



# Trolley Times



Volume 50

Tacoma's North Slope Historic District

April / May 2008

## Choosing a Family Pet

Von Martin, prominent local "musher" and dog team trainer will present a program exploring the special qualities of the human/canine relationship in today's urban family environment.



Come join Von as he presents a short series of topics ranging from amazing little known facts

about the modern "Family Dog" to health tips, diet, safety, and ideas for fun activities to do with your "canine best friend."

Von is a member of the Pacific Northwest Writers Association and is Vice President of the Northwest Sled Dog Association. Von divides his time between his North Slope Historic District home and his Lewis County ranch, where he cares for his team of 14 rescued and adopted huskies.

Our special thanks to Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital at 401 Fawcett Avenue in Tacoma for sponsoring this issue of "The Trolley Times" in connection with this program.

### Put it on your calendar:

**NSHD Social Event**  
**Choosing a Family Pet**  
**6:30 p.m. social/ 7 p.m. program**  
**Thursday, April 24, 2007**  
**Immanuel Presbyterian Church,**  
**901 N. J St.**  
**Free babysitting available**

## Let There Be Light (on L Street)

The 'L' Street Lights are going in! Neighbors along that street voted to upgrade from the cobra-style lights to the historic-style lamp posts. They formed an LID, which stands for Local Improvement District.

The city will pay to replace lights when they've reached the end of their life span, but if there are upgrades, as in this case, the neighbors must cover the difference in cost.

The neighbors along 'L' will pay according to their street frontage, and the cost will be spread over about 10 years. Many properties will pay around \$50 per year for the improved streetscape. To support those neighbors, the North Slope secured a grant and added some of its own money to cover a little over 13 percent of the total cost.

If spending money on streetlights seems frivolous, keep in mind studies have shown that dollar for dollar, money spent on historic revitalization will do more for a city's economy than equal amounts spent on coal production in West Virginia or car manufacturing in Detroit. Enjoy the new lights!



**Metropolitan**  
Veterinary Hospital  
(253) 274-0225  
[www.metvetpets.com](http://www.metvetpets.com)

**Visit us at 401 Fawcett Ave**

"Take your pet to the Met"

## Homes to be Featured on Tour



A number of North Slope homes will be featured during the annual **Tacoma Historical Society "Historic Homes of Tacoma Tour"** on May 3 & 4. It's your chance to go inside many of the homes you probably walk by each day.

Tickets are \$20. For more information, visit: [www.tacomahistory.org](http://www.tacomahistory.org) or call 472-3738.

## Window Expert Provides Info

Troy Axe, owner of Legacy Renovation, gave a spirited talk on historic windows at the North Slope community meeting on Feb. 28th. Axe focused on the claims made by vinyl window manufacturers and how these claims can be misleading. Axe noted that average vinyl window must be replaced after approximately 7 years and, on average, vinyl window hardware fails after 5 years. As well, damage, deterioration, or breaks in vinyl windows cannot be repaired, necessitating replacement of the entire unit.

Often the new unit will no longer match the existing vinyl windows as significant fading is a problem with vinyl.



Another claim made by vinyl window manufacturers is superior energy performance of vinyl windows. Axe stated that 70 percent of heat loss is through air infiltration, not through the glass. A restored single pane wood window with weather-stripping and a simple storm will outperform vinyl windows in energy savings over time. Many of our 100-year-old wood windows in the North Slope may need restoration and do require maintenance but will last another 100 years if properly maintained.

## 2008 NSHD Programs/Dates

- 4/24 Choosing A Family Pet with Von Martin \*#
- 6/26 Historic Tacoma & Tacoma Historical Society: A Preservation Panel \*#
- 7/4 J Street 4th of July Kiddie Parade (10 a.m. )
- 7/12 North Slope Garage Sale
- 8/5 National Night Out (6 p.m. K Street Park)
- 10/23 Tacoma City Councilman: Jake Fey \*#
- 11//1 Progressive Dinner (various times TBA, tickets available closer to the event)
- 12/10 Holiday Cocoa and Carols (6 p.m.)

*\* Indicates these programs begin with social time at 6:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7p.m. Programs generally include a short business meeting to update residents on relevant issues/concerns.*

*# Indicates free babysitting will be provided at these events.*

Unless otherwise noted, programs will be held at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 901 N. J Street. Check our website ([www.tacomanorthslope.com](http://www.tacomanorthslope.com)) and watch future editions of this newsletter for updates.

## Call Before You Hammer

Exterior changes to your house or garage, other than painting and minor repair, must be reviewed by the Tacoma Landmarks Commission. This includes:

- changing or replacing windows.
- changing siding.
- adding, replacing or changing a porch or deck.

Before starting any exterior work, contact Reuben McKnight, our city Historic Preservation Officer, at 591-5220 or [Reuben.McKnight@ci.tacoma.wa.us](mailto:Reuben.McKnight@ci.tacoma.wa.us). He can tell you if your project needs a design review and how to proceed if it does.

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## Historic Register Additions

The NSHD eastern boundary near Division Avenue had left some significant properties outside our district's protection. But recently the owners of three of those properties have sought individual historic register status. Mr. Stan Cipullo at 211 North J Street had his house, The Judges John A. & Elizabeth Shackelford House (ca. 1888), added to the city's historic register last year.

Across the street, at 206 North J, the Center for Spiritual Living (the former Park Universalist Church, built in 1909) has just submitted its nomination to the historic register.



This is rare example of a Craftsman-style church and was home to the 45-year ministry of the Rev. Victor Morgan, father of Tacoma historian Murray Morgan. This nomination is particularly significant because it is the first of the historic Wright Park churches to place their buildings on the register.



Finally, Frisko Freeze, Tacoma's iconic drive-in, has just begun the nomination process. Built in 1950 by beloved owner Perry Smith, Frisko Freeze is a rare early example of the Googie style that dominated small commercial buildings of the 1950s and

1960s. Perhaps more importantly Perry and Bobbe Smith touched the lives of generations of Tacoma's youth. Of course, who could doubt Frisko Freeze's significance when Gov. Booth Gardner's motorcade always stopped by when in Tacoma?

## NSHD Board of Directors

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The North Slope Board of Directors meets 5/27, 7/29, 9/30 and 11/29 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.

## Plant Exchange in May

Immanuel Presbyterian Church Announces the Fourth Annual Free Plant Exchange on **May 3, 2008, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** The event will be held in the Immanuel Presbyterian Church Parking Lot, at the corner of N. I Street and N. 9th streets. For more information, call 627-8371

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

*You'll have a doggone good time at our April 24<sup>th</sup> program!*

### *Stuff for Sale?*



The annual all-North Slope garage sale will take place on Saturday, **July 12**. It's never too early to start sorting through your attic and basement in search of

treasures to sell. Look for more information in the next issue of The Trolley Times.

### *Don't Pick The Daisies!*

Do you have a traffic circle near your home? Please do your best to remind those who may need reminding; the plants and flowers are for show—not to go!



*Hundreds of people took part in the 2007 North Slope 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Be part of the fun this year. Whether you make a float or decorate your bike, you'll have a great time!*