



# Trolley Times



Volume # 39

*News of Tacoma's North Slope Historic District*  
*National Register of Historic Places*

July-Aug-Sept 2005

## **Calling All Amateur Artists!**

Would you like to be part of a work party to beautify our kiosk at North 6th & K Streets? The North Slope has received an innovative grant for Lynn DiNino to refurbish our kiosk as she did the four downtown Tacoma ones last year. Lynn has recently organized the "Suitcase Sightings", a series of 100 suitcases embellished by local artists and now located in many local businesses. Last summer she invented the "Red Door Project". She also planned the "Figure Head Roll" of 1000 heads rolling down a Tacoma street during New Year's Eve First Night celebration.

Lynn DiNino will work on the kiosk Sunday, August 7 and Monday, August 8. She will need helpers to paint and attach the rubber backing on both days. The kiosk will be painted yellow and green, our North Slope logo colors. The North 6th & K corner will be much improved.

If you are interested in helping in this "artistic makeover" and haven't already signed up, please call 627-4537 to leave your name and phone number.

Also, the cement kiosk needs to be pressure washed a week earlier. We are looking for someone who has a pressure washer and could help us in this way. Please call 627-4537.

Many thanks to all North Slope friends who volunteer for our many projects and activities. Everyone in our neighborhood benefits!

## **Next Meeting: Drought Resistant Gardening**

Tacoma summers can be extraordinarily dry. For example, from May 1 to Nov. 1, 2002, it rained just 4.6 inches at SeaTac. Imagine you'd planted a new hybrid rhododendron that April. They require about an inch of water per week - ideally consuming about 24 inches from May through October. Since fewer than 5 inches of rain fell that summer, the rhododendron needed about 20 extra inches from irrigation. Would you have known - or taken the time - to provide that much water? Northwest gardens and gardeners need sensible plant choices that will manage summer dryness without needing much irrigation. With water costs going up and a growing population that just keeps demanding "more," it's comforting to know you can grow plants suited to water realities. Anna Thurston, a member of the City of Tacoma's Water Conservation team, will attend the North Slope's July 23 meeting to provide information about plant selection, grouping plants, soaker hoses, soil preparation tips that can help retain water, and much more. Whether you're a casual gardener or were born with a green thumb, you're bound to learn something from this terrific neighborhood program.

## **National Night Out**

On Tuesday, August 2, the North Slope Historic District will join with almost 10,000 communities from all 50 states, Canada, and military bases around the world to celebrate "National Night Out - America's Night Out Against Crime."

**National Night Out** is designed to:

- \*Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness.
- \*Generate support for anti-crime efforts.
- \*Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.
- \*Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

The North Slope's gathering begins at 6 p.m. at our North 8th & K park, and will include a dessert potluck. We'll supply plates, napkins and flatware - just bring an appetite and something to share. Children will thrill at getting an up-close look at a visiting fire truck and police car. We'll provide crime prevention materials and information about the NSHD.

We're hoping for sunshine, but in the event of rain the North Slope's National Night Out event will be held at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 901 North J.

Bring a neighbor.  
Make new friends.  
Celebrate the neighborhood!

**NSHD Meeting:**  
**Drought Resistant Gardening**  
**Sat., July 23, Immanuel Church**  
**10 a.m. Coffee at 9:30**  
**Free Baby-sitting!**

## It's Official, Now What?

by Velda McDonald

In December 2003 the North Slope Historic District incorporated as a nonprofit in the state of Washington. This year the NSHD was recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service. This means that donations made to the NSHD are tax deductible, depending on the donor's tax status.

For about ten years the NSHD had operated with an informal steering committee. Various participants during those years had discussed the advantages of a more formal organization. It was decided that the time had come to admit that the NSHD neighborhood would benefit as a recognized nonprofit, thus allowing the Board of Directors to involve the NSHD in more activities for the neighborhood. As a legal entity and 501(c)(3), the NSHD is eligible for grants, but the application process must still be completed by an individual.

Members of the Steering Committee were identified as the organizing board of directors for the corporation and served for a year. An election was held in February 2005 to determine who will serve on the board for the two-year term. All residents and property owners in the NSHD are voting members of the organization. Any resident or property owner is eligible to run for a seat on the board. As a resident or owner you may bring concerns or possible projects to the board. If you wish to attend a board meeting, or be on the agenda, call the president. The meetings are at 7 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of odd-numbered months.

One reminder about the rules for a 501(c)(3) organization: the organization may not participate in political campaigns. This does not mean that individuals who are members of the board can not participate and support candidates of their choice. Members of the Board must make it clear that they are not representing the NSHD, but are presenting their own views. This is an important point for the NSHD because it is established to promote, educate others, and support historic preservation in the NSHD, Tacoma, the state, and in general. The organization is allowed to hold candidates' forums for all candidates running for a specific office.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES . . . .

of the National Historic Register

In 1892 builder Lemuel Root planned to construct eight 2-story residences on North K Street, and two on North J for \$2700 each. Two houses remain, at 903 and 911 North K. The Queen Anne homes have a front facing gambrel roof extending over a front balcony. The upper level has dual multi-paneled transoms over picture windows.



To look up data in the National Register Archive book, please call Ralph Tomberg at 572-1532

## Zoning Update

The Public Works Committee is working to remove a few leftover pieces of the old R4-L zoning which are still in the new zone, MR-SRD, so the Historic District can be under ONE zoning category, not the two we currently have. One zone, with the wording that recognizes and supports our historic status, is the request the Board has made in our 2005 application to the City for a zoning change. One zone cannot be accomplished without two modifications to the current MR-SRD.

Property owners in the North Slope Historic District will be receiving notification of the Planning Commission hearing in July; the hearing will be on August 3, at 5 pm in the City Council Chambers. The Board urges all residents to attend to support the unification of the District; residents need not speak, just attend and be counted as supporters.

The new zone, with "historic" protections, now covers only North I, J, K, L and M Streets; the Board is asking the City to extend coverage to the rest of the NSHD. The zone is called Mixed Residential Special Review District. It was developed last year by City planners and our committee, and went into effect on 12/31/2004. It prohibits new construction of more than 2 units, (three if a large enough lot is available), and includes wording that requires the City to consider the historic nature of our structures when making decisions related to zoning.

Currently, in the MR-SRD area, a list of larger special-needs

## Zoning Update, cont.

housing facilities are allowed to be sited in any apartment house of 4 or more units. These facilities are for up to 16 residents, as well as over 16 residents in the larger buildings. Examples of these facilities include emergency and transitional housing, community care facility, extended care facility and retirement homes.

“The position of the Public Works Committee is that these facilities need sites larger than our old streets and historic streets can provide,” says Julie Turner, Public Works Chair. “The 2005 zoning request asks for removal of these uses, as well as for placement of wireless communication devices on apartment roofs.”

There will be 2 hearings where removal of these uses will be decided. The first hearing is AUGUST 3, 5 PM, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

IT WILL BE CRUCIAL FOR MANY OF US TO ATTEND, and BE A PRESENCE TO SUPPORT THE BOARD MEMBERS SPEAKING TO THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEANING UP MR-SRD SO WE CAN UNITE THE DISTRICT. PLEASE COME ON AUGUST 3.

## Adopt-a-Spot News

The next Tacoma CARES Adopt-a-Spot litter pick-up on North I Street will be at 10 a.m., Saturday, October 1. Meet in the parking lot behind Immanuel Presbyterian. It takes less than an hour to collect trash, each person doing about 4 blocks.

Thanks to all the NSHD neighbors who have kept their front yards and sidewalks litter-free, and also thanks to dog owners who pick up when walking their dogs. We all appreciate your thoughtfulness!

## Dates to Remember

July 23---NSHD Program, 10 a.m.  
 July 30 & 31--Ethnic Fest, Wright Park  
 August 2---National Night Out, 6 p.m.  
 August 7 & 8---Kiosk "Art" party  
 September 1---Tacoma Schools start  
 September 4---Labor Day  
 September 11---Patriot Day  
 September 22---Autumn Begins  
 October 10---Columbus Day  
 October 15---Make a Difference Day  
 October 31---Halloween  
 October---Next newsletter



## Police/Community News

Tacoma Police have released information pursuant to RCW 4.24.550, which authorized them to inform the public that as of June 14 a level 2 sex offender is living in the 400 block of North L Street. He has served his time and is NOT wanted by the police. Further information may be found on the Sheriff Department's web site.

Phone numbers are:

Lt. Roberts---591-5697      CLO Stark---594-1837  
 CLO Kothstein---591-5290      CLO Rush---594-7961

## Get Involved!

The NSHD's Social/Programming/Fundraising Committee has some great ideas for future neighborhood events, but we need your help. Whether you have just a little time to offer or you want to head up an entire program, we can put you to work. We especially have a need for folks to help with the following activities/events:

**National Night Out** on August 2 - We need people to help set up and tear down. We also need volunteers who can help coordinate activities or games for children.

**Oktoberfest** - We're planning a beer-tasting event that will provide social and - possibly - fundraising opportunities. We need help with planning, tickets, publicity and more.

**Candidate Forum** - In September, we'll invite city council candidates to come answer questions from neighborhood residents. We need volunteers to invite candidates, plan the format, develop questions, and handle publicity.

**Cocoa and Carols** - In December we'll gather to stroll and sing through the North Slope. Afterwards, we'll gather for hot chocolate and cookies. We need volunteers to coordinate all aspects of this event.

**Grant writing** - The NSHD is always on the lookout for skilled grant writers who are willing to volunteer their expertise.

If you have interest in helping with these or any other functions of the NSHD Social/Programming/Fundraising Committee please call Mary Boone at 272-0165 or e-mail [mary@boonewrites.com](mailto:mary@boonewrites.com).

# The Back Page...

## North Slope Historic District

### Board of Directors:

President: Ralph Tomberg	572-1532
Members:	
Mary Boone & Mitch Robinson	272-0165
Deborah Cade	593-4569
Thomas Hudson	973-3700
Kathryn Longwell	627-0423
Judy Martin	572-3059
Marshall McClintock	572-5474
Velda McDonald	627-4192
Tiffany Price	396-9047
Marilyn Torgerson	627-4537
Julie Turner	383-2329
<i>NSHD Representative on Landmarks Commission:</i>	
Roger Johnson	431-3959
Kathryn Longwell	627-0423
Tim McDonald	572-4512

Names & phone numbers of the Board are listed above, Any of them may be called with questions or for information. Board meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of odd-numbered months in the Fireside Room at Immanuel Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. Meetings are open to all NSHD owners & residents. The next meetings will be July 27 and September 28. To have an item placed on the agenda, please call the president.

North Slope Historic District Web Page:  
[www.tacomnorthslope.com](http://www.tacomnorthslope.com)

The North Slope Historic District is a 501 (c) (3) Organization.



#### Random Acts of Kindness

1. Say something nice to everyone you meet today.
2. Don't interrupt when someone is talking.
3. Tell your spouse/children you love them.
4. Write a letter to a relative or friend.
5. Pass along a great book you've finished.
6. Open the door for another person.
7. Transport someone who can't drive.
8. Let another driver merge into your lane.
9. Visit someone in a nursing home.
10. Volunteer at an agency that needs help.

Thank you to:

## Tacoma Cares

for the printing of the newsletter. We appreciate your support.

The Communications Committee meets bimonthly at 7 p.m. the 4th Wednesday of even numbered months. We are presently working on the following projects: Newsletter production, webpage content, and revision of NSHD handouts and walking tour brochure. The committee welcomes new members. If interested, please call 627-4537.

The NSHD's last meeting on May 12 highlighted Tacoma's Historic Preservation Officer, Reuben McKnight, speaking about the City's process and Landmarks Commission reviews. Marshall McClintock reviewed materials dealing with original exterior colors of turn-of-the-century houses. Almost 40 neighbors attended the interesting program.

Plans are underway for a September forum for the candidates for Tacoma City Council Position 2. When finalized, date and time will be posted on the NSHD webpage. If interested in attending, check the webpage in early September, or call 572-5474. The North End Neighborhood Council usually sponsors a larger forum with many offices represented. Check their webpage in September for their date.



## National Night Out

6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, August 2  
 North K & 8th Street Park  
 Get to Know Your Neighbors!!!  
 Bring a Dessert to Share!



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