



# Trolley Times



Volume # 28

News of the North Slope Historic District

July-Aug-Sept. 2002

## Salmon Stickers

Citizens for a Healthy Bay and City of Tacoma Public Works Department are sponsoring a city-wide work party in the North Slope to install salmon stickers by storm drains. The plastic stickers will remind us that what is dumped down drains goes directly to local waterways. These durable curb markers will replace stenciled "don't pollute" warnings, and last longer without fading.

Volunteers will meet at the North 8th & K park at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 20. After receiving instructions, maps, and materials, we will spread throughout the North Slope to place the stickers. There will be a pizza party afterwards, provided by the sponsors. Which ever streets are not done July 20, we will cover later on our own time. For further information, call Marilyn at 627-4537, Desiree at 502-2126, or log onto [www.healthybay.org](http://www.healthybay.org).

Join us on July 20 for this community project!



## Ethnic Fest

The North Slope Historic District will participate in the Ethnic Fest to be held at Wright Park on July 27 & 28. We will have a booth, hand out brochures about our neighborhood, and sell T-shirts. There are many informative booths, arts & crafts sales, and lots of food stations. Entertainment takes place on various stages. It is an interesting summer festival involving people of many different cultures who live in the Tacoma area. If you would be able to volunteer for a two or three hour shift in our booth, please call Bill Johnston, 627-6860, to schedule a time.

Take your family to Ethnic Fest for a fun day!

## National Night Out

National Night Out, an event dedicated to making safer neighborhoods by getting to know your neighbors, is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6. As individual streets and blocks join in the festivities by hosting your own potlucks, please join in with our larger collection of friends and neighbors in the North Slope Historic District for a dessert potluck beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Val's Park at 8th & K Streets.

Please bring a dessert that will serve 5-6 people. We will have tables set up along the park perimeter. While there are some benches in the park, you may want to bring your own folding chair or a blanket to place on the grass for a place to sit. Val's Park is a great addition to our neighborhood, and on any sunny day you'll see how much use it's already getting. We hope the park will evolve into a neighborhood gathering spot for other events as well. Stay tuned to the *Trolley Times* for upcoming events. In the meantime, please plan on joining the dessert potluck 7:00 p.m. August 6.

Last year's National Night Out was attended by one hundred neighbors! August 6 will be another chance to see old friends and make new ones. Mark your calendar now---Tuesday, August 6, 7 p.m.---and join North Slope neighbors in this annual celebration of American neighborhoods! If you have any questions, call Angie Klein at 272-0938. See you there!



# Park Dedication

About one hundred twenty-five neighbors, friends of Valerie Sivinski, and city officials enjoyed the dedication of our new North Slope park, and the reception afterwards. Following morning showers, the sun came out just in time for the 1:30 p.m. event June 8.

Councilman Bill Evans read the city's proclamation of "Valerie Sivinski Day." Park Director Jerry Thorpe



expressed Metro Park's good wishes. Tim McDonald spoke about his wife's interest in historic preservation in Tacoma. Former Historic Preservation Officers Elizabeth Anderson and Michael Sullivan related stories about Valerie and her work. Tim

designed the beautiful memorial made of Tenino and Wilkeson sandstone from Marenakos Rock Center and carved by Keith Phillips of Tenino. As the dedication ended, Tim unveiled the memorial and explained the various titles. If you have not seen the park, stop by to admire the memorial, play area, and landscaping. The North Slope is fortunate to finally have a beautiful green spot within our district! May we long enjoy the North Slope Historic District Park!

**Valerie Anne  
Sivinski  
May 3, 1951 -  
October 17, 2000**



Valerie was Tacoma's Historic Preservation Officer from 1991 to 1998. She was instrumental in the formation of the North Slope Historic District, and also lived in the neighborhood with her husband, Tim McDonald.

# Pasadena & Tacoma

## A Tale of Two Historic Districts

by Jay Turner

Pasadena, California has its Bungalow Heaven Historic District. Tacoma has its North Slope Historic District. In reading an article in *Sunset Magazine*, March 2002, I noticed a lot of similarities between the two Districts, as well as differences. I thought I would share this with you.

Both Bungalow Heaven, BH, and our North Slope Historic District, NSHD, had a real-estate developer to account for the start. NSHD was galvanized into action when an 8-unit apartment was slated to be built on North 10th and J Streets. In Pasadena, a developer demolished a 2-story Craftsman bungalow and built, quoting Bob Kneisel from BH, "... the tackiest apartment houses anyone had ever seen." In our case, neighbors held the size to a "legal" 6 units of a "Gig Harbor" type apartment. It doesn't fit the neighborhood, but there was nothing we could do about it.



People here and in Pasadena realized that more multi-units were coming, these units were legally zoned, and they would be built to the detriment of single-family homeowners. In Pasadena, BH succeeded because they were able to convince the city of the value of the historic character of the neighborhood to accomplish down-zoning. Bungalow Heaven has gone on to be a city and nationally recognized historic area. Bungalow Heaven has been featured in magazines, like *Sunset*, as well as in newspapers and books. All this is to the benefit of the neighborhood, as well as to the City of Pasadena.

Here in Tacoma, the city officials have their head in the sand and still envision our historic area as another "apartment city." The R4-L zoning we have allows 100% apartments, and forward planning of the city shows this is the direction they want for our neighborhood. (see <[www.wiredcityusa.com](http://www.wiredcityusa.com)> for zoning and intensity maps) A group of NSHD residents have tried to change the zoning since 1994, but has been denied over and over. With this attitude from the city, it

## *Pasadena & Tacoma cont.*

is no wonder we have had little publicity for the historic character and value of our homes, nor for the Historic District itself. And no side benefits that publicity can bring to the City of Tacoma, either. Still, our NSHD has accomplished a lot. New people want to live here and old-time residents are proud to be a part of the North Slope Historic District.

After seeing the need for a historic district, the process followed by BH and NSHD was almost identical. The Historic Preservation Office in both cities became active in helping to get the district formed. In both neighborhoods, dedicated residents worked tirelessly to educate, inform and elicit support from property owners. In October 1989, BH became the first residential district in Pasadena to reach Landmark District status. We in the NSHD became the first residential district in Tacoma on Aug. 1, 1995.

Other similarities come to mind. We both have signs on the lampposts proudly denoting the Districts. NSHD has over 950 properties in the district. BH is a close second, with over 800. In the past we have had Historic Home tours; BH still does, on an annual basis. Both Districts sponsor neighborhood activities, both educational and social. One last item pointed out in the "Sunset" article -- having a Historic District gives residents a common purpose and goal, which pulls the neighbors together. This certainly fits the NSHD.

Remember, NSHD is new. There is no such thing as an "old-timer!" Get out, become a part, volunteer, do a little, do a lot.

I wonder, NSHD is ready for *Sunset Magazine*; is Tacoma?

## **Dates to Remember**

July 20 -10 a.m. Salmon Sticker work party -at the park  
 July 27-28 - Ethnic Fest, Wright Park  
 August 6 - 7:00 p.m. - National Night Out - at the park  
 Late August - Adopt-a-Spot litter pick-up  
 September 2 - Labor Day  
 September 4 - School begins  
 September 17 - Election Day  
 September 23 - Autumn begins  
 October - Next newsletter



## *National Historic Register*

The NSHD Steering Committee is beginning an effort to put the NSHD on the National Historic Register. This project involves a lot of data processing as well as footwork. If you are interested in helping, or want more information, call Jay Turner, 383-2329.

## *Adopt-a-Spot News*

On June 1 volunteers picked up litter on North I Street, and along the streets from Immanuel to Val's Park where the dedication guests would be walking. The next Adopt-a Spot pick-up will be at 6:30 p.m. on a warm evening in late August, followed by dessert and coffee. If interested, please call 627-4537 to leave your name and number. You will be called a few days before the litter pick-up.



## *Park Plants*

Don't the plantings at our new North Slope Historic District Park look great? Many thanks to Nick Kristensen who spearheaded the project. We have started an Adopt-a-Plant fund to help pay for the plants. If you would like to contribute, please phone Nick at 272-2884 to sponsor a plant or tree. Any amount from \$5 to \$100 would be welcome. Also, anyone who could share watering times during hot weather or wants to help with the weeding, please call Nick.





# The Back Page...

## North Slope Historic District

### Steering Committee:

Thomas Hudson	973-3700
Brian & Betsy Johnson	274-9344
Bill Johnston	627-6860
Dan & Angie Klein	272-0938
Chuck Kohler & Stacy Schell	779-8757
Nick Kristensen & Patty LeBlanc	272-2884
Kathryn Longwell	627-0423
Bev & Charles Lord	572-5742
Velda McDonald	627-4192
Judy Martin	572-3059
Mitch Robinson	272-0165
Barbara & Ralph Tomberg	572-1532
Marilyn Torgerson	627-4537
Julie Turner	383-2329

## Innovative Grants Program

by Ralph Tomberg

The North Slope Historic District submitted three grant requests under the 2002 Innovative Grant Program. These were for crosswalks at North 8th & K by our new park, "No Parking Here to Corner" signs at various intersections, and for streetlights on North Cushman. The North End Neighborhood Council declined to approve any of these grants for funding. Thanks to all of you who worked to submit these grants, and better luck next year!

Instead, the NENC approved funding the following five projects: parking lot refurbishment at Gonyea Boys & Girls Club \$5000, Puget Creek salmon restoration \$3718, Tacoma's First Working Waterfront \$5000, Legacy of Croatian People \$5000, and Marvin Klegman memorial fund \$5000.



Thank you to:

## Tacoma Cares

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

## Furniture Polish

Greener, cleaner furniture polish: Mix 1/2 tsp. olive oil and 1/4 cup vinegar or lemon juice in a bowl. Dab a soft rag into the solution and dust, polish and shine your wooden furniture with it. You can use the rag over and over again. ([www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste/landfill/alternatives](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste/landfill/alternatives))



## Recycling

When you wash your car on pavement, the soap and oily grit go into storm drains, and flow directly into lakes, streams, and Commencement Bay. This pollutes our waterways. So, instead, wash your car on grass or gravel where the bad stuff is filtered out so it can't harm the ground water. Or, go to a car wash that recycles its wash water. ([www.cityoftacoma.org/waterservices](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/waterservices))



## Abandoned Autos

If you have an abandoned car parked in your neighborhood, phone 591-5926 to leave car make, color, and license on the recording.



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