

Trolley Times



Volume 60

Tacoma's North Slope Historic District

October 2011

Tacoma's North Slope District Progressive Dinner is Back!



This Years' Progressive Dinner is Going to be Amazing!

In addition to the wonderful homes and company to be enjoyed at the appetizer and dessert stops, this year we have two local and amazing restaurants contributing to the entrée and soups stops along the way.

Soup Course By "Infinite Soups!"

"Infinite Soups" has been one of Tacoma's best kept secrets for quite a while! The owner's Wendy Clapp, Todd DeShazo and Laura Adams are totally natural and green with their shop, their ingredients, and their business practices. They put out 25 or 30 of the BEST and most unusual soups I've ever tasted, and they do it on a daily basis for an amazingly small price. The menu changes every day and they're all about tasting as many as you like to find just the right one(s) for you. Oh...and don't bring plastic cuz it won't fly there.

Read more about "Infinite Soups" at: http://infinitesoups.com/



Entree By Marrow!

The restaurant is the creation of Jaime Kay Jones, along with husband Jason Jones and is co-owned by Chef, Kyle Wnuk. Chef Kyle will present a delectable main Course that will surely be remembered as a highlight of this year's event. Of course, he will offer a vegetarian option in line with the "Arrow" style.

Check out "Marrow" on their website at: http://marrowtacoma.com/

2011 Progressive Dinner and Walking Tour

A benefit for the North Slope Historic District

Saturday November 5, 2011

Begin your pre-holiday season with an evening stroll through tree-lined streets, meandering through Tacoma's Historic North Slope. Four homes are featured in this year's tour, with each home presenting delectable and enticing delights.

Appetizers, soup, main course (with vegetarian option), and dessert combine with stunning homes to offer a truly unforgettable occasion. Call now to reserve your ticket(s) for this increasingly popular event. Tickets on sale now by calling:

Judy Martin @ 253 572-3059

Tickets only \$35.00

Tours begin at 4, 4:45, 5:30, and 6:15pm

Slide Show Presentation

On October 27th, at Immanuel Presbyterian, the North Slope Historic District will host a slide show of the new book <u>Tacoma's North Slope</u>, narrated by the author, North Slope resident Karen May; the book also has some photos by Gyda May. The program starts at 7PM, with a social hour at 6:30PM. You can learn about the Carrs and other North Slope history at this general neighborhood meeting.



Photo courtesy of Job Carr Cabin Museum.

The September 1st CityLine interview with the author on TV Tacoma is available online.

www.cityoftacoma.org/page.a
spx?hid=10248 or Google
"City Archives"

Job Carr, a direct descendant of Rhode Island colonial governor Caleb Carr, arrived in Tacoma at the age of 51. He purchased land in Old Tacoma and also homesteaded property on the crest of what became known as Job Carr's Hill, or Tacoma's North Slope. Carr was a Quaker, a man of peace, a patriot who had been wounded defending the Union, and a master gardener who cleared the forest to plant fruit trees.

When asked how she came to write this book, Mrs. May said,

"When I moved to the North Slope in 2009, I wanted to know more about the history of my new neighborhood. I already had copies of Arcadia books such as <u>South Tacoma</u> and <u>Proctor</u>, so I went to the bookstore. The clerk said there was no North Slope book, and suggested I write one. The rest, as they say, is history..."

The presentation covers schools, churches, homes and early residents of the North Slope neighborhood.

Copies of the book can be found at area bookstores.

North Slope Featured Home

The Burton and Rose Moore House 414 North Sheridan Avenue (formerly North "N" Street) Tacoma, Washington

Our house is relatively small (2000 sf.) compared to most houses in the North Slope Historic District, but that's what we wanted. We also wanted "old world charm," something that hadn't been remuddled beyond recognition or mcmansionized, and a smaller yard that would be easier to care for. Our agent showed us a few houses that were just too big or too much work, and then he drove us by this one. It was late November, getting dark, raining, and dreary. About all we could see of the house was the "for sale" sign and some weird rock stuff glued to one side of the front porch. We didn't have time to go in, but he encouraged us to look at the MLS online. The website description stated: "Well maintained historical 1901 Dutch gable Victorian. 3 beds, 1 ½ baths, all the charm of yesteryear & all the modern conveniences. In North Slope, the largest national historic district in the U.S. Ambrose Russell, architect. Period light fixtures, glass built-in cabinets, original open oak staircase, gleaming hardwood floors, and wood trim throughout...pictures don't do this home justice."

Mr. Sabo and I decided to take a look. The house was partially hidden by a large blue spruce, so it was barely noticeable from the street. But, we wanted to see that "charm of yesteryear," so we thought we'd take a closer look. The weird rock stuff was actually a granite turret (that matches the one on the Murray Mansion next door). We could see that the house had potential. We looked inside and saw oak floors that were beautiful (all level and true), the granite foundation (still solid after 100+ years), the round room in the foyer (great place for a Christmas tree or the Chinese settee), and that fantastic open staircase. Mr. Sabo and I went home and thought about it and came back the next weekend for another look. It was a rare sunny December afternoon. (The house is situated so you get sun coming through the front bedroom in the early morning and the staircase in the afternoon). We looked at the sunlight shining through the old, wavy glass in the Palladian window at the top of the stairs, smooched, and declared our love for the house....We made an offer....and she was ours.

Then reality set in. The shake roof that the inspector said would last at least five more years started to leak...Mr. Sabo spent many an evening in the attic trying to patch the leaks with old tin can lids (like gallon- sized tomato sauce). After a particularly severe windstorm, we found rotten shakes strewn around the front yard. We gave in and decided to have the roof replaced, and, after much deliberation, chose a roofer. They finally started our roof after Halloween. They tore off the old shakes and covered the attic with plastic, except for the turret room. I was watching TV when I heard a drip, drip, drip. I ran to the front of the house....there was half an inch of water on the turret room floor. Needless to say, Mr. Sabo made them come back (at 9:30 PM) to cover it up. We had to run fans for a week to dry things out. Our roof is guaranteed to last for 50 years. When it is time to replace it, I don't think we'll use the same company!

We have replaced the monster octopus furnace in the basement with a wonderful, really expensive one. It even heats the upstairs of the house! We have had the chimney rebuilt (that's another story), restored original windows, stripped endless layers of old wallpaper, and Mr. Sabo is finishing up a brick patio. We put in a round flower bed where the old spruce used to be (It was leaning on the porch and we were afraid it was going to fall on the house. Sadly, we had it taken out). We even found a hidden staircase from the kitchen to the upstairs. I kept telling Mr. Sabo that, according to my calculations, there was extra space behind the bathroom. So, for my birthday, he let me drill a hole in the back of the built-in linen closet in the upstairs hall. Sure enough, the doorway was behind it. Future projects include opening up that staircase, new real linoleum floor in the kitchen (to replace the indooroutdoor carpet), back porch re-do, new bathroom, having our 1929 Magic Chef stove refurbished, and the



fireplace (a huge, strangely out-of-place, floor-to-ceiling Roman brick number circa 1940-something w/ Heatolator, painted glossy white)and the list goes on!

All kidding aside, Mr. Sabo and I are old house people. We've restored homes in Ohio and Seattle. We knew what we were getting into when we bought this old house, and we knew it would take work, money, patience, money, skill, elbow grease, and more money. The fact that this house was designed by a major architect, Ambrose Russell (Spaulding, Russell & Heath) and that it was in an older, established neighborhood (with trees and front porches) were selling points for us. We feel honored that our house shares the Russsell pedigree with such venerable old homes as the Governor's Mansion, the Rust Mansion, the Rhodes Mansion, the Murray Mansion, and many other North Tacoma beauties.

The original owners of our house were Burton and Rose Moore. He was a stenographer at Fogg & Fogg Attorneys on Tacoma Avenue. In 1919, they sold it to Thomas and Hattie Brewitt, who lived here until 1940. Mr. Brewitt was a tailor from England and co-owner of Brewitt Bros. Clothing on Pacific Avenue. Hattie was a teacher at Stadium High School. There was a succession of owners until 1956, when it was sold to Ammon and La Rie Harris, owners of the Chef Café on Center Street. After Mr. Harris's death it was sold to Joan Benner in 1981. We are looking for more history on our house and would appreciate hearing from anyone who might have pictures (especially the original fireplace), stories, or information about it. Marilynn and Mike Sabo, 414 North Sheridan Avenue, 98403; (253) 627-4735.

If you are interested in having your home and story featured in the Trolley Times, contact Marilynn Sabo.



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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



Abandoned Auto Hotiline	
Animal Control	627 PETS
Building Permit	591-5030
Community Based Services	591-5001
Crime Free Housing Program	591-5048
Code Enforcement	591-5001
Fair Housing	591-5043
Fire/Police Emergency	911
Garbage/Yard Waste	591-5543
Recycling	565-5955
Call-2-Haul	
Grafitti Hotline	
Hazardous Waste	
Hilltop Action Coalition	594-7859
Landlord/Tenant	591-5163
Metropolitan Park District	305-1000
Neighborhood Business Districts.	591-5384
Neighborhood Councils	
Neighborhood Crime Prevention	591-5277
Overflowing Sewer Manholes	591-5585
Pierce Transit	581-8000
Police Information (Recording)	591-5950
Crack Track	
Gang Tip Line	
911 Non-Emergency	
Special Events Traffic Unit	591-5932 501-5056
Safe Streets Campaign	
Sidewalks (Hazardous)	
The state of the s	
Streetlights (Burned-out)	
Street Repairs/Flooding	
Traffic Signals	
Traffic Signs	
Trees in Right-of-Way	591-5511
Utilities	500 0000
Power outage, fallen wires Water outage, leaks	
(after hours)	
Fire Prevention	
United Way Pierce County Info	
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	updated 2/2011

Abandoned Auto Hotline.....

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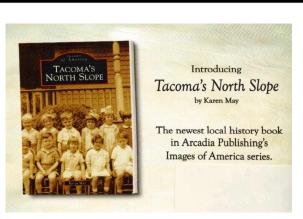
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Reach more than 1,000 North Slope homes by sponsoring/advertising in The Trolley Times for as little as \$150.

For details Call Troy Axe 253-691-8021

Reporting Non-Emergency Issues to Police.

NEW CITY LAW HELPS WITH NOISY CAR PROBLEMS

In early May, the TNT published a short article about a new ordinance that makes it easier for police officers to help neighborhoods address noise problems from loud mufflers and stereos on cars. I called our Community Liaison Officer, Jennifer Terhaar, and she emailed me how to report repeating offenders. Officer Terhaar wrote:

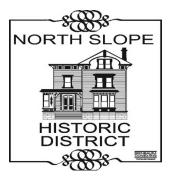
"I would suggest that you call in your complaints (when they are occurring) to the 911 Non-Emergency Line. The number is 253-798-4721. The 911 dispatchers answer this (phone) line in-between emergency calls.

Provide as much information about the cars, and their whereabouts. Obviously, you will get a better police response if the cars are stationary when you call, and note that due to call loads, we cannot always dispatch an officer to lower-priority calls like this in a timely manner."

It was suggested in the TNT that information such as driver's name, make of car, and a license number will facilitate enforcement of loud music coming from cars. CLO Terhaar reported that another ordinance covers loud mufflers, or the lack of one, but you can use the same police non-emergency number, with the same information.

You can reach CLO Terhaar at 253-591-5290, by email: jterhaar@cityoftacoma.org.

911 NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER: 253-798-4721



WANT TO HELP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD? SAVE THIS DATE!

At a general meeting on January 26th, elections will be held for North Slope Historic District, Inc. Board positions. The meeting will be held in the basement of Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 901 No. J. St, with the entrance on North 9th Street. Parking lot is adjacent.

Board members meet bi-monthly to plan, organize and carry out activities relating to our neighborhood, such as clean-ups, social activities for adults and for children, informational meetings on City government departments, and programs about the history of our homes.

If you are interested in being a candidate for the Board or want more information, please call Board member Julie Turner, 253-383-2329, or email her at juliejayturner@gmail.com.



Get Your North Slope Historic District Plaque Today

Mark your home with pride. We have a supply 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 Marilynn Sabo at 253-627-4735.

Volunteers Keep this Neighborhood Beautiful

Parks and Beautification Got Some Great Lending Hands Last Year!

The Park and Beautification Committee was busy during 2010. Volunteers included Pam Boyles and Rocky Johnson; John Butler; Bill and Susan Connolly; Jean Hoard; Bill and Kris Johnston; Nick Kristensen; Marshall McClintock; Scott Kuehn; Kyle Price; Dave, Josephine and Dylan Root; Mike Sabo and Barbara Tomberg.

Altogether, they spent 40 hours combing the neighborhood for litter, filling 49 grocery-size bags, and 56 hours planting, weeding, pruning and mulching traffic circles and the North Slope Historic District Park. Our thanks also go out to Immanuel Presbyterian Church, John Sandstrom, and the Turner family for adopting N. I St., N. J St. and N. L St. respectively through the Tacoma Cares program. If you are interested in adopting your street, a nearby traffic circle, dead-end, etc., call 591-5634 or direct your browser to http://www.cityoftacoma.org/page.aspx?hid=1768.

Three Neighborhood Council Innovative grants, awarded to us by the North End Neighborhood Council, have enabled us to landscape and maintain the traffic circle at N. L St. and N. 5th St., remove the vandalized street tree on N. Sprague Ave. adjacent to Jason Lee Middle School, prune two street trees that are of state-wide importance because they are among the largest trees of their species, and remove 35 stumps from the city right-of-way.

If you would like to join the Park and Beautification Committee, contact Geoff at 253-572-5474 or corso1965@live.com. If you can't volunteer your time but can make a tax-deductible donation payable to the "North Slope Historic District," please send your check to the NSHD Treasurer, Tim Chen, at 1101 N. 5 St. If you want your donation to be used for publishing and distributing this newsletter, publishing NSHD Web site http://www.tacomanorthslope.com/, etc., specify that your donation is for the "General Fund." If you want to help us help the City of Tacoma and Metro Parks maintain their properties within the historic district (e.g., landscaping and maintaining the park and traffic circles), specify that your donation is for the "Improvement Fund."

Big THANKS from Geoff And All of US!!

Another Great Volunteer



In August, 2011, all the streets in the North Slope Historic District were cleaned of litter by a high school senior from Seattle. Jennifer Sain, age 17 and oldest granddaughter of Julie and Jay Turner, earned five community service credits for graduation by picking up litter – a lot of litter!

With one or the other of her grandparents following in their van, Jennifer walked the streets and filled plastic grocery bags with debris in the gutters, streets and parking strips.

"I drew the line at picking up cigarette butts, but I did all the other stuff. I can't believe how many things were thrown on the ground! Somebody needs to do this more often," she said.

Some people in NSHD already have adopted areas to patrol for litter, but more help is needed. The Adopt-a-Spot program has volunteers for North I, J, and L Streets, but additional help is needed, particularly in the areas within a few blocks of Division, and on K Street. The requirements are flexible, with only 2 or 3 pick-up times a year officially called for, but some places need cleaning more often. Geoff can be reached at 253-572-5474 if you'd like to chip in.



There are so many more.
Thanks to All the People Who Pitch in and
Make the Neighborhood Great!



Don't Forget Our Great Events! Keep up with us at www.tacomanorthslope.com/

General Neighborhood Meeting

Slide show presentation on October 27th, at Immanuel Presbyterian for the new book, <u>Tacoma's North Slope</u>, narrated by the author, North Slope resident Karen May:

Immanuel Presbyterian 901 North "J" St Social hour: 6:30pm Program start: 7:00pm

Progressive Dinner and Tour

2011 Progressive Dinner and Walking Tour Four wonderful North Slope homes and featuring Soup by "Infinite Soup" and Entrée by "Marrow"

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