



Trolley Times

North Slope Historic District Inc. 501(c)(3) Organization Feb. 2017 Volume 81
TacomaNorthSlope.org

CITY PUBLIC WORKS STAFF FEATURED SPEAKERS AT FEB. 23 NSHD PROGRAM

Tacoma's Public Works (PW) Director, Kurtis Kingsolver, along with Eric Huseby, PW's Parking Manager, will discuss new projects due to roll out, as well as future projects.

Mr. Kingsolver will highlight how the public-approved money for street repairs will play out in our neighborhood. In addition, he will comment on the need for sidewalk repair throughout the City, and the effort to provide protected crosswalks for pedestrians on N. I Street.

Mr. Huseby is the staff member in charge of devising a new Residential Parking Permit Program to protect convenient resident-parking on streets where non-residential vehicles occupy street parking during many hours of the day.

Those streets impacted in our neighborhood are mostly near the Group Health Clinic on Division, and Tacoma General/Mary Bridge Hospitals on MLK Street. Mr. Huseby will discuss how to make a permit parking zone for your street, if the street qualifies as "impacted" for resident parking.

There will be time for questions and answers. Come and hear about these public works programs from the people in charge of them.

**Feb. 23, 6:30 for coffee time
Program starts at 7 pm
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
Entrance on N. 9th**

BRICK, STONE STREETS ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER

NSHD has been notified that its request to add the brick and stone streets on North 9th, 10th and 11th Streets, between North I and North K Streets, has been accepted. The street surfaces are now added to the NSHD's National Register. However, there are currently no funds available for repairs with like materials.

The State of Washington's Historic Preservation Officer, Allyson Brooks, comments that these streets are "tangible reminders of the history of the USA." She adds that these streets "are some of the last remaining original brick and stone-paved residential streets" in Tacoma. The streets show how the City used skilled craftsmen to try to make its hills passable for horses and wagons. Indeed, these paving methods proved mostly unacceptable because horses could not get a grip on the bricks and stone to climb Tacoma's hills. Amazingly, they are still here 100 years later, with almost no maintenance.

Marshall McClintock, NSHD Board member, submitted the application for amendment to include the streets on the National Register completed for NSHD in 2003. See his article on the streets at: <http://tacomanorthslope.org/library/Archives.php> Look in Chapter 4.

TWO TACOMA NEIGHBORHOODS ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER

The State Dept. of Archeology and Historic Preservation has recently announced that two Tacoma nominations to the National Register have been accepted. The Wedge Historic District, and Buckley's Addition Historic District were added to the National Register in December. (See map for locations and size)

The letter to each neighborhood from Allyson Brooks, State Historic Preservation Officer, states that the National Register "...records the tangible reminder(s) of the history of the United States, and is the official repository of cultural resources worthy of preservation." She commends the stewardship of the Tacoma residents involved in submitting the nominations on behalf of their neighborhood.

There is no protection given by the National status, only **honor**; there are also no strings on owners - no requirements for care at all. **Protection** is given by the Tacoma Register of Historic Places, if most neighborhood property owners agree to respect the original exterior architecture of their building by asking a commission to approve changes. The NSHD and the Wedge are both on the Tacoma Historic Register of Historic Places.

You may ask why, then, the National Register is a good thing for the Wedge and Buckley's neighborhoods? Here are several reasons given by Ms Brooks:

- ◆ The neighborhoods are examples of the street-car suburbs of the early 20th Century.
- ◆ A "majority of the homes possess" their "significant characteristics of styles popular during the late 19th and 20th centuries."
- ◆ "Many of the dwellings represent the work of master craftsmen and/or architects."

In other words: The structures are part of the history of Tacoma and the U. S. We should appreciate that they have endured. *They don't make 'em like this anymore, and we are lucky to have some left.*

If you'd like to read the full Wedge and Buckley's Addition nominations, please go to: <http://tacomanorthslope.org/library/Archives.php#chapter10>



Historic Preservation is about creating "good things for the future."

WOOD WINDOW WORKSHOP FOR HISTORIC HOME OWNERS

HISTORIC WINDOW RESTORATION



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includes
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2-day Workshop
Saturday & Sunday
February 18 - 19
9:00 - 4:30

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Location
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Contact Lauren Hoogkamer to register
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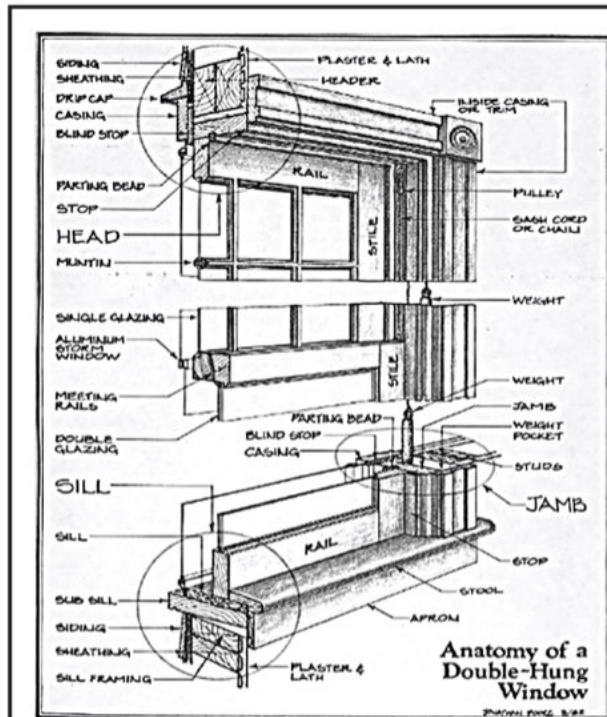
Here is a chance to learn how to *fix your wooden windows*. The workshop organizer, Curt Stoner, a NSHD home owner, and Darrell Haire, a WA State contractor, have gone all-out to teach you the skills to do it yourself - to repair and restore historic wooden windows.

Think how nice it would be if you could fix a rotten window rail, or window sill yourself, saving hundreds of dollars in costs if the work is hired, and more if you replace a window.

Once our wooden windows are gone, we have lost the tangible remainder of a long-ago craftsman that lends a special flavor to our rooms. Let's save the windows!

To register, contact Lauren Hoogkamer at the Historic Preservation Office: 253-591-5254 or

lhoogkamer@ci.tacoma.wa.us



Sponsored by the City of Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Foss Waterway Seaport

HISTORIC WINDOW RESTORATION

Feb.18 weekend workshop Feb.19

LEARN THE SKILLS TO REPAIR, RESTORE and MAINTAIN HISTORIC WINDOWS

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Proper Maintenance
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TOOLS



Materials & Suppliers
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Diagnosing Common Problems

Energy Conservation & Historic Preservation

Workshop led by Darrell Haire

Construction Window Restoration Expert

Contractor #604 006 041

HANDS-ON LEARNING

Trolley Tales - Folklore from Tacoma's North Slope

By Karen May

Living in the Boyle Home

John M Boyle lived at 915 N. Sheridan in the house built in 1925. John M was with Boyle & Boyle, Lawyers, located in the Fidelity Building. John Martin Boyle was born in Buffalo county, Wisconsin, in 1859. John obtained a college degree from Sacred Heart college at Watertown, Wisconsin, which was a branch of Notre Dame University. Boyle went to Red Lake Falls, Minnesota, where he met his wife, Kate, who was at that time teaching in the same town. They married in 1886 and came West to Tacoma with two young sons. All in all they would have eight children, four boys and four girls (Raymond W, John M, Marie, Llewellyn, Lucille K, Sue Agnes, Lesley and Mildred Boyle). Boyle maintained a law firm in Tacoma and was also appointed by President Wilson as U.S. marshal for the western district of

Washington, a position he held for seven years. He died in 1943 at 83 and his wife Catherine died at 94 in 1956.



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Denny Faker, who used to own the Bavarian Restaurant at Division and N. K., moved to the North Slope in 1970. He now lives at 915 N. Sheridan. He said this about our neighborhood:

* "For some of us our memories of living in this North End neighborhood ...are a big part of our lives. I, for example, moved into the North End when I was 21 years old. My son Eric, was born here and my wife and I carried him across the street to visit Wrights Park to feed the Ducks all through his childhood. How could a person not fall in love with the giant trees, fall colors, the large old Victorians, snow covered and decked out for Christmas, and our Tacoma winter and the sound of trains whistles and fog horns to remind us that our homeland is the great northwest. None of us can keep from falling in love with the North Slope. We all feel it; we all share it, and have shown an uncompromising drive to protect it..." Denny Faker

* *From the website of NSHD.*

LOOKING BACK 20 YEARS

From the *Trolley Times*, February 1997

Historic District Expansion Passes Landmarks Commission

On January 8, 1997 the Landmarks Commission voted unanimously to recommend the expansion of the current "J" Street Historic District to I, K, L and M Streets. At the meeting, Valerie Sivinski, Tacoma Historic Preservation Officer, presented a short slide show of various buildings in the proposed new expansion area. In addition, two charts were displayed showing the architectural importance rankings (pivotal, primary, secondary and non-contributing) of the buildings and the distribution of citizen support. Property owners who signed a

support petition are scattered pretty evenly over the area between N. 3rd to N. Steele. Surprisingly, a fair number who actively support the expansion are non-historic landlords owning new, buildings!



The next step on the road to final passage of the ordinance is the Planning Commission hearing. Notices will be sent to all in the proposed expansion area as soon as Valerie is able to get a hearing

date on the Planning Commission's schedule.

The proposed Historic District is the NSNC's project to protect our neighborhood from any attempt to tear down the older homes and build more apartment houses. The Historic District ordinance protects the exterior structural elements of a building; any building permit application to remove a structure would have to pass through the Landmarks Commission - where our neighborhood could object, if we want or need to.

The ordinance does not regulate any work on a building that does not require a building permit; thus most changes to a structure are not covered and require no Landmarks review.

If anyone has questions concerning the Historic District ordinance, or needs a copy of it, please call Julie Turner, the NSNC Historic District Coordinator, at 383-2329.

Newly Listed...

**1114 North K Street
Tacoma, Wa 98403**

This beautiful new construction home, in the highly coveted North Slope District is one you do not want to miss. Step outside the master bedroom balcony and enjoy a gorgeous view of the Puget Sound and the spectacular mountain ranges. You will love the gorgeous finishes throughout the kitchen and bathrooms! ALL 1700+ SqFt are put to use in this seemingly large layout. Plenty of street parking, as well as alley access to the garage and a long driveway. You do not want to miss this!



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FROM THE NORTH SLOPE HOUSE DOCTOR

by Lauren Keer

Do you have a silent water leak?

Recently, I received a water bill that showed usage 2.5 times what it had been for the same autumn period over the last 5 years. I am careful with water, so this wasn't a huge amount. It alarmed me, though, since it was more than I had ever used in the summer months. In February, my usage had been 50% higher compared to the previous 5 years. I had called Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) in March; they investigated and said my meter showed no evidence of leaks. I



tried to determine if I had any leaks in the house or with my outside faucets, but it seemed like there weren't any. In early November, TPU sent someone out again. Once again, they didn't detect any leaks. I went to TPU and a helpful supervisor explained that meters are sensitive enough to detect even one gallon of water usage. Crucially, though, he mentioned they only test for a few minutes; I decided I needed a longer test.

I went home and began investigating. I turned off the water at the main shut-off valve in the house, waited 30 minutes, then photographed the meter. My meter has a sweep hand and a little triangle, both of which move if there is even a little water used. Most meters will have at least one of these (you'll find pictures online). I then waited another hour and photographed the meter again: nothing had changed.

This was great news – it suggested there was not an underground leak between the meter and my house. Next, I shut off water to all toilets and several sinks, then turned on the water at the main shut-off. I took 2 pictures, one every 30 minutes, and the meter didn't budge (don't use water while testing!). I then started turning on the water to one toilet at a time, waited an hour,

then checked the meter. It turned out I had a leaking flapper in one toilet which I had not been able to detect previously.

Replacing the flapper is one of the simplest household jobs around; they cost about \$5. You can easily find advice and videos online. Here is the basic procedure.

1. Find an online video demonstrating how to change your toilet flapper. It will help you feel comfortable doing this easy task.
2. Take the tank lid off your toilet, flush, then take a picture of the flapper. Don't remove it; just hold it up so the water doesn't cover it, and take a picture of the bottom. Toilet flappers tend to be universal, but the picture may help at the hardware store.
3. At the store, tell them you need to replace a toilet flapper and show them the picture.
4. Go home and change the flapper. The trickiest part may be adjusting and attaching the chain to the handle arm (you need good hand dexterity). Use a soft cloth to wipe the plastic housing the flapper sits in; residue can build up on it.

Once the flapper is changed, repeat the testing. Leave the water turned off to the other toilets and sinks (you might have another toilet with a leak). Determine that replacing the flapper has stopped the leak – I recommend a 1 hour test. (*You can also buy dye tablets or Kool Aid to use to detect leaking flappers. ed.*)

Repeat this process for every toilet in your house. *It turns out toilet leaks are responsible for a relatively large percentage of home water usage.* Toilet flappers should be replaced every 5 years or so – the rubber breaks down over time and residue accumulates on them. This leads to leaking toilets. Many water departments have information about “silent water leaks” on the internet, so it's easy to find trouble-shooting tips. I'd recommend that you assume your toilets are leaking if you haven't replaced the toilet flappers in the last five years!

Lauren Keer is a NSHD resident



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 "They just don't make things like they used to."
 was probably a customer of ours.

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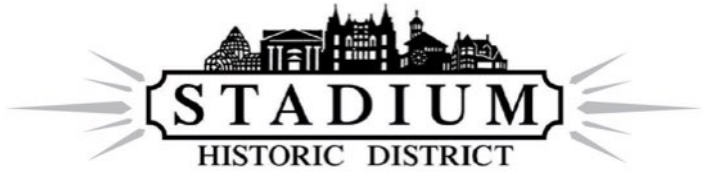
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NOW'S THE TIME TO GET THE GARDEN... ...READY TO GROW!

By Angie Clark, Master Gardener

The months of February and March in the Pacific Northwest do not have the best weather for gardening, but preparations for spring and summer plantings can be forming now while you have time before planting season.

Don't forget to clean your tools:

- Starting removing all the dirt from your tools.
- Then sand the metal, beginning with 100 grit, then 150 and finishing with a very fine 300 grit.
- Finally, rub a mineral or linseed oil over them to protect them. This also works well on the handles and preserves them.

This is great time to be planning what vegetables you want to grow and for preparing the plots or pots in which you will be growing.

- Pull any weeds from your outside plots, like 'shot weed' and dandelions, especially before they bloom and send their seeds in the wind to pop up somewhere else.
- Add a good 1"-2" of compost when there is an absence of frost, and dig it in to the soil.
- Some vegetable seeds can be started in the house in egg cartons, handmade paper pots or the seed starting pots from the store.
- Be sure to keep them moist but not drowned and keep them in the light of a south or west window.
- Choose seeds of things you like to eat and plant them in succession. like every 10 days, so that you will have on-going crops.
- I like to plant 'starts' from the stores as they come in, such as lettuces, cabbages, squashes, and then add seeds near them in the garden.

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Locally owned and operated by: Denny Faker, who has lived and been in business in our neighborhood since 1969

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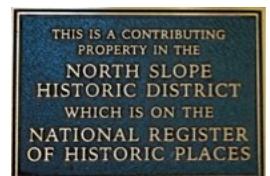
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To speak to a Master Gardener,
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- **Mark your home with pride..** These 5-by-7-inch bronze plaques identify your property as part of the North Slope Historic District National Register. Plaques cost \$75 each.



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How the North Slope Historic District Park Began

By 2000, the old power sub-station at the corner of North 8th and K Streets had been mothballed for years, waiting for the contaminants from transformers to dissipate. Kelly Halligan, a K St, resident, suggested the idea for a park in that space. It was better than another apartment house, the NSHD Steering Committee agreed, but how to pay for it?

Fortunately, the City was floating a bond issue to encourage development of the Foss Waterway, and as a sweetener gave each Neighborhood Council \$750,000 to spend. Our representatives on the Council, Bill Johnston and Dan Klein, held forth at North End Council meetings until \$100,000 was designated to build a park at North 8th and K.

In 2001, the property was transferred to the City from the Utility, and Metro Parks became the developing and managing partner. The Parks Department included planning sessions with NSHD neighbors and a design was chosen. In the meantime, the Steering Committee began to think about names for the park.

Naming the Park

Valerie Sivinski had been the “guiding force” for the formation of the Historic District when she was Tacoma’s Historic Preservation Officer during the 1990s. In 1993, she had met with a J St. group wanting to form a district, and thus set a group of residents working over the next 6 years to accomplish the goal of saving houses from demolition. Valerie’s guidance and inspiration were instrumental in helping residents persevere. She died tragically in October of 2000.

During those 6 years, Valerie was to remark, time and again, that one of the most important reasons to form an historic district in the North Slope was to “preserve the homes of many of the real people who built Tacoma” before the 1950s. She said it is great to preserve large buildings, but we get a better view of life in early Tacoma from the homes of those early residents.

The Steering Committee members wanted to name the park “Val’s Park” to honor Valerie for her invaluable help, but were precluded from doing so because of the short time since her death. When her husband, Tim McDonald, was asked to suggest a name, he came up with “North Slope Historic District Park”; it would be dedicated to Valerie and would honor one of her achievements as Preservation Officer.

Tim designed and donated a memorial marker, built of local Tenino and Wilkeson sandstone. The marker showed carved books from Valerie’s personal library. The stone was from the Marenakos Rock Center and carved by Keith Phillips of Tenino.

The park was to be named by the North End Neighborhood Council, the sponsoring agency. To ensure that Tim McDonald's choice for a name was honored, the Steering Committee gathered up about 30 North Slope residents and went to the meeting to vote. We emerged with the park named: North Slope Historic District Park!

Dedicating the Park

On June 8, 2002, about 125 neighbors, relatives and friends of Valerie Sivinski, including city officials, attended the dedication of the new park. The sun came out just in time for the 1:30 p.m. event. Councilman Bill Evans read the city's proclamation of "Valerie Sivinski Day." Park Director Jerry Thorpe expressed Metro Park's good wishes. Tim McDonald spoke about his wife's interest in historic preservation in Tacoma. Former Historic Preservation Officers Elizabeth Anderson and Michael Sullivan related stories about Valerie and her work.

As the dedication ended, Tim unveiled the memorial and explained the various titles of the books carved there, books that represented important aspects of Valerie's life. At the base was the park name: North Slope Historic District Park.

As the crowd drifted toward the Immanuel Presbyterian Church to partake of refreshments, the little children in the group made a dash for the play equipment in the woodchip area, long occupied by an electrical sub-station, but now successfully converted to playtime and conversation for neighborhood residents and passersby.

*For additional information about the park property, see our website:
www.tacomnorthslope.org*