



Trolley Times

North Slope Historic District Inc. Aug. 2019
501(c)(3) Organization Volume 91

August 22nd Program: Recycling Changes Coming in October

Tacoma is adjusting to recycling market forces by changing recycling collection in the city. To give us a heads-up on the changes being implemented this fall, Mr. Preston Peck, from the city's Environmental Services, will present a program called, "Recycling Reset," to acquaint us with expected changes.

Mr. Peck works as a Waste Reduction Specialist, and will provide information to help us adjust to changes in the city's recycling services caused by collapse of the market for many materials we presently recycle. Come, listen and learn with us!

Join us on Aug. 22nd, 7 pm,
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
Basement Room, Entrance on
North 9th
Coffee and time for chatting begins
at 6:30, program at 7 pm.

Meet Your Neighbors with a National Night Out Gathering

National Night Out (NNO) started in 1984 as a way of getting neighbors to know each other, and look out for each other and each other's property. Using phone and/or email lists, neighbors can pass on news of break-ins, vandalism, and other items of interest. And, getting together once a year or more to exchange family news, chat about prospective projects - just get acquainted - contributes to safety and cohesiveness in a neighborhood. That's what NNO means: working together to help make a neighborhood more livable.

In NSHD the Board of Directors encourages individual block(s) to hold Block Watch gatherings because the purpose of NNO calls for getting acquainted with close neighbors so they can look after each other. So, get a Block Party together and meet your neighbors. You need each other!

It's easy to have a National Night Out event - as easy inviting your neighbors to gather on Aug. 6.

1. Just invite all the neighbors in your block - or do a larger area. Decide on what to bring for a potluck (dessert is easiest), and where to have it. Most don't bother closing off the street, but just use parking strips and yards.
2. Do your own thing - eat, chat, share contact info and talk about any problems you'd like to work on. Choose a chair or captain, and decide who will tackle what. *And, who will do the work is what is tricky - it takes everyone to make a neighborhood work.*
3. **Call Board Member Geoff Corso if you have questions: 206-334-5202.**



National Night Out
Aug 6, 2019

Free Clean-up Day Saturday, August 17th

Tacoma Public Utility (TPU) residential solid waste customers, who own or rent a **single-family home or duplex in the NSHD**, are invited to dispose of items that *don't fit* in the garbage or recycle bins on Aug. 17th, at Jason Lee Middle School.

BRING: electronics, lawn equipment (empty fluids first), tires, carpet, furniture, exercise equipment, metals, barbecues (no ashes or propane tanks), strollers, etc.

DO NOT BRING: materials from a business, apartment building or construction site; vehicles of any kind, truck canopies, boats, trailers, riding mowers; animal carcasses; hazardous materials.

To volunteer, or request help transporting items, contact Geoff Corso at (206) 334-5202. Our helpers cannot pick up oversized or heavy items without help. Please use Call-2-Haul, (253) 573-2468, for things too heavy or cumbersome for two men to load, or for more information.

Goodwill or St. Vincent de Paul will likely be onsite to accept re-salable items.

Shredder for documents will also be provided.

Questions? Alex Gibilisco at (253) 591-5693 at Tacoma's Neighborhoods & Community Services.

Free Clean-Up

Saturday, August 17th

10am-1:45pm

Jason Lee Middle
School Parking Lot

ID required: Bring driver's license or recent TPU bill.

No building materials; liquids; dirt, sod, etc. or regular household garbage.

As summer starts to wane and we approach the fall, Realty ONE Group Turn Key has your back, reminding you of helpful chores to care for your home!

This summer was a windy one around Tacoma, and that means potential debris in your gutter! There's no better time to clean your gutters than now, when the muck is likely to be dry. Although this task seems easy to put aside, clogged gutters can make cozy homes for vermin, as well as creating nightmares when the rainy days are unrelenting. Water collecting around your foundation can seep into your basement, turns your yard into a swamp, as well as stagnant water attracts mosquitoes. It's better to be safe than sorry, and don't forget hand and eye protection for this chore!

Harvest your tomatoes and savor your cucumbers, because this is the perfect time to access your garden! September is an ideal time to till your soil, stop fertilizing your roses, trees, shrubs, and to prepare for the cooler months ahead! Late summer is a perfect time to plant perennials and flowering shrubs in many areas. They'll take root during the cool, moist fall weather and be ready to pop into bloom next spring and summer. This includes our state flower, rhododendrons! It's also an excellent time to prune your perennials, and trim your trees before the cold weather weighs them down.

October offers cooler weather with lots of dry days; there's no better time to paint your home! There's less chance of bubbles/blisters with the lower temperatures.

When you're ready to list or buy, we're here for you! Call, text or email Team Tuttle today for a FREE market valuation of your home, and to find out what your home would sell in this hot market!



Team Tuttle

Realty ONE Group Turn Key

Craig Tuttle: 253.224.5500 O: 253.753.7200

TeamTuttle@ROGTK.com

ROGTK.com

Your LOCAL Tacoma experts for 15+ years! Follow us:   @ROGTurnKey

WE MUST ALL WORK TO PREVENT THIS!

By Julie Turner, Editor, *Trolley Times*

This spring a NSHD Board Member heard about a NSHD house *“that is just plain gone”* from a friend who had driven by. The word began to spread, and many residents drove or walked by to look. To see the remnant was shocking. NSHD had lost a contributing property to *illegal demolition* – it was done without a permit or clearance from Landmarks, as required by our protective ordinance.

What does one see now? A *small piece of a house*, just a front porch and facade where a house had been! Drive or walk by it - just a fragment left. Even debris was mostly gone – roof, walls, back porch, all hauled away. It means one less contributing house in our District. This is the way historic districts lose valuable historic resources, and we must be vigilant to stop this kind of illegal removal.



811 N Ainsworth

illegal changes to our historic architecture, which is what we are preserving NSHD. And the city doesn't have enough employees to patrol NSHD for this. *City Code Enforcement only*

acts on reported issues, so it's important to report even suspected work that's unpermitted.

This loss of a contributing property is now working its way through Landmarks (LPC) procedures, and we hope LPC will be sticklers on following the guidelines on what replaces it.

So, what can we all do if we see something that looks a bit off, a bit questionable for work being done in our neighborhood? You ask a question of the right

people, such as “I see some work going on at [address]. Can you tell if the work is properly permitted?” Or “Has the work been approved by Landmarks Preservation Commission?”

Read below to find out who to ask, and where to find them so you can report something that looks suspicious. *We who live here are the best protectors of our historic status.*

How can we prevent this kind of thing?

A personal commitment is what it takes to protect and preserve what is good about living in the North Slope Historic District. This District has always been a grass-roots project – started by North Slope residents, and completed by more of them. Now we *all* must work to spot

Save the box for future reference. Do all the things listed in the box.

1. Be in touch with the Code Enforcement (CE) Department. The simplest way to get fast action is to call Tacoma's 311 – dial 311 during business hours is all you do - and an operator answers. State the problem, operator will send you to the right phone or voice mail. Ask for someone to check out the work being done at the address you give.

2. For using email: type in: TacomaFirst311. When page comes up, scroll down and click the button “TacomaFirst311,” then click on “Ask a Question.” Write your concern and Code Enforcement will check on your report. **Phone calls may be faster, but do both calls and emails.**

3. Report what you see to Historic Preservation Office numbers:

Reuben McKnight: 253-591-5220. Email is reuben.mcknight@ci.tacoma.wa.us

Lauren Hoogkamer: 253-591-5254. Email is lhoogkamer@ci.tacoma.wa.us

"Jay Turner befriended me during one of his morning walks and after talking for a bit I met Julie Turner and they recommended that I write this article, in part to inform the North Slope residents of the history beneath their feet, but also to extend an offer to home owners that may be interested in what is in their yards!"

The History Beneath Our Feet

by Detectorist Paul Fischer

While the history "above the ground" in and around the Historic North Slope is undeniable, it is the history beneath our feet that really interests me! My name is Paul Fischer (Colonel, US Army Retired) and for the past 13+ years I have metal-detected as a hobby. I have worked for local military museums in Hawaii and Pennsylvania, recovered rings and valuables to their rightful owners, and have had opportunities to search ground untouched since history was deposited 70, 80 and even 170+ years ago! The historical value in discovering items that were lost so long ago is a huge source of enjoyment for me.

The most frequent question I get asked is "What is your best find?" and my response is always

the same, "It depends on what you consider best, in terms of historical value or monetary value? Or even the value of a smile when I return a lost family

treasure?" In a sense I love everything I find. Some of my most historical finds have been coins from the North Slope neighborhood. Though what may shock most reading this is a vast majority of my recoveries have occurred on an area of ground called a "curb strip." That lonely piece of ground between the sidewalk and the street has produced incredible finds in the short 2 ½ years that I have been detecting Tacoma since retiring from the military.

Many of you remember Barber coins, Mercury dimes, silver Washington quarters, Walking

Liberty half-dollars, among others, that were produced by the U.S. Mint pre-1965; and I love finding each and every one of them because of the historical (over the monetary) value.



1903 Barber Quarter

Holding a coin that is over 140 years old is amazing; it spawns thoughts of "Who dropped

this?" and "Where has this coin been?" It leads to visions of a bygone era of petticoats, top hats and a generally different cultural and societal mindset. I immediately think back to what was occurring during the year of that coin (the 1800s? the 1920s? the 1940s?) and think back

to when 10 ¢ could buy a loaf of bread or a couple of pieces of pie or glass bottled Coca-Cola (or 2)!

As stated, I only metal-detect curb or parking strips (technically city property), and the occasional park, but love when a homeowner honors me with a permission to hunt the ground around their home. I would love to detect any home in the North

Slope District and I am very professional and respectful of the ground/home and the owners that give me permission to discover Tacoma's history! Please give me a call: 808-354-4312 or drop me an email

paul.andrew.fischer@gmail.com



1834 Matron Large Cent



Small 8, Large Stars

NEW DEMOLITION REVIEW COULD SAVE HISTORIC STRUCTURES

by Marshall McClintock

At its June 19th meeting, Tacoma's Planning Commission unanimously approved and sent to City Council a long-sought demolition review ordinance. Such a review has been the goal of *Historic Tacoma* since 2007, and it looks within reach now. This doesn't directly concern the NSHD since as a city-designated historic district, like the Wedge or Old City Hall Districts, it has always had strict protections regarding demolitions. However, it's a major step for the city's unprotected historic buildings.

Historic Tacoma and other preservationists have long wanted some sort of citywide review of demolition permits to make sure that important cultural and historic resources across the city aren't demolished without at least the opportunity for community input. The demolition of the 1916 First Methodist Church (423 Martin Luther King Jr. Way) in 2007 was a major wake-up call to the city.

Concern has only increased with the creation of 13 Mixed-Use Centers (MUCs) across the city for concentrated growth and increased density. Almost all are located in historic neighborhood commercial districts like 6th Ave, Hilltop, Lincoln, McKinley, Proctor, Stadium and Edison.

City-designated historic districts have always had strict protections regarding demolitions. However, National Register Districts, such as Stadium-Seminary and Buckley's Addition, do not. National Register landmarks and districts are largely honorary designations, unlike city-designated landmarks and districts. Most folks don't know this difference, and we saw an outburst of public concern over a recent proposed up-zone for the 400 blocks of North Tacoma, North G Street and N. Yakima that lie

within the Stadium-Seminary National Register Historic District. The zoning change was abandoned by the Planning Commission, but would have greatly increased the development pressure on the historic houses there.

Like most boom towns, Tacoma expanded rapidly in all directions in the 1880-90s. Hilltop was the city's first suburb, Lincoln rivaled Stadium, and South Tacoma was home to the Northern Pacific railroad "shops." *Important historic landmarks are in all parts of the city.*



Just one example is the house at 1219 S. 13th, which was the home of Henry and Nettie Asberry. Nettie Asberry is considered the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in the U.S., in 1883, and was founder of the first NAACP chapter west of

the Rockies in 1913, here in Tacoma. *The house now falls within the Hilltop MUC zone.*

The proposed demolition review ordinance would require the city's Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) to review demolition requests of any cultural or historic resource of any size, in any MUC or National Register Historic District. Outside of those areas, demolition requests for commercial buildings 4000 sf. or larger would receive similar review. If LPC decides a building warrants landmark status, it then forwards the nomination to city council for the final decision. The size and use limitation beyond MUCs and National Register Districts is essentially to pilot and assess the process with the goal of eventually including smaller buildings and houses across the city.

This demolition review proposal is not perfect but it is an important first step.

Outside Cooking Holds Dangers for Children



Backyard fire pits have become more common, but along with their popularity is a growing risk of injuries — especially for children — experts warn. Parents - beware and be cautious.

Fire cooking devices are numerous in backyards across the country, rated recently as a popular outdoor design feature in yards. But the trend comes with a price — at least **5,300 injuries** related to fire pits or outdoor heaters were treated at emergency rooms in the U.S. in 2017, according to the Consumer Products Safety Commission. That's nearly **triple** the 1,900 injuries reported in 2008.



A quarter of the victims are under the age of 5. Many are burned the next day, when abandoned coals are still hot.



Discover

the **Local Ownership** Difference!

- Full Service Meat Department & In-Store Smokehouse
- Fresh Seafood Case
- Wide Variety of Natural & Organic
- Extensive Wine, Beer & Spirits Selection
- Beautiful Floral Department
- Delectable homemade Baked Goods
- Delicious Prepared Foods from our Deli

Downtown Tacoma's Full Service Grocery Store. Locally Owned and part of the Community since 1985

Help us save the environment, one bag at a time!

VC #444

Bring in this coupon for a FREE Stadium Thriftway Reusable Shopping Bag



Get Ready Tacoma
This summer, disposable plastic bags will become unavailable for use by retailers. Keep our reusable bags in the car for convenience.

WHERE THE HEART IS

By Maggie Kelly
From *Trolley Times*, April 1997

I'm taking a much needed break from painting to write this. No, I am not an artist. I am trying to paint the front hallway of our 1916 house. This particular paint project is not my favorite because it involves so much work. The front hallway consists of a front door, door to the kitchen, two large sliding doors to the living room, an open stairway leading to the second story over which vaults an impossible ceiling that continues to the second-story hallway. I am not the meticulous crafter that our neighbor is. On the other hand, I do set a minimum standard for myself which is slightly higher than my comfort level.

If I dislike painting that hallway, why don't I pay someone else to do it or move to a one-story house? *Because I love my Sheridan house!* It was love at first sight, that October day in the early 1970's when I first said in awed tones, "This is it. This is the one I want." (It was not until years later that I realized that I was responding to this house because it had the same floor plan of another house that held happy memories for me). Of course, I immediately lost all bargaining leverage that might have accrued to some aloofness. I am heart-bound to this house in a way that will allow me to pay someone else to paint it only if I am physically too infirm to do it myself.

The house had once been owned by an electrician, so of course it's not adequately wired! I keep playing the lottery, hoping to be able to afford some day to have all the wiring updated. Almost all the glass is still original, so it's like being in the carnival's funny house to see the "waverly" reflections that the old glass provides. Some of the windows had already been painted shut by the time we arrived. Some remained shut, for we would have broken that old glass to open them. We managed to free enough for airflow and egress to the roof. Each year it gets harder to wriggle out the window, onto the roof, in order to clean the upper level gutters or re-caulk the skylights that were added in the 80's.

All the woodwork including the picture rails were painted when we moved in. My friends and I had gone through this terrible phase when we were a few years younger - it was called "strip all wood paint and see the glories that lie underneath." However, since there were built-in bookcases in the living room and shoulder high wainscoting in the dining room, plus the sliding doors to deal with, I was cautious, even in my youth. One small patch told me that there was no "glorious wood" under that paint so all the woodwork is still painted.

A few changes have been made over these many years, both in the house and the yard. I rather suspect that those changes somehow reflect revolving tastes, interests and generally, place in life. The house was comfortable and "livable" immediately when we bought it and quite frankly I rather suspect we'll stay here for the rest of our lives.



R4construction.com
(253) 267-9759

R4CONCL89503

Renovate, Remodel, Restore



Sammy's Pizza

Now serving Beer & Wine at both of our locations!

Dine in & delivery!

Date Night Special!

2 Personal Pizzas
2 Adult Beverages

\$20.00

With this coupon

Tacoma

253-627-4300
1308 N I St

Fircrest

253-625-7776
1039 Regents Blvd

History Walking Tours in Tacoma

The City of Tacoma's Office of Historic Preservation invites you to learn more about Tacoma's history on one of the many walking tours that are hosted in our community. Tours are hosted by the City of Tacoma and other community partners. The guided walking tour of NSHD is led by Nitty Gritty Tours, a local company.

Our neighborhood has 32 new owners since January, (as of press time of late July), and many newcomers may *particularly* like to enjoy a nice walk and learn about their new neighborhood's history - and perhaps meet a few of their neighbors.

North Slope Walking Tour

September 7, 2019

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**MEET AT PARKWAY TAVERN
313 North I Street**

For information about other guided and self-guided tours, see <https://tinyurl.com/y6ev9tlb>

NSHD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deborah Cade	Chair	253-593-4569
Julie Turner	Secretary	253-383-2329
Todd Shepherd	Treasurer	360-649-5212
Judith Martin	Programs	253-307-7949
Marshall McClintock	Historic Pres.	253-627-4408
Geoff Corso	Beautification	253-627-4408
John Butler	Outreach	253-627-3379
Roger Johnson		253-272-5894
Lynda Shepherd		253-579-7942
Gyda May		253-441-9763
Karen May		253-779-0160
Melinda Gordon		253-961-9733
Alex Straub		206-349-1132

TacomaNorthSlope.org the NSHD web page

TROLLEY TIMES. The NSHD newsletter, published Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. Delivered to all single family homes in the NSHD. The current edition can always be found at: <https://goo.gl/5sdbHq>

North Slope NEWS. Sign up on NSHD web page, and have items of general NSHD news, events, and the on-line *Trolley Times* sent to you.

Send your questions, comments and remarks to news@TacomaNorthSlope.org

AFFORDABLE MASSAGE

*Not just a luxury, it's
healthcare!*

Tracy Painter
LMP

502 N. L Street
Tacoma WA 98403

253.370.9538
affordablemassagetacoma.com