

# Trolley Times

North Slope Historic District Inc. Nov. 2019  
501(c)(3) Organization Volume 92

## HOLIDAY SOCIAL, GAME SHOW HEADLINE NOV. 21 MEETING

That chill in the air is a reminder that the Holidays are almost here! The NSHD Board would like to invite you to join them November 21<sup>st</sup> to celebrate the upcoming Holidays. Our sponsors for the Trolley Times will be on hand so you can thank for their continued support for the Historic District.

NSHD Board elections will also be held. See article below for information on joining the Board.

And, put on your game-show hat! This year Deb Freedman and Brendan Balaam from Tacoma Historical Society will engage the group in a Jeopardy-style game centered on "Old School Tacoma." Come and enjoy some holiday goodies and test your knowledge of old-time Tacoma.

### DONATIONS WANTED

NSHD would like to provide some items for those in need this winter. Please bring warm gloves, hats and wool socks to the meeting, or leave them on porch at 515 N. M St. They will be donated to the Salvation Army.

Thank you for your donation.

**November 21st, Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 901 N. J St.  
Enter on N. 9th St. Social starts at 6:30**

## Board Election of Members Slated for November Meeting

The Board of Directors of NSHD, Inc. has openings available for new members. We need volunteers who have time to devote a few hours each quarter to helping on one of our Committees:

1. **Beautification - Care of traffic circles, management of Annual Clean-Up, special projects**
2. **Historic Preservation - Ex-officio member of Landmarks Preservation Commission**
3. **Neighborhood Outreach - New-owner material, newsletter delivery help, special projects**
4. **Programs - Selection and management of quarterly programs for NSHD residents**
5. **Communications - Newsletter production, MailChimp emails, website updates**

Board Meetings are held once a quarter, in members' homes. We discuss issues we need to address, upcoming projects, subjects for programs. Program Meetings for all NSHD residents are once a quarter, in the month after Board Meetings.

To volunteer for the Board, call or write the Secretary, Julie Turner, give your name and state your interest area, if any. At the meeting, when your name is called, stand and tell the group just a few sentences about why you'd like to join, and what you'd like to do to help.

Julie Turner, Secretary juliejayturner@gmail.com 253-383-2329

# North Slopers Participate in Annual Free Clean-up Day

By Alex Straub

The North Slope got a little lighter and cleaner after the Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> Free Clean-up Day event that took place at the Jason Lee Middle School Parking lot. The North Slope Historic District (NSHD) Board coordinates the event every year with the Tacoma Public Utilities Solid Waste Division so North Slopers have the opportunity to clean unwanted and non-working items out of their garages, basements, and other spaces. In addition to having TPU with their large steel waste dumpsters, the Goodwill was taking donations, and a shredding service was on-site to shred documents containing personal information.

**The event was no small feat.** NSHD Board member Geoff Corso volunteers as the NSHD Beautification Committee Chair, and has been organizing this event for over ten years. Fortunately, he was able to round up at least a dozen NSHD Board Members and fellow North Slopers to help at the various unloading stations. Additionally, volunteers worked hand-in-hand with a 'work crew' of those court-ordered to do community-service hours.

The event ran from 10AM to 1:45PM and had an almost endless stream of vehicles loaded up with junk and unwanted stuff for the duration of the event, though a slight lull provided an opportunity for volunteers to eat lunch and

homemade treats provided by several NSHD board members. **According to TPU, this event served 228 North Slopers and took in almost 30 tons of unwanted junk and shredding from our neighborhood.**



## NSHD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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
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Gyda May		253-441-9763
Karen May		253-779-0160
Melinda Gordon		253-961-9733
Alex Straub		206-349-1132

**[TacomaNorthSlope.org](http://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](mailto:news@TacomaNorthSlope.org)**

# Historic Footnotes of 802 N. J St.

(Edited From Dec. 1999 Trolley Times)

By Roger Johnson, NSHD Ex-Officio Member, LPC in 1999

The North Slope Historic District is now established. The final expansion is awaiting City Council approval. *What does it all mean?*

For one thing, the city agrees with us that this District is unique and deserves recognition and protection. It means that the design and layout of the neighborhood, and the varied architectural styles throughout the District, deserve preservation and respect when new construction occurs. It means we have taken steps to preserve our history - tangible, visible and spiritual links to the people who lived here before us.

802 N. J Street is a good example: it is on the original 1892 Sandborn map. It was the only house on the even number side of the J Street. It faced "J" and had a shake roof. (We removed the shakes in 1987 when reroofing, 100 years later!)

The house at 802 was built in 1889 by the Wheeler family. Henry Wheeler was born in the house in 1892. He later became an important leader in the Tacoma timber industry. Eventually he gave his sawmill to his employees when he retired!

In 1982, Mr. Wheeler drove up to 802 and quickly walked up the front steps, asking to tour his boyhood home. We were delighted to show him around. We had a million questions to ask! He couldn't remember too many details. His family moved when he was eight. He did remember sitting on a granite retaining wall early in the mornings, waiting for the horse-drawn milk wagon. They had horses of their own out back. He remembered ornate woodwork inside and outside: a fancy widows' walk and gable ornaments.

The Wheelers sold to the McKees in 1900. The McKee name is imbedded in the concrete steps

leading up to the front of the house. They owned the meat market at 1006 S. K Street and the "United Market" (phone, Main 878). The McKees lived in the house for 32 years; raised a family and had dreams for the future. They lived through WWI and the Great Depression. What was it like at 802?

The house sat vacant in 1933. Then Albert Hill and Mrs. Leffingwell were here until 1936. Vacant again in 1937 and 1938. The bank



repossessed, and made 802 N. J into a duplex. Mrs. Charmley (advertising manager at Totem Stores) and Walter Fawcett (timekeeper at Concrete & Steel Pipe Co.) with wife Jane occupied the apartments. [Cont. page 4]

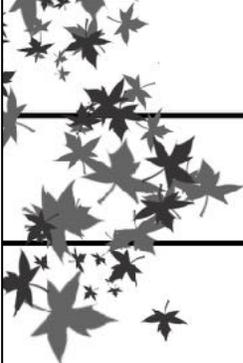
[Continued from page 3]

In 1939 the central heat was installed, a very modern oil-fired, forced-air furnace (the size of a truck.)

In the '40's, various people came and went. A salesman for Wakefield Motors, a salesman for Consolidated Dairy, a music teacher and some post WWII widows: Mabel Dodds and Daisy Adams.

In 1951 Murry Marshall (salesman for Forrester & Lee) with wife Lena purchased 802. He later ran the "International Accountants Society Correspondence School" from the home. In 1971 the Marshalls sold to the current owners.

These are the simplest facts: names, occupations and dates - a small window to the past, an identity, real people occupying the same space we occupy for now. What were their hopes and dreams? Was there love and joy, loss and grief, success and renewal? Are they a part of us? Are we a part of the future?



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# FROM THE EDITOR... Helping Under the Radar

I was thinking a few weeks ago, as we started to put down ideas for this issue of the newsletter, that there are a bunch of unsung heroes who help with the operation of our neighborhood organization. Since we are an all-volunteer group, we are dependent on people who contribute the extra effort it nearly always takes to make our activities work to contribute to neighborhood livability.

Many of these volunteers fly under the radar when thanks are handed out - and they shouldn't! Here are a few that came to my mind:

- **Immanuel Presbyterian Church**, whose Board lets us use the church meeting room for a modest donation for our meetings each quarter.
- **OneRealtyTurnKey Real Estate**, whose workers send us notices when a property sells from the Multiple Listing Service. We use the data to deliver new-owner material to introduce NSHD, Inc. to new residents.
- **Bentson's Printing**, on Tacoma Ave., whose owner, Tadd Bentson, has accommodated us frequently when we have snafus getting the newsletter to his shop in a timely manner. He has given us fast turn-arounds quite a few times. And the newsletter is always done just as we send it to the company.
- **The resident-volunteers who deliver 50-100 newsletters** to doorsteps, regardless of the weather. The faithfulness of this group amazes me with every newsletter delivered.
- In addition to these stalwarts are the volunteers who **count out newsletters, bag them and deliver the bags** to the delivery folks. Both of these "jobs" sound easier than they are!
- The many NSHD neighbors who volunteer to work pretty hard for 4 hours each year at our **Annual Clean-Up**, to earn the free disposal of our "junk" by the Refuse Department. And we can't leave out those who donate and deliver food and drinks.
- **Geoff Corso**, Board Member who shows up early for every Program Meeting at Immanuel to get the treat table set up, the coffee made and various hand-outs laid out on the greeting table. And, after the meeting, guess who puts it all away? How many years have you been doing this, Geoff?

*Julie Turner, Editor*

"A country without a past has the emptiness of a barren continent; and a city without old buildings is like a man without a memory."

Graeme Shankland

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# News Around the NSHD

## City-wide Demolition Code Passed by City Council

At the September 24th City Council meeting, the Council passed the demolition review ordinance that will apply across the city, but especially to National Historic Districts and Multi-Use Centers. The new ordinance requires the Landmarks Preservation Commission to review demolition requests for any **cultural or historic resource of any size in National Districts and MUCs**. Outside of these areas, demolition requests for commercial buildings of 4000 square feet or more would receive similar review. If LPC decides a building warrants

landmark status, it then forwards the nomination to the city council for the final decision.

This ordinance sets up a public process that gives National Register Districts and cultural resources in all areas of Tacoma a chance to avoid demolition, to preserve these resources beyond just those in city-designated historic districts, such as NSHD. The Demolition Review Ordinance gives these properties a chance to be saved for future generations to know and appreciate.

## Update on Illegal Demolition of Home at 811 N. Ainsworth

At a recent NSHD, Inc. Board Meeting, Marshall McClintock, our Ex Officio member of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, (LPC), gave an update on the status of the property at 811 N. Ainsworth.

Mr. McClintock stated that earlier, the property owner submitted to LPC a plan for a very large, two-and-a half story house that the Commission deemed was out of scale for the lot. The Commission recommended the owner employ an architect to help him with a new plan that would meet the NSHD's and the commission's requirements.

In the interim, the Commission approved the removal of the bit of the remaining facade of the demolished house.

At the end of September, the owner's architect came back with a somewhat smaller plan that LPC again turned down as being out of scale and massing. The Commission was unanimous that they would only approve a house that was similar in scale and massing to the demolished house, plus the addition the Commission had approved before the illegal demolition. The new house would also need to meet current required setbacks.

Thus, no new plans are yet in place for the property at 811 North Ainsworth.

## Keep the Leaves Away From the Street and Storm Drains

Environment Services of Tacoma's city government has a reminder about fall leaves we should all remember to **prevent leaf-polluted run-off of storm water, which goes directly to Puget Sound:**

1. Improper disposal of leaves, grass trimming and clipping can contribute to serious water pollution problems. Use brown yard-waste bins, or compost them for use in plant beds.
2. Never dispose of leaves or grass clippings or other vegetation in or near storm drains, stream, lakes or Puget Sound. **Never blow them into the street where they end up in storm drains.**

For more information on Tacoma's Curb-side Yardwaste Recycling, call 253-565-5955



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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.

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# Tacoma Wants You to Recycle Right!

By Preston Peck, City of Tacoma, Environmental Services

Are you confused by what goes in your blue recycling bin? You're not alone. With so many types of packaging in stores, and new ones coming out every day, we are flooded with questions as we recycle to save resources.

Recycling can be frustrating for both residents and recycling processors. Residents want to recycle as much as possible, while processors constantly watch the market for different materials as they figure out how to get those materials made into new products. While residents have great intentions, and the City of Tacoma appreciates your help in moving toward our environmental goals, I would like to take a minute to highlight some common items that we **"Wishcycle,"** as in placing a confusing item in the bin and **wish** that gets recycled.

**Plastic bags** – Plastic bags cause BIG problems for recycling processors. They are extremely light and flexible, so they easily wrap around spinning machinery used to separate materials. After too many plastic bags wrap around the machinery, they must shut down the equipment, and workers climb into dangerous positions to remove the bags - costing money, time, and endangering workers. *You can recycle plastic bags by dropping them off at the Tacoma Recycle Center (3510 S. Mullen Street) or at many local grocery retailers.*

**Plastic clamshells** – Thinking about putting your favorite berry or salad container into your blue bin? Think again. Clamshells cause problems for processors because they are flattened in the process, making them a similar density as paper and the electronic sorters place it with the paper, furthering contamination. *You can recycle plastic clamshells by dropping them off at the Tacoma Recycle Center (3510 S. Mullen Street).*

**To-go coffee cups, pizza boxes, and other single-use items** – I know, I know...it's made of plastic/paper though! That's true, *but*, to-go coffee cups have a thin plastic coating on the inside (same with milk and beverage cartons) that makes them very difficult to process at a paper mill. Also, coffee cups, pizza boxes, and other plastic single-use items are usually dirty from food, and to Recycle Right we need to make sure items that go in the blue bin are accepted *and* that they are empty, clean, and dry. ***You cannot recycle these items in Tacoma. Please place them in the garbage.***

Thank you for your help as we work to improve recycling across Tacoma. If you have more questions, please visit [www.tacomarecycles.org](http://www.tacomarecycles.org) and use our "What Goes Where Feature" to find out how to properly dispose of questionable items. You can also download the Recycle Coach app on the Google Play Store or Apple App Store to find out your collection schedule, what goes where, and get instant notifications about changes to your schedule!

Preston Peck  
City of Tacoma, Environmental Services  
Phone: (253) 593-7707  
Email: [ppeck@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:ppeck@cityoftacoma.org)

## FOR SALE NSHD BRONZE PLAQUE

### Want a Plaque for Your House?

If you would like a bronze plaque to mark your house as part of the NSHD National Register of Historic Places, the NSHD, Inc. Board has them for sale. Plaques are 5 x 7 and cost \$80 each.

To purchase, contact Karen May  
253-779-0160, or [klmay@wamail.net](mailto:klmay@wamail.net)

