



# Trolley Times



Volume 56

Tacoma's North Slope Historic District

April 2010

## ***Meet the City Historic Preservation Officer on Thursday, April 22nd***



It's your chance to meet with and learn from Reuben McKnight, Tacoma's Historic Preservation Officer at **7 p.m. on Thursday, April 22**, at Immanuel Presbyterian Church.

Reuben will provide an update on the work of the Landmark Preservation Commission, such as the preservation plan update as it effects the North Slope. He'll also cover issues regarding our historic district, including:

- Explanation of the agreement with the city public works department regarding streetscape including the status of the nominations for the several blocks of brick and stone paving we have in the district.
- Better ways to better identify the district, such as special street signage, as well as ways to provide more interpretive information about the district.
- Ways to notify existing and new property owners of the district's design guidelines as well as the special tax valuation program and the link to issues of code enforcement.

### **Put it on your calendar:**

**"Meet City Historic Preservation Officer,  
Reuben McKnight"**

**Thursday, April 22**

**6:30 pm: Coffee/Social**

**7:00 pm: Program**

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church  
901 N. J St.**

## ***See "The Money Pit" at the Grand Cinema to Benefit the North Slope***

Join your neighbors **Saturday, May 1, at 9:30 a.m.** (yes—in the morning), for a special one-time showing of **"The Money Pit"** starring Tom Hanks at **The Grand Cinema**. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door, with the proceeds used to fund North Slope Historic District programs, newsletter costs and neighborhood beautification.



"The Money Pit" is a classic home improvement comedy and a film most residents of the North Slope can relate to. Even better, each ticket purchased will help the North Slope perform important work on behalf of its residents.

The Grand Cinema is located at 606 S. Fawcett, is in the historic Merlino Arts building. Along with the great popcorn available there, we'll also have local coffee and tea available.

Please join us for the fun and important fundraising event...and bring a friend!

### **Put it on your calendar:**

**"The Money Pit" at the Grand Cinema**

**-A North Slope Fundraising Event-**

**Saturday, May 1**

**Doors Open: 9:00 a.m.**

**Film Begins: 9:30 a.m.**

**Tickets: \$10 at the door**

**The Grand Cinema  
606 S. Fawcett**

## ***Make a Splash- Get a Rain Barrel?***



The City of Tacoma Environmental Services awards up to \$50,000 a year in environmental grants to help educate residents and protect and restore our surface water resources. In conjunction with this, the North Slope Historic District Parks & Beautification Committee is exploring the possibility of seeking a grant on behalf of those residents who might want a rain barrel.

For more general information, go to:  
<http://cityoftacoma.org/makeasplash>.

**If you are interested in obtaining a rain barrel if we are successful in the grant process, contact Geoff Corso, the chair of our Parks & Beautification Committee by emailing him at: [corso1965@live.com](mailto:corso1965@live.com) by May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Reach more than 1,000  
North Slope homes by  
sponsoring/advertising in  
The Trolley Times for as little as \$200.**

**For details e-mail:  
[news@tacomannorthslope.com](mailto:news@tacomannorthslope.com)**

## ***TreeStreet NW is a NSHD Success***

Tacoma's 2009/2010 TreeStreetNW program ended April 1st with 38 new street trees setting down roots in the the North Slope Historic District. Congratulations to those with new trees! Remember to give them 5 gallons of water weekly this summer and next.



## ***NSHD Board of Directors***

Troy Axe	253-572-0991
Mark Bardwil, president	253-759-3878
John Butler	253-627-3379
Deborah Cade, secretary	253-593-4569
Geoff Corso	253-572-5474
Scott Kuehn	206-290-6433
Judy Martin	253-572-3059
Marshall McClintock	253-572-5474
Martha Mendenhall	253-861-8783
Erica Nelson	253-202-5595
Karen Noland	253-381-9297
Kyle Price	253-396-9047
Mitch Robinson	253-272-0165
Dave Root	253-223-6636
Marilynn Sabo	253-627-4735
Barbara Tomberg, treasurer	253-572-1532

## ***Call Before You Hammer***

Exterior changes to your house or garage, other than painting and minor repairs, 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.



## ***6th Annual Plant Exchange Comes to North Slope on May 1st***

Our friends at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, who continue their long-standing support of the North Slope



Historic District, will be having their 6<sup>th</sup> annual plant exchange on Saturday, May 1, from 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The event was created in 2005 to save unwanted plants that often found themselves in yard waste containers or the dump. This event offers plants, of all kinds, to anyone looking for something to add to their yard and gardens. Whether you bring plants that are no longer wanted, or you just want to find something to take home, here is an opportunity that requires no money, helps keep the oxygen cycle alive in the air we breathe, and keeps plants alive for another day.

Master Gardeners will be on hand to try to provide answers.

## ***Start Saving Your Stuff***

The annual all-North Slope garage sale will take place again this July.



It's never too early to start sorting through your attic or cleaning out the basement in search of treasures to sell. By participating in this District-wide sale, you'll be able to take advantage of group advertising and enjoy increased traffic because folks typically flock to our dozens of sales.

Look for more information in the next issue of *The Trolley Times*.

## ***From The Trolley Times Archives...***

### **"From Distribution Yard to Play Yard: Before the Park" by Jay Turner**

*Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted from the April-May-June 2002 issue of "The Trolley Times."*



Our North Slope Historic District Park is located on a property that Tacoma City Light obtained in November 1951. Tacoma City Light purchased a vacant lot for a "Distribution Yard;" the city was growing and needed more electrical capacity. A photograph taken on November 17, 1953 shows transformers with connecting power lines indicating that the "yard" was ready for service.

The term "Distribution Yard" gave way to "Substation" and the K St. Substation remained in active service until late 1983, according to information obtained from Tacoma Power. When the method of power distribution changed and the K St. Substation was decommissioned, it sat vacant for years with the transformers still in place, but disconnected. After removing all the power equipment, the lot was still left vacant, on purpose, giving Tacoma City Light time to verify that the land was not contaminated and could be put to other use.

The local residents noted that Tacoma Power (the new name since 1989 for Tacoma City Light) had a vacant lot and wondered what would become of it. There were many discussions on a method, any method that would prevent another huge apartment complex from being built in the middle of our Historic District. It was Kelly Halligan who suggested a "Pocket Park". That sounded like an excellent idea, but no one could figure out a way to purchase the property. Thea Foss bond money became the solution and source of funds for the purchase of the park.

At last, on July 26, 2000, Tacoma Power approved the sale of the property for \$30,000. According to Curtis Hancock of MetroParks, the City of Tacoma became the owner of the property in April 2001. With the city owning the land, and an agreement that MetroParks would maintain the park, our North Slope Historic District Park was built.



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

***See “The Money Pit” on May 1<sup>st</sup> to benefit the North Slope! Details Inside!***

### ***“The Secret Gardens of the North Slope***

For the first time, the North Slope will host a tour of interesting, hidden or peculiarly functional gardens. The event will take place on a Saturday in June and will involve four or five houses within easy walking distance.

In addition to viewing the gardens and gathering some insight into their creation and use, each house will have a theme, like neighborhood history or outdoor living or eating your yard. It will be a delightful way to spend an early summer afternoon. Check our website, **[www.tacomanorthslope.com](http://www.tacomanorthslope.com)** for upcoming details, and visit there to sign up to receive North Slope e-mails so you won't miss the save-the-date announcement.

### ***New Shipment of Plaques Are On The Way***

In the coming month, we expect to receive a new – but small – shipment of North Slope plaques. These bronze, 5-by-7-inch plaques identify your property as part of the North Slope Historic District and National Register. Plaques cost \$75 each.

To purchase your plaque, call Marilyn Sabo at 253-627-4735.

