

# Trolley Times

Volume # 26

News of the North Slope Historic District

Jan.-Feb.-Mar. 2002

## *Alcohol Impact Ordinance*

The Washington State Liquor Control Board approved Tacoma's Alcohol Impact Ordinance on Dec. 12th 2001. The ordinance was approved by the City Council in October and at a hearing that was held by the Liquor Control Board on Nov. 19th. Approximately 100 people attended to voice views that were overwhelmingly supportive.

Under the ordinance, certain products which can be bought by the single container, with a fortified alcohol content and low cost-per-ounce, will be banned from sale in the AIA. Neighborhood activists, police and human services organizations maintain that these products can be linked to chronic public inebriation and its social and public costs. The AIA encompasses a large area, from the 509 corridor, all of downtown, along the Schuster Parkway to Alder, then along Highway 16 to I-5 and along I-5 to the Puyallup River.

The North Slope is in the middle of the area. The 7-11 on North I, the Shortstop Market on Division and the Corner Store on North K still sell these products. The AIA takes effect on March 1st, 2002.



## Next North Slope Meeting

Our next North Slope meeting will be **Monday, Feb. 25th, at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, North 9th & J**. It will be a dessert potluck, so bring your favorite! Refreshments will start at 6:30, the meeting at 7:00 PM. Mayor Bill Baarsma will be with us to talk about Tacoma and neighborhoods. The Mayor wants feedback from citizens about how they can participate in deciding how to use the city resources. Come prepared with questions for a Q and A session.

## *Our Very Own Park*

The North Slope Historic District Park at North 8th & K is approaching completion at press time. It should be finished when you read this!

The park has been a project of the North Slope Historic District, the City and the North End Council. North Slope residents suggested the idea in the early 1990s, but the North Slope Historic District had no money to proceed. Our representatives on the North End Neighborhood Council eventually secured the funds from the Thea Foss Bond Issue given to each neighborhood council, but it took years to work out the transfer of the property from Tacoma Power to the City.

Metro Parks was the designing and developing agency, although the property is owned by the city. Maintenance of the property is still being negotiated by Metro Parks and the City of Tacoma. The small park contains a wooden piece of play equipment for small children, seating, handicapped ramp, and new plantings. The design and equipment in the park were approved by the Landmarks Commission, and the sign that will be put up eventually will need the commission's approval also.

A dedication ceremony is planned for May, during National Historic Preservation month. The park will be dedicated to Valerie Sivinski, former Tacoma Historic Preservation Officer who provided guidance for the creation of the North Slope Historic District.



## New Steering Committee Leader

Mitch Robinson is the new chair of the North Slope Historic District Steering Committee.

A native- Midwesterner, Mitch has been active in the neighborhood since moving here about three years ago. He's marketing manager for Expedia, Inc., an online travel service. Before moving to the Northwest, Mitch spent more than 12 years as director of marketing/programming and public relations for FOX and ABC-TV affiliates in Iowa and Illinois.

Mitch and his wife, Mary Boone, have a two-year-old daughter, Eve. They're expecting a son in the spring.

Mitch's priorities for the steering committee are:

- To rely upon the vast experience of veteran steering committee members, while integrating new people into the group.
- To find more and better ways to communicate neighborhood news to current and new residents.
- To launch a website that includes general neighborhood information and news.
- To create more opportunities for residents to come together both to share information and for social functions.

Anyone interested in becoming more involved in the neighborhood or who would like to share ideas can contact Mitch at boonrob@aol.com or by calling 272-0165.

Do you have suggestions for future North Slope meetings and projects? Please phone any steering committee member with your ideas.

We want input from you!

## Dates to Remember

February 5-Election Day  
 February 12-Lincoln's Birthday  
 February 14-Valentine's Day  
 February 18-Presidents' Day  
 February 20-Police Citizens' Academy  
 February 21-Neighborhood Town Hall 5:00 pm  
 February 25-North Slope Mtg-6:30 pm  
 March-Sector 2 Police/Community Meeting  
 March 2-Adopt a Spot Litter Pickup 10:00 am  
 March 17-St. Patrick's Day  
 March 20-Spring Begins!  
 March 24-Palm Sunday  
 March 31-Easter  
 April-Next Newsletter



## City Building Permits and Historic Preservation in the North Slope

by Roger Johnson

As the North Slope Historic District representative to the Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission, I have been aware of a problem in the NSHD that perhaps needs some clarification. The City of Tacoma has a building code to ensure safety and consistency in systems and engineering. Whenever a residence is being altered, a permit is usually needed. There are exceptions but these are few. Call the permit desk at 591-5030 and tell them what you are considering, and they will get you started.



In the North Slope Historic District we have another set of guidelines that apply to the exterior of our homes. These guidelines help us make decisions on changes to the exterior without losing or significantly altering the historic features and character of our homes. These guidelines are the compass that keep the ever-changing NSHD from drifting too far from the unique, diverse, vibrant and historic area that we all enjoy now. There are many examples in Tacoma where a fine historic home or area was altered, and in just a few years it had

lost the features that made it special. Our guidelines keep us focused.

Once you have applied for your permit there is one more step to actually getting it. Your plan is reviewed by the Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission. The process is very simple. Fill out a form, get some pictures and drawings of your project, and discuss your plans with the commission. It will work with you to make them happen within the historic guidelines. Once your plans are approved by the LPC your permit will be issued.

The North Slope Historic District has had a rash of major changes made to primary and secondary historic homes without permits or LPC review. Some of the changes were done with sensitivity and common sense in respect to the historic nature of the house and neighborhood. They won approval of the LPC without a battle. On the other hand some changes were clumsy and inappropriate, and the cheapest methods of making the desired changes were employed. This approach not only devalues the home but it is a blight on the neighborhood. The neighborhood has an appearance and spirit that is easily understood, and whenever inappropriate changes are made the appearance and spirit are damaged.

The next time the weather allows, go for a walk through your neighborhood and take a close look at all the styles of architecture. Notice how changes and additions alter the look and spirit of homes. Think of all the generations of people who have lived here before and all those who will follow. It is our responsibility to preserve the NSHD so that the spirit of the Tacoma pioneers is easily understood by future generations.



## ***Adopt-a-Spot News***

The next Adopt-A-Spot litter pick up on North I Street will be Saturday, March 2nd, at 10:00 AM. If it is raining, we'll try March 9th, a week later. We will meet in the parking lot behind Immanuel Church, North 9th & J Street. There should be a lot of debris since our last pickup in August! We welcome new volunteers as well as the "old regulars!"

## ***Adopt-a-Storm Drain***

City of Tacoma wants citizens to "Adopt a Storm Drain." If you have a drain in front of your parking strip, keep it free of leaves and debris by cleaning regularly with a rake or shovel. Residents on corners can also check those drains. Heavy downpours quickly overflow many drains, and the city can't get to all of them right away.

The North Slope Historic District will help the City of Tacoma install "*Save the Bay*" stickers by storm drains in our area. We'll start in May or June, as pavement needs to be dry. The plastic salmon markers will replace the stenciled words to remind us that what is dumped down storm drains goes directly to local waterways and the bay, thus endangering salmon. If you would like to join a work party installing markers, please call 627-4537 to leave your name and number. You'll be called later with more information.

## **Coming soon: A Web Site**

The North Slope Historic District is launching its own Web site in 2002. The site will debut in early February. It is being designed to share neighborhood information and news.

"This won't replace our newsletter, but it will be one more way in which people can learn about the North Slope and about upcoming events," says Mitch Robinson, chair of the North Slope Historic District Steering Committee.

Anyone interested in receiving an e-mail notice when the site goes live can send an e-mail to boonrob@aol.com. Suggestions about the site content can be sent to the same address.



## ***Police/Community Meeting***

The last Sector 2 police/community meeting was held Dec. 12. A speaker from the Department of Corrections discussed the North End program. A police representative also talked about the Feb. 5th bond issue for a new police facility. Liaison officers are PPO Kothstein (591-5290) and PPO Stark (594-7837). Lieut. Fedderson's number is 591-5697. They remind us that to lower the number of car prowls we need to park in well-lit areas and not leave valuables where they can be seen.

The next Sector 2 meeting will be in March. Watch the police news in The News Tribune for a notice or telephone a liaison officer for information.

## ***Citizens' Academy***

The Tacoma Police Dept. is sponsoring its free Citizens' Academy with classes pertaining to all areas of law enforcement. Beginning February 20 the group will meet Wednesdays from 6-9 pm for 12 weeks. For further information call Sylvia at 591-5914 or Sgt. Griswold at 591-5144.

## ***CPR Class***

*Fourteen North Slope residents received CPR certification Oct. 13th at a class presented by the Tacoma Fire Department. Congratulations!*

## ***Lend a Hand?***

Two of our volunteer newsletter carriers have recently moved. If you can spare an hour four times a year to deliver about 50 papers, please phone 627-4537.

Thanks!

## ***Town Hall Meeting***

A town hall meeting about neighborhood issues will be held Feb. 21, 5 pm at Bates Technical College, Clyde Hupp Room, 1101 S. Yakima Ave.

For further information, call 284-0004, the Baarsma Transition Committee.



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## *North Slope Historic District Steering Committee:*

Scott Johnson @ 503-2032  
 Bill Johnston @ 627-6860  
 Dan & Angie Klein @ 272-0938  
 Velda McDonald @ 627-4192  
 Judy Martin @ 572-3059  
 Mitch Robinson @ 272-0165  
 Ralph & Barbara Tomberg @ 572-1532  
 Marilyn Torgerson @ 627-4537  
 Julie Turner @ 383-2329  
 Nick Kristensen &  
 Patty LeBlanc @ 272-2884

Are you interested in being a member of the steering committee? If so, call one of the steering committee members and leave your name and phone number!



**Don't Forget!**  
**Next North Slope Meeting**  
**Monday, Feb. 25th, 6:30 pm**

Grant Co-op Preschool at 310 North K  
 is now enrolling ages 2-5.  
 For information call:  
 Carolyn McCarty at 573-0033

Thank you to:

***Tacoma Cares***  
 for the printing of the newsletter.  
 We appreciate your support.

## Those Soon-to-be- Collectible North Slope T-Shirts!

Don't be left out! Our 100% cotton Ts are almost gone! In slate blue or a soft buttery yellow with our historic street sign in sizes XL & 2X for \$12.00 each (Sizes M & L have sold out!).

Only 2 polo shirts in Lake Blue with "North Slope Historic District" embroidered in yellow are left! Polos are \$25.00. Both styles of shirts are available at North Slope meetings or by calling Patty LeBlanc at 272-2884.



## *More Handy Phone Numbers*

Drug Line 475-2725  
 Historic Preservation 591-5220  
 Postal Information 1-800-275-8777  
 Potholes, Signs, Street Maintenance 591-5495  
 Public Disturbance, Noise 593-4131  
 Senior Information 591-5090  
 Sewer, Clogged Drains 591-5585, 591-5588  
 Solid Waste Utility 591-5543  
 Voter Registration 798-7430

The North Slope Historic District is made up of the people living between "I" and Grant Streets from Division to Steele.

