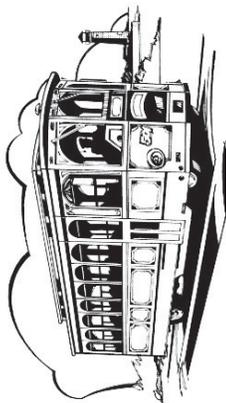


# TROLLEY TIMES



North Slope Historic District, Inc., A 501(c)(3) Organization

## February 27th, 2014 Program

### Bang! Out go the lights!

**W**e have all had the experience of the power going out and leaving us in the dark. While this event is rare, it can be inconvenient and even troublesome if you are not prepared. Tacoma Power will be presenting a short program on how to prepare for power outages and how the utility responds to get all the lights back on.

Handouts will be provided to help families be prepared.

Joining Tacoma Power will be Tacoma Public Utilities with a short program on the evolution of our light bulb. Find out what bulbs are the most efficient, cost effective and where to buy them. In addition, we will learn about the latest programs TPU offers homeowners.

Join us Thursday February 27th, at Immanuel Presbyterian Church basement, 901 North J Street. Entrance on N. 9th.

6:30 Coffee & Cookies, Program at 7pm

### Volume 69—Winter 2014

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## Tacoma Police Need Your Help

**T**he Tacoma Police Department needs your help. The police department relies heavily on our citizens to be the eyes and ears of the city. Our citizens are our best observers and witnesses to what is going on in their own neighborhoods.

We ask that you report *all* crimes and suspicious activity to the police department. Timely and accurate crime reporting is essential to reducing crime. We use crime statistics to proactively address increases in crime. With accurate records of where crime is occurring, we can direct added patrols to the affected areas. If you are not reporting crimes to the police department, we cannot address the problem.

You know your own neighborhood better than the police department knows your neighborhood. You know who should and shouldn't be hanging out in your neighborhood, who drives what car, and

who is on vacation.

Some people fail to call the police simply because they are not aware of what seemingly innocent activities might be considered suspicious. Others may notice suspicious activity but are hesitant to 'get involved' or for fear of being a 'nosy neighbor' or think that their call will 'bother' the police. Still there are those that just assume that someone else will call the police and, so they don't need to. Please, don't hesitate to call the police when you think something might be amiss! While some suspicious activities may have innocent explanations, the police department would rather investigate a suspicious situation while it is occurring than be called after crime has already been committed. Your call could save a life or stop a crime! Please utilize 911 when immediate police, fire or medical response is necessary to protect

*(Continued on page 2)*

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life or property. Do not use 911 for non-emergency situations. For crimes that are not in progress (there is no sign of suspects or that there has obviously been a time lapse from the occurrence to observation) call the Non-Emergency line at (253) 798-4721. When in doubt, call 911 and allow the operator to determine the status. Be prepared to provide the call taker with a description of what happened and the persons or vehicles involved.

Tacoma Police has an on-line reporting system for crime victims to file police reports for crimes like thefts, vehicle prowls or vandalisms. It is a quick process to file the report on-line (At this time it is only compatible with Microsoft Internet Explorer). Please go to [www.southsound911.org](http://www.southsound911.org) and click on "File a Police/Sherriff Report". We have computers at TPD Headquarters and all the police substations available for your use as well. Reports can be taken over the phone if you cannot access a computer.

Please contact your Tacoma Police Department Community Liaison Officer if you have any further questions. [www.tacomapolice.org](http://www.tacomapolice.org)

**Officer Jennifer Terhaar**

**Community Liaison Officer**

**City of Tacoma | Police Department | 2  
Sector**

**253.591-5290 | [jterhaar@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:jterhaar@cityoftacoma.org)**

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# Streetlight Outages Big Tacoma Problem



In the first ten months of 2013, the City of Tacoma and its citizens were the victims of 11 streetlight copper wire thefts. In the final two

months of 2013, Tacoma lights were hit 56 additional times. There have been five thefts so far in 2014.

When citizens report a streetlight outage, the top priority of Public Works Department crews is to secure the site for public safety. To report an outage that has not yet been addressed, residents may call 311 or use the CityQA online reporting system at [cityoftacoma.org/tacomafirst](http://cityoftacoma.org/tacomafirst).

City crews are unable to keep up with the condensed need for repairs. As of Jan. 14, 2014, there were 28 locations still in need of repair. Public Works is currently evaluating options such as outsourcing to a contractor to make these repairs as quickly as possible. Making repairs to the presently reported locations with current resources would take City's crews until fall 2014.

The areas in need of repair generally range from one or two streetlights to several blocks. If City staff can quickly fix the problem during the initial public safety inspection, they will do so. Otherwise, they give priority to locations with high pedestrian or traffic use. Other repairs occur based on the order of when they were reported into the City's SAP tracking system.

The Tacoma Police Department is investigating these crimes. As a result of these investigations and cooperation between the Public Works Department and the Police Department several subjects have been arrested.

Here are some ways citizens can help:

Learn to recognize likely copper-wire theft targets, such as **streetlight access boxes** and **underground junction boxes**, so you can keep an extra eye on nearby locations.

Learn the types of illegal activity to watch for:

1. Criminals may use official-looking white vans and orange construction vests to avoid suspicion. Legiti-

mate crews will be in vehicles, generally large bucket-trucks, marked with City or other organization logos.

2. During the day, when lights are not electrified, the thief may drop something, such as a bicycle or construction cones over a junction box in order to hide their activities. At this point the thief may quickly cut the wires to break the wire's electrification and ensure neighborhood darkness.

3. Later that night, once the neighborhood is dark, the thief may return to steal the wire, either by hand or by tying it to a vehicle/bicycle. They may use backpacks to hide and transport the material.

4. Report a crime in-progress to the Tacoma Police Department by dialing 911.

Streetlight copper wire theft is not a new or Tacoma-specific problem. Over the past several years, the City has met with mixed success implementing various prevention methods.

Regardless, the reality is that Tacoma's own 21,600 streetlights and 9,500 junction boxes are largely unprotected. Copper wire theft is a widespread national issue that may continue to be a challenge here and across the nation in the future.

**Carrie McCausland, MAC**

**Communications Specialist**

**City of Tacoma**

**(253) 591-2005**

**Cell: (253) 241-1232**

**[cmccausland@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cmccausland@cityoftacoma.org)**



**Calendar  
of  
Events**

**February 27<sup>th</sup> –**

Program @ Immanuel Presbyterian Church featuring Tacoma Power and Tacoma Public Utilities

Social Hour 6:30pm Program 7:00 pm

**May 29<sup>th</sup>** - Program @ Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Social Hour 6:30pm Program 7:00 pm

**June 14<sup>th</sup> -**

10a-1:45p - Tacoma Community Services Clean up at Jason Lee Middle School

**July 4<sup>th</sup>** - North Slope Historic District 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

**July 12<sup>th</sup>** – North Slope Garage Sale 9-4pm

**August 5<sup>th</sup>** – National Night Out

**August 21<sup>st</sup>**- Program @ Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Social Hour 6:30pm Program 7:00 pm

**November 20<sup>th</sup>** – Program @ Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Social Hour 6:30pm Program 7:00 pm

**Watch for details regarding upcoming programs & events in future issues of the Trolley Times**

**NSHD Board of Directors**

Deborah Cade, Co-chair	253-593-4569
Kathryn Longwell, Co-Chair	253-627-0423
Jean Hoard, Treasurer	253-272-7222
Julie Turner, Secretary	253-383-2329
Judith Martin, Programs/ Fundraising	253-572-3059
Erica Nelson, Safety	253-202-5595
Marshall McClintock, Hist. Pres./Public Works	253-572-5474
Geoff Corso, Beautification, Parks	253-572-5474
Amber Bailey	206-898-8686
Jarett Bailey	206-510-8457
John Butler	253-627-3379
Gary Johnson	253-267-4475
Gyda May	253-495-1872
Karen May	253-779-0160

**New Look For The Trolley Times**

**T**he Trolley Times is lucky to have a new Board member, Gary Johnson, who volunteered to do the computer layout for the newsletter. Gary is using a new format, so you will all notice a difference in the way the Trolley looks. We will still be trying to send useful news and information about the North Slope Historic District to all residents.

Let us know if we are meeting our goals of informing North Slope residents of activities and events sponsored by the NSHD, Inc.,

educating about the history of our neighborhood, and informing all on what it means to live in an historic district.

We would like to hear from you about your view of the Trolley Times. Is it meeting the above goals? What would you like to see in future editions? How can we make our newsletter better?

Please send your thoughts and information to: Julie Turner, 253-383-2329 or [juliejayturner@gmail.com](mailto:juliejayturner@gmail.com).

## A Tale of Two Trolleys

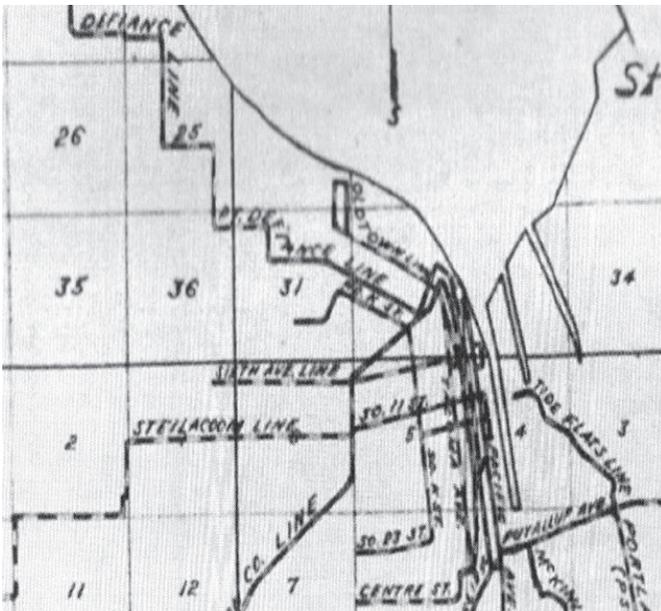
In 1887, the Tacoma City Council granted a 50 year franchise to Nelson Bennett, which led to the Tacoma Street Railway, and the Puget Sound Electric Railway. Mr. Bennett was associated with Allen C. Mason in the establishment of the street railway system of Tacoma, beginning on Pacific Avenue, just north of the Northern Pacific Railroad, and extending from Seventeenth to Seventh Street. This was a horse car line. Mr. Bennett afterward built another line on C Street from Ninth to Tacoma Avenue and extending out Tacoma Avenue and on North G Street to the top of the hill above Old Town. He enlarged the system to meet the demands of Tacoma's rapid growth. Henry Villard continued the work that Mr. Bennett had begun and carried out his ideas, developing the street railway system under the name of the Tacoma

Railway & Power Company.

Eighty percent of the houses in the North Slope were built during those 50 years. Two of the "suburban" trolley car lines were in the North Slope neighborhood, on N. I and N. K. By 1938, those tracks had been removed. Photos from the Tacoma Public Library show a map of trolley lines, and N. I Street in 1905, with tracks visible.

Today, there are two bus routes, #14 on N. M and #16 on N. I. Skirting our neighborhood is #11, which goes to Point Defiance via the Proctor District. Plans for a trolley or streetcar to the North End have been discussed, but that story is for another day.

- Karen May



## 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.





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## **Park and Beautification Committee Update**

**T**he Park and Beautification Committee was busy again in 2013 donating 97 hours of their time maintaining traffic circle landscaping, helping Tacoma Metro Parks maintain the North Slope Historic District Park, and picking up litter in the city right-of-way. Volunteers included John Butler, Bill Connolly, Geoff Corso, Chris Hamilton, Nick Kristensen, Marshall McClintock, Barbara Thomberg, Julie Turner and many anonymous volunteers.

This year, the committee re-landscaped the traffic circle at N. Sheridan and N. 7<sup>th</sup> with a grant from the Tacoma Neighborhood Council Office/North End Neighborhood Council.

Virginia Strader generously donated 11, 2' diameter, basalt rocks to the North Slope Historic District, Inc. We'd like to incorporate the rocks into traffic circle landscaping. If you help maintain a traffic circle and want to add the rocks to it, please contact Geoff Corso.

The traffic circle at the intersection of N. J and N. 3<sup>rd</sup> needs a caretaker. If you're interested in helping maintain the landscaping in this circle, please contact Geoff Corso.

We especially thank Immanuel Presbyterian Church and the Turner family for adopting N. I St. and N. L St., respectively, through the Adopt-a-Spot program. If you want more information about adopting your street, alley, traffic circle, etc., call Community Based Services (591-5634) or direct your browser to [http://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city\\_departments/neighborhood\\_and\\_community\\_services/community\\_services\\_division/community\\_based\\_services/](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/neighborhood_and_community_services/community_services_division/community_based_services/).

If you're interested in joining the Park and Beautification committee, contact the Geoff Corso at 572-5474 or [corso1965@live.com](mailto:corso1965@live.com).