jan. 19.

To prepare for curbside pickup:

- Remove all decorations and tinsel.
- Take tree out of the stand.
- Cut tree/limbs into 3 ft. or less lengths & bundle with heavy twine.
- Place on curb next to your yard waste container.

Flocked trees or trees with decorations or stands will not be picked up! Dispose of flocked trees in the garbage or at the Tacoma Landfill.

Trees from apartment and businesses may be brought to the landfill and disposed of at no charge Dec. 26 to Jan. 21. Apartment managers or landlords who collect tenants' trees may drop them off all at once; call 591-5543 in advance of drop off.

Plaques Make Great Gifts

The plaques are here! The plaques are here!

A new order of North Slope home plaques has arrived – just in time for the holidays! The 5x7-inch brass plaques are available for purchase for \$75 each. Plaque text indicates your home is a contributing property in the North Slope Historic District which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

To reserve your plaque, call or email Mitch at boonrob@msn.com or 272-0165 ... Hurry, they won't last long!

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L Street Light Update

Most of North L Street currently has cobra-style streetlights that don't match the rest of the North Slope or the historic character of the neighborhood, but that may be changing.



Because the city soon has to replace the lights on L as part of their regular upkeep, property owners have been given the option of upgrading to historic-style lampposts. Through the city's LID (Local Improvement District) process, the city canvassed property owners to ask what to do about the lights; the majority approved the historic upgrade.

The next step in the process is a hearing at 5 p.m. Dec. 11 in city council chambers, at which city staff will hear from those affected by the LID. The North Slope Historic District Board encourages L Street property owners to attend this hearing. The hearing committee will make a recommendation to the city council. If approved, the lighting project could begin as early as summer 2007.

Although the LID requires neighbors to pay for part of the project, the improvement of the streetscape will have a positive impact on L and the entire neighborhood. The cost for property owners varies depending on the property size, but for many, the amount, over 10 years, amounts to around \$50 per year. Although it may seem like the city should cover the entire cost of street lighting, as with streets in Tacoma, it was the residents along the street who originally paid for this service. The city is only responsible for upkeep.

For those who don't think historic preservation is worth the extra cash, consider this:

A landmark study from Rutgers University in 1998, "The Contributions of Historic Preservation to Housing and Economic Development," found that investments in historic rehabilitation across the United States provide significantly greater benefit for a community than equal investments in car manufacturing in Michigan or coal mining in West Virginia.

Additionally, if the LID process continues and is ultimately approved, the North Slope Historic

District, as a non-profit organization, can seek grant money to help defray the cost of the lighting project. If the LID is not approved, grants will be hard to win, and the city will likely not allow the project to take place anyway if the neighbors aren't on board. The L Street LID process is an important opportunity for historic rehabilitation along a street in the heart of one of Washington State's largest historic districts.

If you have questions about the project, call North Slope Board members Marshall McClintock or Kyle Price, or contact Ralph Rodriguez in the City's Public Works Department at 591-5522.

NSHD Board of Directors

Mark Bardwil	759-3878
Mary Boone	272-0165
Deborah Cade, secretary	593-4569
Tim Chen	272-9281
Jason Gordon	238-9145
Patty LeBlanc	272-2884
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

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, phone President Marshall McClintock.

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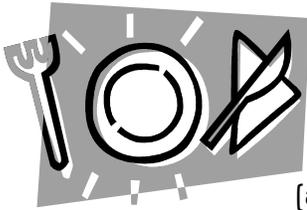
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A Good Time Was Had By All

Rain, wind and unseasonable cold couldn't dampen the spirits of 79 adventurous people who attended the 2006 North Slope Progressive Dinner.



For their \$35 investment, they toured the homes of Francis & Judy Skrzysinski (appetizer course), Geoff

Corso & Marshall Mc Clintock (salad), Sandy Farewell (entrée) and Patty LeBlanc & Nick Kristensen (dessert).

A **HUGE** thanks goes out to organizers Judy Martin and Angie Klein, our homeowner/hosts, official greeter Peter Herpst, and to all of the volunteers who gave so unselfishly of themselves.

The success of this event enables us to continue the preservation and enhancement of this wonderful neighborhood through projects such as the development of the park at 8th & K and Historic District street markers

Through ticket sales and generous donations we exceeded our goal (\$3,640.) by more than \$1,200 before expenses.

It's not too early to start thinking about next year's Progressive Dinner: November 3, 2007. If you'd like to participate in the North Slope's largest annual fundraiser, please contact Judy Martin at 253-572-3059.

How Much Is Your Home Worth?

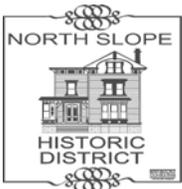
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**Tacoma North Slope Historic District
1102 N. Fifth Street
Tacoma, WA 98403**

Look inside to learn about Dec. 13's Cocoa and Carols event!