



ROSLYN DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

30-ACRE LAND PURCHASE TO BENEFIT ROSLYN COMMUNITY

FORTERRA PURCHASES 30-ACRE PROPERTY IN ROSLYN TO EXPLORE DEVELOPMENT OF ATTAINABLE HOUSING, PARK SPACE AND OTHER COMMUNITY AMENITIES.

ROSLYN, WA—Forterra, a Washington-based nonprofit, will purchase a 30-acre property in Roslyn and explore developing the property for attainable housing, park and wetland space, community parking, and/or other uses. An affiliate of the organization intends to close on the property in November 2020 and begin dialogue with the community in 2021 about how to best develop the site.

The 30-acre property sits within Roslyn's city limits and historic district, just southeast of the town center and adjacent to the Coal Mines Trail. Forterra is purchasing the property from a company affiliated with Suncadia, a local resort, and intends to work with the community to explore a variety of opportunities for the site, including livable, affordable and sustainable housing that fits within the character of Roslyn.

"Our foremost goal is to listen, understand and respond to the community's needs," said Michelle Connor, Forterra president and CEO. "We have heard there's a need for attainable housing and want to work with the City and community to build on the opportunity this land provides."

The Roslyn Downtown Association reached out to Forterra in 2017 about the opportunity to purchase the property. In addition to the purchase of the property, the two organizations worked together in 2019 to transfer ownership of the Northwest Improvement Company building in an effort to preserve an important structure in the Roslyn's history.

"I am delighted Forterra has decided to become a member of our community," said Jeri Porter, a Roslyn Downtown Association board member. "Having served our city, eight years on council, eight years as mayor, and equally as many years on the RDA board, I appreciate Forterra's intended use of the property obtained from Suncadia. This project addresses Roslyn's needs, following their commitment to Roslyn's rich history while protecting the properties' wetlands and open space."

Forterra will work with Roslyn residents and city leadership to craft a development approach for the property. Forterra will begin visioning and dialogue with the community in 2021, building on prior planning efforts from the University of Washington's Storefront Studio program, led by Jim Nichols, and the consulting firm Ostara Group, led by Rebecca Zanatta. Forterra is committed to community-driven design, and seeking to incorporate community priorities through the physical development, such as:



Old Foundry

honoring Roslyn's historical character, providing public parking, and developing commercial space or other community attractions. In addition to developing housing, Forterra will incorporate healthy wetlands and beautiful green-space within the site.

Momentum for this effort was generated through the leadership of Senator Judy Warrick who sponsored legislation in 2019 providing funds for a Local Community Projects grant to advance the effort. The grant, funded through the Department of Commerce, provided necessary resources for Forterra to conduct due diligence and purchase the property. Suncadia has worked closely with Forterra, offering flexibility and patience, which has helped in Forterra's efforts to purchase the property.

Forterra has worked in the upper-Kittitas County area for more than a decade, completing a number of habitat and ranch conservation projects in that time. In 2013 Forterra helped conserve over 50,000 acres in the Yakima Basin watershed, now designated as the Teanaway Community Forest. The 30-year-old nonprofit works across Washington to conserve land, develop innovative land-use policy, and support community-driven development.

ABOUT FORTERRA: Forterra is a Washington-based nonprofit that enhances, supports, and stewards the region's most precious resources—its communities and its ecosystems. Forterra conserves land, develops innovative policies, and supports sustainable rural and urban development. In its 30-year history, Forterra has helped conserve more than 250,000 acres, with its work stretching from the farmlands and river canyons of Yakima to the estuaries and forests of Washington's coastline, reaching more than 100 counties, cities, and towns. **Visit www.Forterra.org.**

ROSLYN OLD TOWN CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND CHRISTMAS TRUCKS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH AT 6:00 PM



Barb Martin, notching



Rudy Hein, pictured here with his wife Pat, was instrumental in establishing Shoemaker Manufacturing in Roslyn. Rudy managed operations at the company from 1959 to 1964, when he took over as sole owner. He held this position until 1984, when his son Jerry assumed the mantle. Today Jerry's daughter and son, Claire Nicholls and John Hein, lead Shoemaker's.

Speed Dullahant, spot welding



Employees working at various tasks and machinery when Shoemaker Manufacturing was located in the NWIC Building in Roslyn.

ANOTHER COMMUNITY STORY

FROM THE OLD COMPANY STORE TO SHOEMAKER MANUFACTURING

By Lyn Derrick, RDA historical writer

Looking out over the large back warehouse, teenaged Jerry Hein counted 50 buckets placed strategically around the floor. The plop and ping of water dripping into the buckets revealed their purpose. The roof of the Northwest Improvement Company building leaked terribly – and it couldn't be fixed. It was Jerry's job to empty the five-gallon buckets; placing them back in position to collect more plops and pings from the constant leaks. It was the 1960s, and Jerry was doing his part to help his father Rudy Hein operate Shoemaker Manufacturing out of the NWIC building in Roslyn.

Shoemaker's took up residence in the building in February of 1959, after it was vacant for two years. At the time, the building's previous life as the NWIC company store could still be felt in the locally made thick brick walls, the original wood columns and the stamped metal ceilings. In its previous existence as a company store, the building was key to furnishing the needs of Roslyn whether that was groceries, clothing, furniture, jewelry, or miner's supplies and explosives for the coalfields. When the NWIC closed its doors in 1957, a hole was left in the community that wouldn't be easily filled.

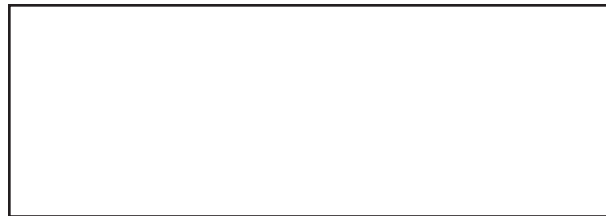
Shoemaker Manufacturing was poised to take up that challenge, though. The company started in 1947, in Seattle, by Bill Shoemaker. It moved 12 years later to the empty NWIC building in Roslyn. People were confused by the name at first, assuming the company produced shoes. It actually makes metal registers, the grill-like faceplates covering heating and air conditioning vents in homes and businesses.

Rudy Hein started working for the company shortly after it began operations in Roslyn. In short order, he became the overall foreman, and before long he was managing the company. Rudy took over as sole owner in 1964. It was a source of pride that among the 26 original employees, only 4-5 came from Seattle. All the others were Roslyn or Cle Elum residents. For several, a short walk was all it took to get to work. Shoemaker's had successfully stepped into the hole left by the NWIC, providing some of the community's employment needs at a time when the mines were slowing down.

Shoemaker's operated out of the NWIC Building for 11 years. Jerry Hein, who took over the business for his father in 1984, describes those years as extremely productive. The company grew so much that eventually the building wasn't adequate for expanding operations. In 1970, Shoemaker's moved to east First Street in Cle Elum. The move was accomplished without losing one day of operations, and most of its employees were retained as well.

In 2009, the leadership mantle for Shoemaker Manufacturing starting shifting to Jerry and his wife Patricia's oldest children, Claire Nicholls and John Hein. Under their watch, the building in Cle Elum completed a comprehensive remodel in 2010. Over the company's 60 years of operation in the upper county, it has grown from those original 26 employees to 112 in 2019. Their metal registers, which were distributed throughout the Northwest back in the early days, can be found in national and global markets today. The Heins' say much of their success can be credited to their "tremendous" employees, whom they regard as family. Many have been with the company for years and take pride in the product they produce.

Take a moment and examine the vents in your own surroundings. It's likely the cool or warm air contributing to the comfort of your environment is passing through a Shoemaker Manufacturing register right now.



ROSLYN DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

The RDA is a Washington Main Street Community, a program of the Washington Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. The Main Street Four-Point Approach is an innovative preservation-based economic development approach focused on Economic Development, Urban Design, Promotions and Organization. Communities are able to revitalize downtown and neighborhood business districts by leveraging local assets - from historic, cultural, and architectural resources to local enterprises and community passion -to restore prosperity and vitality.



The Main Street Program enables Roslyn to leverage its colorful past, historic architecture, established events, diverse culture and locally owned businesses to work as catalysts for economic growth.

MISSION

To develop our local economy, honor our cultural heritage, and market our unique community assets.

VISION

Restore and preserve our historical community while enhancing our current business environment and attracting new sustainable economic opportunities.

RDA BOARD

Cheri Marusa- President
Gail Dobberthien- Secretary
Valerie Lunn- Treasurer

RDA Board Members

Justin Zipperer
Ed Hewson
Jeri Porter
John Wyble
Mark Kantor
Jon Scholes

2021 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE:

Time: 9:30 - 11:00 AM
Location: Roslyn Creative Center
Sunday February 7th
Sunday May 2nd
Sunday August 8th
Sunday November 7th

THANK YOU

Thank you to the following donors for their contributions in support of our work and mission to promote and enhance Roslyn's authentic historical community.

2020 RDA DONORS:

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Go out and make a difference in your community.
You don't need endless time and perfect conditions. Do it now. Do it today.
Do it for twenty minutes and watch your heart start beating.
- Barbar Sher



VISIT US

In the NWIC Building!

The Roslyn Downtown Association (RDA) is a 501c3 non-profit
Tax ID: 20-4041024

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