



Trolley Times

North Slope Historic District Inc. Aug. 2020
501(c)(3) Organization Volume 95

Virus Forces August Cancellations of National Night Out, August Program

The usual National Night Out in early August, and the NSHD, Inc.'s August Program will be canceled, due to the continuing State requirements of precautions against the Covid-19 virus. The National office of National Night Out suggests that all groups move their NNO dates to October 6, 2020, but we should remain in a holding pattern on this date, awaiting local announcements. Sadly, we've had to forego our garage sale in July, as well.

Deborah Cade, Chair of NSHD, Inc., wrote to the Board: "We don't have a program set for August, and given the trends in Pierce County it's unlikely that by then we will be allowed to have a larger gathering."

We will send out MailChimp announcements, if we have them, and you may consult the website: TacomaNorthSlope.org

2020 Community Cleanup Program Curbside, Aug. 8th

Taken from City of Tacoma Website

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and health considerations, the 2020 Community Cleanup program has been modified to serve Tacoma customers with **curbside pickup, on August 8th**, rather than at a central location as in the past. Residents can dispose of up to 25 sealed bags of unusable household items on their neighborhood's designated date, at no charge.

Single-family homes and duplexes can participate on their neighborhood's designated Cleanup date below. Community Cleanups are not available for multifamily or commercial customers. For additional questions, call Solid Waste Management at **(253) 502-2100**. (Expect a long wait for a place in line.)

Waste Free 253: The Community Cleanup program is intended only for items that are no longer usable. If you have items in **good working condition**, we encourage you to find a donation facility or organization that is safely accepting items for drop-off. Or, save your items for donation at a later date. To find information on donation organizations near you, visit cityoftacoma.org/wastefree253.

Visit cityoftacoma.org/cleanup to find your neighborhood's Curbside Community Cleanup date, or call (253) 502-2100 for more information. Watch for card in the mail for details.

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

Taken from the archives of the NSHD National Historic District

The house at 314 North I Street is one of the youngest homes included in the NSHD's period of significance on the National Register, which runs from 1881 to 1955. It was built in 1946 and is called a Ranch Style home, built of brick with a dominant front feature of a drive-in garage. (Picture ,1996, shows the conversion to living area.) It was the home of Dr. Samuel L and Susan Blair, he being a physician and surgeon.

Dr. Blair maintained a practice in Tacoma for nearly 50 years, arriving here in 1906. Blair grew up on a "wheat and stock farm in Illinois," and received his education in Chicago. His first patients in private practice were in Trinidad , Colorado.

Here, Blair had the distinction of having operated on the notorious train robber, Blackjack, who, after attempting to "hold up a Colorado and Southern train which had had recent experience with gunmen," was shot by the conductor. The prisoner was brought to Dr. Blair by the sheriff. Apparently the man's arm was so badly damaged that an amputation was necessary.



314 N I St c. 1996

Dr. Blair relates in a newspaper article that "there was nothing for it but to amputate the arm, so I told him and Blackjack said no, but there was very little he could say about it and I took the arm off. For all our efforts, he was hanged shortly after in New Mexico, for train robbery carried the death penalty in those days..."

In Tacoma, Blair and his wife first ran the Tacoma Private Sanitarium, which occupied the present site of the Buckley-King Mortuary at 1002 S Yakima. Here Mrs. Blair would often act as her husband's anesthetist. Later, Blair received a contract to care for the employees of the Tacoma Smelter, which he held for 10 years. At that time, Blair was paid 50 cents a month for each of the 500 workers, and received \$10 to deliver a baby.

Blair was still seeing patients occasionally at 90 years of age.

Note the old Studebaker truck in the driveway.

HERE, CHICK CHICK CHICK!

by Shelley Wilkinson

Due to uncertainty about Coronavirus, my husband and I decided that it wasn't worth the risk to leave the country in the gloomy month of March 2020, and made the decision to cancel a glorious week of vacation in Mexico. Most people would use the opportunity of a stay-cation to relax. Instead, we used this particular week to take the first step in becoming more sustainable in the middle of the city - urban chicken keeping.



Florence

During a brief moment of national egg shortage, we could think of no better time to make our dream of keeping chickens happen. Would it be possible to have an urban homestead? The NSHD isn't exactly a

neighborhood where a pre-made chicken coop can be

thrown up in a day, whether it be due to rules of placement as outlined by city law, or for aesthetically pleasing reasons and historical accuracy as outlined by the NSHD bylaws. I also had no intention of being a nuisance to my neighbors, and I wanted the chickens to be in a coop that was permanent and matched our home.

The basement has its own access at the back of the house with an exterior concrete slab for floor. Above is a back porch off of the second level, which serves as the ceiling over this concrete slab. This area had been enclosed by horse wire to create a dog kennel of sorts. My husband masterminded a design to create what we call a "chicken condo."

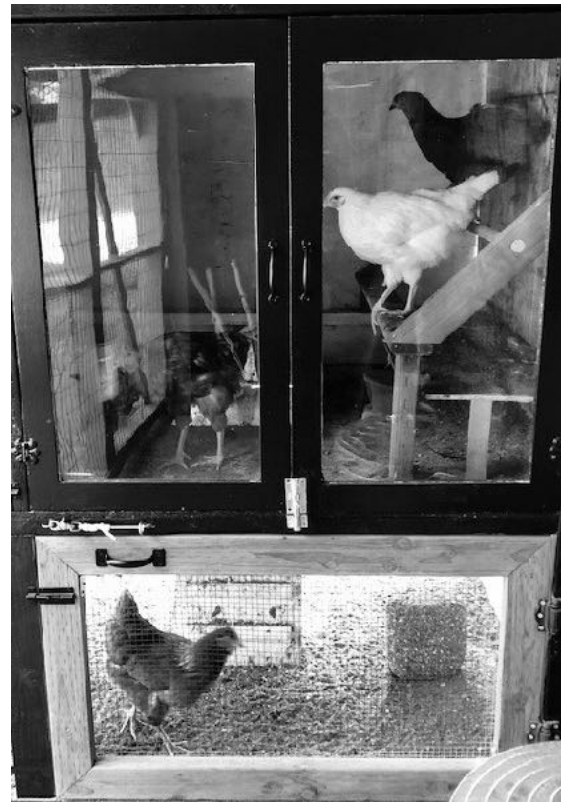
Our coop is two levels, built into the corner of the preexisting area, enclosed by siding that closely matched our house. We built a ramp that we can open and close using a pulley, allowing the chickens to climb down from the upper level. The top level contains a roost for sleeping, nesting box for egg laying, and a feeding area. The bottom level remains open to air and enclosed by chicken wire.

Editor Comment

Many people in the NSHD grow chickens and if you keep your ears open you can spot them. Shelley is one of our NSHD neighbors and she tells how she started from scratch (pun intended) and became a chicken owner.

We found hinges from old doors that we incorporated into the coop, and the access to the top level are two glass-fronted cabinets taken from the kitchen when it was remodeled. What I love most about our set up is that you don't have to walk outside to collect eggs and clean out the coop as it can be accessed from the basement. It's perfect for typical Washington, rainy mornings.

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Florence and friends, above Izzy in lower condo

Our five fowls are now lovingly, collectively, referred to as, "The Karens." They are a breed known for great egg production as well as meat. We are playing chicken Russian roulette as we can't yet confirm if all of our Karens are actually females, and roosters are not allowed in Tacoma city limits. We will have to find a solution if and when we hear the first crow.

We try to give our Karens outdoor time to eat grass, weeds, and bugs, as this provides more golden and nutritious egg yolks. Seeing chickens in the neighborhood is a surprise and a novelty to many who walk by our busy corner lot.

So far the Karens have only left the perimeter of our property once, and our gracious neighbors didn't mind the extra fertilization their rose garden received. Chickens move together in flocks, eventually recognize your voice, and can be trained to come when called. Ours love to lie in the sun, eat my freshly planted flowers, and harass the cat.

I recommend doing plenty of research prior to getting your chicks. You must have an indoor area for the first couple of months for them to live in. The city of Tacoma does not allow more than six chickens per parcel of property, and as mentioned prior, roosters are not allowed in city limits. They also require daily care if you don't want your yard to smell.

There are more good than bad attributes to chicken keeping, though. You begin to see that each bird has its own personality so it is easy to connect with them as a pet. You make friends quickly when they hear you can be a source of fresh eggs, and I always find takers who want the manure. Hopefully, the Karens will pull through and we will be eating our first home-sourced omelettes this summer.

Where do tough chickens come from?
Hard-boiled eggs!



Help us save the environment, one bag at a time! **VC #444**

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



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

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Guidelines for Property Owners in Tacoma's North Slope Historic District

By Jay Turner

Congratulations! You are the owner of a property in the North Slope Historic District (NSHD). A growing number of people are choosing to invest in NSHD and with good reason. Living in a neighborhood with historic significance and a palpable sense of place offers satisfactions that are reflected in rising property values. *But preserving and enhancing the quality of our historic districts is a responsibility especially for the property owners.*

What is my role as property owner?

The preservation of NSHD rich architectural heritage depends on the willingness of all NSHD owners to exercise proper care in the maintenance of their properties. The Historic District and Landmarks review exists to aid property owners in discharging this responsibility. *If you are planning any modifications to the exterior of a your home, you are required to have the project reviewed and approved by the Commission before work can commence.* This procedure will help you preserve the investment you have already made in an historically-significant property.

The Commission reviews your proposal to evaluate the effect of the proposed changes on the architectural and historical character of your building and/or the historic district.

Are there any types of work that do not require the commission's approval?

Interior work and ordinary exterior repairs and maintenance, such as replacing broken window glass or repainting do not require the Commission's approval.

Can the commission make me restore my building to the way it originally looked?

No. The Commission reviews only changes that the property owner proposes to make. Non-historic changes may be already grandfathered in for the Tacoma Register.

Will the commission make me repair my building?

To help prevent such "demolition by neglect," Tacoma passed an ordinance that requires that designated properties be kept in good repair. If you are interested in making repairs to your home, the HPO staff is available to give you advice. *Contact your Historic Preservation Office, (HPO) at 253-592-5220, or 253-591-5254.*

Will landmark designation prevent all alterations and new construction?

No. Landmark designation does not "freeze" a building or an area. Alterations, and new construction continue to take place, but the Landmarks Commission must review the proposed changes and find them to be appropriate. This procedure helps ensure that the special qualities of the designated buildings are not compromised or destroyed. For new construction, the Commission approves such proposals when the design of the infill is appropriate to the character of the historic district.

How can I find architects or contractors who have experience with historic buildings?

There is a growing number of professionals who are accustomed to working on historic buildings or with renovation methods that are sensitive to the historic character of old buildings. Ask professionals about their experience with landmark buildings and whether they are familiar with the Historic District and Landmark Review application process. *Request references and look at completed projects.*

How is the Tacoma Register of Historic Places different from the National Register?

The National Register of Historic Places is a list of buildings, of local, state and national importance. The only connection the National Register has to the Tacoma Register of Historic Districts is that they share the same homes.

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Remember to Vote for Comm. Center at Cushman Station

The Covid-19 virus has slowed the City's public workshop schedule to take input for the use of the old Tacoma Power and Electric Co. buildings at North 21st, between Adams and Washington Sts.

To keep up with developments in deciding the use of these two buildings, and to speak up for them to become of public use as a Community Center, don't forget to **check in with the website the North End Neighborhood Council maintains**. You may find this website here: **cushmancommons.org** Click on the sign-up button at the bottom of the right side of the page so you can get **updates**.

There is currently no place to write to support using the Cushman Center for public gatherings. So, keep clicking the button for updates! When asked to comment, please write in to use for a North End Community Center, to be called "Cushman Commons."

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Carolyn meets with each client to get to know the person or pet who will be honored. Portrait commissions available.

From page 5

The Landmark Preservation Commission is a City of Tacoma entity that manages buildings and districts on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places. The ordinance governing NSHD gives protection to its historic architecture by requiring review by the Landmarks Preservation Commission for any external structural changes to the subject property. The National Register is a national function that gives only honor to the homes in the district.

How do I find out more about the effects of the historic designation?

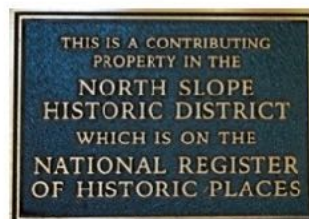
The NSHD has a web page devoted to informing home owners of their history, historic preservation, Landmarks Preservation Commission, Design Guidelines and requirements. Go here: <http://www.TacomaNorthSlope.org>

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.

253-779-0160 or klmay@centurylink.net



*"He who loves an old house
never loves in vain."
Isabel La Howe Conant*



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TacomaNorthSlope.org the NSHD web page

TROLLEY TIMES. The NSHD newsletter, published Feb., May, Aug., and Nov.

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

Team Tuttle Helps Home Sellers!

Deciding to list your home is a significant decision, and we understand the weight that it carries.

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Tom Giske, NSHD's New Beautification Chair

By Tom Giske

I grew up on Vashon Island, attending the original Burton grade school, and then migrated to Seattle where I graduated from Roosevelt high school. When I left the area for college and a career in the computer industry, I knew I would return. And 50 years later I did.

Retiring to a waterfront home on the Olympic Peninsula, I became a devoted gardener. But after 12 years of pristine views and quiet living, my wife Heidi and I decided we needed a more interactive life in a more diversified neighborhood. Heidi lived here during her youth, my grandparents immigrated from Norway to Cheyenne Street and my Dad graduated from Stadium High School, so Tacoma was a natural target.

And here we are, enjoying our new home on N. K Street. I have always believed in volunteer work, having served on a board of education and the Jefferson County planning commission. To help maintain and extend the beauty of our neighborhood is an exciting opportunity. I know Geoff Corso has been tremendous in this role and it

will be challenging to keep his legacy moving forward. But with help from many of you in our district, I'm sure we can make it happen.

In fact, with thanks to those already contributing their time, I hope we can convince others of you that it will be worth your time to help out. Perhaps we can grow a group of block captains with a mission we can define together. I understand our current priorities are maintaining the traffic circle plantings, litter patrols, and coordinating cleanup activities with the city. Whatever else we decide to do will be more fun if we do it together. Teamwork always makes volunteer work more fun, and over the years I have found it to be a great way to build lasting relationships with neighbors.

To work around the virus issues, I hope we can create a web portal to manage our activities. Please let me know if one of you has the experience to help us do so. And please call me at 425-301-5925, or send me an email to tgiske@gmail.com to volunteer, or to just share your ideas.

NSHD Began 25 Years Ago On North J Street

On August 8, 1995, Ordinance #25747, was signed and the fledgling North Slope Historic District - named by someone at the city - began, and a small group of North J St. neighbors rejoiced. In fact, several of us felt quite satisfied with our Historic District on one street! However, it wasn't long before we began to wonder if we didn't need more company, more blocks to help us keep our homes safe from demolition.

So, when Bill Johnston invited me to talk about the new District at the neighborhood meetings held in the Bavarian Restaurant's (now gone) upstairs room, I went, and talked about what we did. I said, you just need 50% of property owners on each street, and side streets to the alleys to add to the district and stop demolitions.

Marilyn Torgerson, who lived on North I St., started right in and got a whopping 70% of property owners on No. I St. to agree to join the new historic district. Slowly, other people asked about the effort, and we copied

homemade forms and gave them out, as teams began to form on K and L and M Streets.

About this time, Valerie Sivinski took me to task for how I was selling the making of the district - she told me that there were a lot better reasons to make an historic district here than just to stop demolitions. She said that this is where the *real workers and pioneers of Tacoma lived* - where the bankers, the clerks, the salespeople, the secretaries, lawyers, architects, teachers, and owners of small businesses built their homes. She said that we were one of Tacoma's first "streetcar suburbs" and we should all be proud to live in the homes of the people who built our town in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries.

So, I changed the "sales pitch," rather shame-facedly, I'll admit. And, it took us 5 more years to complete the District in two more phases.

By Julie Turner, Editor