



Trolley Times

North Slope Historic District Inc. 501(c)(3) Organization May 2017 Volume 82

GARDENING INFO FEATURED AT MAY 25th PROGRAM

The North Slope Historic District program for May will be presented by Dan Minkel, a WSU Pierce County Master Gardener, as well as an Americorps Member for Pierce County, serving in Surface Water Management. Mr. Minkel will discuss several subjects important to better gardening:

- ♣ the proper placing of plants
- ♣ weed and pest control
- ♣ water conservation
- ♣ soil nutrients
- ♣ turf care.

- ♣ *If you have gardening questions in the meantime, please contact the WSU Master Gardener office at 253-798-7170, or county.wsu.edu/pierce/mg.*

**May 25, 2017 Immanuel Presbyterian Church,
901 No. J St.
Basement Meeting Room, Entrance on North 9th
Coffee Hour at 6:30. Program starts at 7pm**

In addition, visit the Proctor Farmer's Market or McLendon's on Saturdays, where there are Master Gardeners to answer questions. These places are great spots to bring samples in sealed baggies for plant identification, or diagnosis of plant problems.

NSHD, INC. NO LONGER TO SPONSOR JULY 4TH PARADE

At the NSHD, Inc. Board Meeting on March 23rd, after much discussion, the Board voted to withdraw sponsorship and advertising of the July 4th Children's Parade.

The Board had two reasons for withdrawing sponsorship: First, the current size of the parade necessitates a City permit, and to get that, we would need to have liability insurance for the event. The insurance is cost prohibitive for NSHD, Inc. The number of parade participants has grown immensely since the parade was started years ago by NSHD parents.

Secondly, there is no Board member available to organize and oversee the start and progression of the parade from N. 12th along N. J. St. and up N. 8th to the Park, and the subsequent gathering of children and parents at the Park.

The Board regrets the necessity of this action, but feels it is in the best interests of the safety of the neighborhood children, and of our organization's finances at this time.

Deborah Cade

Kathryn Longwell

NSHD, Inc Co-Chairs

FROM THE ARCHIVES ...

Taken from the National Register of Historic Places Nomination

The house at 702 North K St. was built in 1904 by Charles W. Rhodes, one of three Rhodes brothers who came to Tacoma in the early 1890s from Wisconsin, and opened a Coffee Shop on Pacific Ave. in Tacoma. The brothers built this shop into the Rhodes Bros. Department Store, Washington State's first department store.



Charles' other two brothers each built a home near his, Albert, at 702 North I Street, and Henry, at 701 North J. St. At this time, the area now called the North Slope Historic District was known as one of the city's "streetcar suburbs" because of the several streetcar lines which ran near and through the area, making travel downtown easy and fast.

Charles' home, of Dutch Colonial style, with the distinctive gambrel roof lines, was not as large as his brothers' homes, but was built of a "solid concrete foundation..." and the full basement had "...stationary porcelain wash tubs and a hot air furnace for heating the entire house." On the main floor, the casings, (what we now call the woodwork) were treated by a new process, giving the fir wood an "...extremely hard polished finish." In the parlor was a tiled fireplace and "...windows of French plate glass."

Charles served as general superintendent and personnel manager of Rhodes Bros. Dept. Store; he was also one of the founders of the Commercial Club, which would later become the Chamber of Commerce. He moved to California in the 1940's, but returned in 1958.



In 1907, Henry Rhodes built his Russell-Heath house (above) at 701 North J. St. Besides working at the Rhodes Dept. Store, Henry was head of the corporation that built Paradise Lodge and many of the roads and infrastructure in the Rainier National Park.



Albert built his home at 702 North I St. in 1903. He served as Secretary of Rhodes Bros. (Dry Goods, Crockery & Chinaware, Teas, Coffees and Spices) Dept. Store.

FROM THE NORTH SLOPE HOUSE DOCTOR

by Jay Turner

PRESCOTT SYSTEM FOR POCKET DOORS

NO wheels, NO rollers, NO track

Pocket doors of today are usually hung from an overhead track or have rollers in a track on the floor. But, what about pocket doors of yesteryear? The pocket doors in our 1890 house have no wheels, no rollers, and no track. How do they work?



In 1881 Edwin Prescott received a patent for a hanger that supports the door by means of a metal frame working on the principal of a parallelogram.

The bottom corners of the frame are always the same distance from the floor, which means that the door always opens the right distance above the floor.

The top corners, while changing in height from the floor as the door moves, stay the same distance with respect to each other. This keeps the door level and plumb.

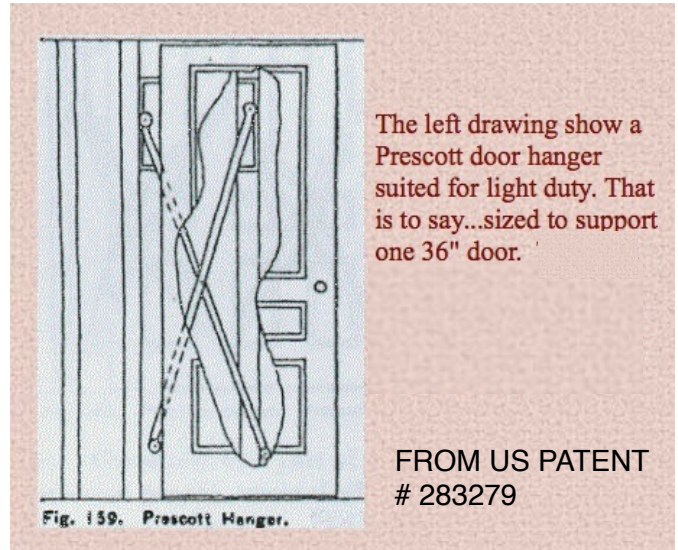
With no rollers, no track, no wheels, and only a few moving parts, the Prescott system is capable of keeping a door suspended indefinitely, for decades, and ready to open or close with the slightest touch.

It is hard to describe something as simple as this Prescott hanger. Consider an "X" made of two pieces of metal attached with a loose pin in the center. By pushing on the two bars you can make the "X" fat or skinny.

Now attach the two left legs of the "X" to the house and the two right legs to the back edge of the pocket door. Edwin Prescott found a way to attach the legs so that the bottom two remain level with the floor. The top two are attached using slots so that they can move up and down yet hold the door firmly suspended in place.

Push the door into the pocket and the "X" becomes skinny; pull the door out and the "X" expands, always supporting the door.

And, there you have it – a pocket door with no tracks that lasts for at least 100 years.



The left drawing show a Prescott door hanger suited for light duty. That is to say...sized to support one 36" door.

FROM US PATENT # 283279



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"They just don't make things like they used to."
was probably a customer of ours.

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SIDEWALKS IN TACOMA

By Dana Brown, Public Works Engineering, City of Tacoma

Sidewalks in the City of Tacoma are an integral part of its transportation network/system and, thus, it's important that they are maintained in a safe, usable condition. A property owner in the City has the maintenance responsibility for sidewalk abutting their property. Because many sidewalks in the City are near the end of their service life, replacing them represents a major investment by the property owners. A damaged sidewalk can pose a hazard to pedestrians and it may result in a financial claim against the property owner. The City will notify property owners when it receives a report about a potentially unfit/unsafe sidewalk. While the City has limited means to financially assist with the replacement of unfit/unsafe sidewalks, it does provide property owners with assistance to help with the "how-to" of replacing sidewalks.

What is an unfit or unsafe sidewalk?

In general, sidewalks with sections that are sunken, lifted up, or have areas with large cracks are considered unfit or unsafe; sidewalks that have a poor appearance, but are otherwise physically sound, are not considered unsafe.

Typically, sidewalk damage is caused by tree roots, settling of the ground under sidewalks, vehicles parked illegally on sidewalks, and age.

Who maintains sidewalks in the right-of-way?

Some City property owners are surprised to learn they own the property under the abutting sidewalk, and that the City has an easement that allows the public to use that sidewalk for passage. In addition, Washington State law, and the Tacoma Municipal Code, place the responsibility for sidewalk repairs on the private property owner. If you have questions about this aspect of sidewalk regulations, please look at

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 35.69 and Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) 9.17 and TMC 10.18 and 10.20.

Why did I get a notification letter and what happens if I ignore it?

The condition of the sidewalk was brought to the City's attention by a notification/complaint from a citizen. The City then inspected the sidewalk in response to the complaint, and found the sidewalk to be unfit or unsafe. The City requests voluntary compliance to replace the unfit and unsafe sidewalk sections as soon as possible.

Even slight defects in a sidewalk can cause injuries to pedestrians. Sidewalk maintenance is important for appearance and value, but more importantly, it helps prevent injury to a pedestrian and saves an owner from a potential medical claim. A sidewalk might look fine to you, but still have defects that make it unsafe for walkers.

When property owners decline to voluntarily make the repairs, the Tacoma Municipal Code and Washington State laws provide mechanisms for the City to carry out the repairs, and then assess its full cost against the property owner. If the cost is not reimbursed to the City, the City is entitled to place a lien on the property for the full amount of the repairs. The City always prefers to work cooperatively with property owners to accomplish the necessary work voluntarily.

The planting-strip tree ruined the sidewalk.

Why do I have to fix it?

If trees abut your property, you have a legal duty to exercise reasonable care so that trunks, branches or roots of trees do not create an unreasonably dangerous condition for the public, even if you didn't plant the trees.

Continued on page 5, "Sidewalks"

"Sidewalks" continued from page 4

What is the process to replace a sidewalk?

A permit is needed to reconstruct sidewalks in the right-of-way. This is a requirement of the *Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) Chapter 10.22.050*. The permit must be obtained by a Contractor that is Washington State licensed and bonded, as required under the *TMC Chapter 10.22.070*.

You can verify the license and bond information by accessing the Washington State Labor and Industries website. The City also requires the Contractor to have a Street Obstruction Bond on file with the City's permit counter. We recommend that you confirm with the contractor that they have a **Street Obstruction Bond on file with the City**.

The permit cost is based on the amount of sidewalk to be replaced. To get an estimated cost for a permit, call the Tacoma Permit Center, (253) 591-5030.

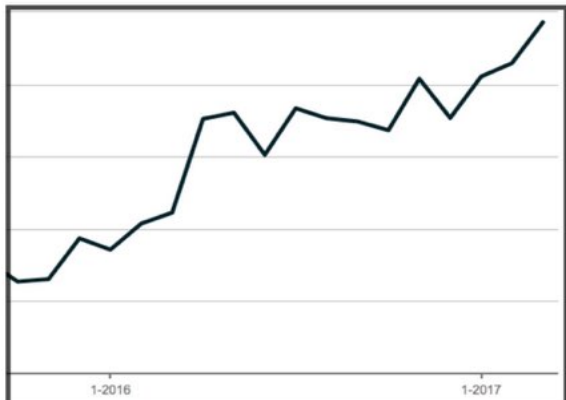


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*Local Artists Now on Display
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MetVetPets.com
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Located in downtown Tacoma at **401 Fawcett Ave.**



March 2016 Average Sale Price: \$304,507
March 2017 Average Sale Price: \$357,183

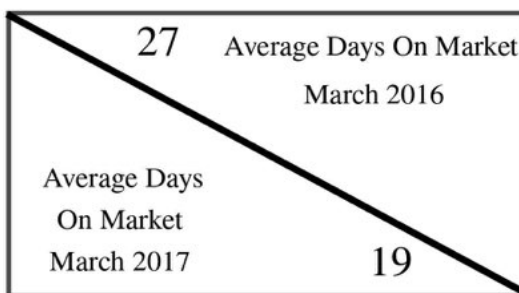
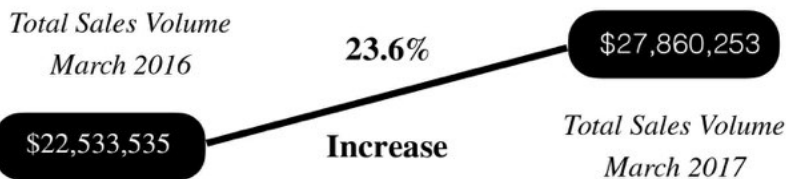


(253) 326-HOME (4663)

teamtuttle@tkrei.com

tkrei.com

North Slope Historic District Real Estate Statistics 2016 versus 2017



There has NEVER been a better time than NOW to sell!
Call Team Tuttle for a free, no obligation, MPV (My Property Value)!

A FEW TIPS FOR PARKING LEGALLY IN TACOMA

From Community Based Services

- Do not block sidewalks, signals or crosswalks.
- Park 30 feet back from a stop sign.
- Park 20 feet back from a corner.
- Do not park your vehicle in the same spot for more than 7 days.
- Do not leave an unlicensed, inoperable, abandoned or dilapidated vehicle in street or parking strip.
- Question about parking? Call Tacoma Cares at (253) 591-5001, or <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/tacomafirst311>, press the "Tacoma First 311 Ask A Question" icon, press "Ask a Question," and post your question.

North Slope Coffee House At Stadium Thriftway

618 N 1st Street Tacoma WA 98403

Locally owned and operated by: Denny Faker, who has lived and been in business in our neighborhood since 1969

Proudly serving: **EQUAL EXCHANGE**

FAIR TRADE COFFEE: Fair trade is a system by which a world-wide co-op purchases only from small farmers for better quality coffee. The co-op pays more for the beans. In turn, the small farmer agrees to pay his workers and pickers more. "I pay more for beans" says Denny. "And, by being my customer, you too are helping the small farmers and workers."

From Small Farmers >> To their Co-ops >> To Equal Exchange >> To North Slope Coffee



Help us save the environment, one bag at a time!

VC #444

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



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

Discover

the **Local Ownership** Difference!

- Full Service Meat Department & In-Store Smokehouse
- Fresh Seafood Case
- Wide Variety of Natural & Organic
- Extensive Wine, Beer & Spirits Selection
- Beautiful Floral Department
- Delectable homemade Baked Goods
- Delicious Prepared Foods from our Deli

Downtown Tacoma's Full Service Grocery Store. Locally Owned and part of the Community since 1985

COMING EVENTS

May 25 NSHD Program Meeting,
Subject: Gardening

July 15 NSHD Garage Sale,
See p. 8 for details

August 2 National Night Out
Get to know your neighbors! Have a Block Party and organize a phone/email chain to contact each other.

August 12 Annual Clean-Up
Details in August newsletter.
City decides boundaries of collection area, checks eligible addresses.
Call Geoff to volunteer: 627-4408

August 25 NSHD Program Meeting

Look for details of these events in August Trolley Times



Volunteer in Your District!

Meet great people, have fun, and help us bring exciting new things to Stadium.
Contact Valerie at 253.988.8049

Coming Summer 2017



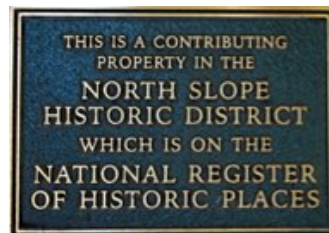
StadiumArtWineandBeerWalk.com
Saturday September 16th from 4-8

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE STADIUM HISTORIC DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

FOR SALE NSHD BRONZE PLAQUE

Mark your home with pride..

These 5-by-7-inch bronze plaques identify your property as part of the North Slope Historic District National Register . Plaques cost \$75 each.



To purchase, call Karen May:
253-779-0160 klmay@wamail.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Marilynn Sabo		253-627-4735
Angela Clark		253-572-8802

NSHD, Inc. web page TacomaNorthSlope.org

TROLLEY TIMES, our newsletter is published Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. delivered to all single-family homes in the NSHD.
The current addition can always be found at:
<http://tacomanorthslope.org/library/TT.pdf>

North Slope NEWS, sign up on our web page, and have items of general NSHD news, events, along with the on-line *Trolley Times* sent to your email

Send your questions, comments and remarks to news@TacomaNorthSlope.org

Vehicle Prowl Prevention Information

By Kelly Custis, Tacoma Police Dept. CLO, Sector 2

Vehicle prowling, or theft from a vehicle, remains one of the top committed crimes in and around the City of Tacoma. It is a crime of opportunity, based on the perception that there are items of value in that vehicle. Crime stat reports consistently report vehicle prowls happening **between the hours of 10:00 pm and 06:00 am.**

Methods of entry can include: an unlocked door, breaking a window, or using other tools to pry windows, doors, and locks. Frequently stolen items include: electronic devices, cell phones, purses, wallets, backpacks/gym bags, personal information such as mail, vehicle registration, and documents.

There are preventative measures a vehicle owner can take to protect themselves. **Thieves are deterred by: light, noise, and the time it would take them to be noticed.**

- Remove anything of value, or items that a thief would find *attractive*, from your vehicle. If you plan to hide items from view, do this *before* you arrive at your parking spot. Thieves are attracted to bags and jackets that *could* contain valuables as well.
- Park in a fully visible area, preferably well-lit if you will be parked there during hours of darkness. Avoid parking near dumpsters or walls, anything that would limit the visibility to your vehicle. Design your residential parking spot with this in mind as well. Install motion lights and trim back hedges.
- Consider installing a security system or using an additional mechanical locking device.
- Be observant and a part of your Neighborhood Watch. Acknowledging a suspicious person with a friendly wave can be effective. Note their description, anything unique helps, and report it to 911 or non-emergency. Even if units are not available to respond, the stat helps crime prevention programs that are utilized by patrol officers.

The same preventative-measure principles can be utilized to deter offenders against other crimes such as motor vehicle theft, residential

burglary, and vandalism. Assess your home and parking area as if you would commit a crime against it. It is understandable how frustrating victims of this crime can get, especially when they feel they are not getting an adequate response from local police. As it's a crime of opportunity for the thief, it can be a chance apprehension for police as well. As our resources are down, the community becomes our partners in tracking and contacting those committing these crimes.

It takes time, consistency, and commitment on the part of the vehicle owner to make these steps effective. You can contact Safe Streets, a partner with Tacoma Police Department, for Neighborhood Watch and home assessment information.

Officer Kelly Custis, CLO, Sector 2
253.591.5290 kcustis@cityoftacoma.org

NSHD GARAGE SALE ON JULY 15th

It's time to clean out your closets and attic in anticipation of the annual NSHD Garage Sale:

Saturday, July 15th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Here's how it works: Maps listing participating homes are handed out the day of the sale at 515 North M Street; shoppers won't receive the maps until 9 a.m., so you won't have early birds.

Fill out the form below, and attach **\$8** cash or a check made out to NSHD. Mail or deliver to:

Judy Martin, 515 N. M. St.

Contact Judy Martin with questions, 572-3059.

Name _____

Address _____

Where is sale? Circle one: Parkway or Alley

One item you like to feature in the map and advertising?
(example: baby clothes, plants)

Mail or drop off by 7/11/2016 (with \$8) to Judy Martin at
515 N. M St.

BONUS, ONLY FOR ON-LINE *TROLLEY TIMES* READERS

Local TV is free with an antenna

Jay Turner

BOTTOM LINE - FOR FREE AIR TV

- Newer TV
- Connecting cable
- HDTV antenna

RESULT: AIR TV - over 50 channels and **no monthly bills from Click or Comcast.**

At last, no cable bills

TIP: Make sure you get one of the newer antennas designed for digital TV. I purchased an antenna called the "Leaf 30", made by Mohu. Bill Johnson purchased a Weingard Amp from Fred Meyer. Gary uses an external mounted antenna, the RCA ANT751R, from amazon.com. They all work.

Don't expect a coat hanger or rabbit ears to give you the performance you desire. Don't expect to put your antenna in the same room as your TV. Do spend time to find the right antenna location for your home.

Check out the "**how to do it**" on the NSHD web page, TacomaNorthSlope.org. Go to Chapter 9 in the NSHD library section. Look for FreeTV and Free Movies.

A word of advice, when you remove the cable for paid TV and attach your cable for AIR TV, you must program your TV for "antenna" and run the scan. Every time you change the location of the antenna, you must run the scan again.

Questions: jayjulieturner@hotmail.com

WHAT IF YOU WANT STREAMING TV FROM YOUR INTERNET WIFI?

With internet you can stream movies or TV shows to your TV. A one time purchase of a device from Roku, Google, Amazon or Apple TV is necessary. With one of these devices, you can stream directly from your router to your TV. ROKU is most popular and has 2000 channels for viewing, many are free. For most people, the "stick" version of these devices are all you need.

Netflix, Hulu and Amazon Prime are the three most popular subscription video-streaming services. Start with free AIR TV and add one of these later.

THE COST, about \$43 for free AIR TV, Internet and Netflix. Many other options are available: this is just an example.

For football, AIR TV has the Seahawks covered, SlingTV (\$20/mo) has ESPN for Monday Night Football and Amazon Prime (\$99/yr) has Thursday Night Football. Turn them on for football, turn them off for vacation.

NSHD PEOPLE HAVE “CUT THE CABLE” Read what they did.

<http://tacomanoorthslope.org/library/TVfree.html>

SET UP PROGRAM LISTING

Go to zap2it.com and set up an account (you want this to save settings). The important setting is at the bottom of “change locations” where you select **Broadcast Antenna** Note: is is not 4, 5, and 7 anymore, it is 4.1, 5.1 and 7.1 and your TV will know and use these new channel numbers.

RELATED LINKS

<https://blog.roku.com> <<< every week ROKU gives a new list of **free channels and movies** to use without needing a subscription service.

<http://www.gomohu.com>

<https://www.cutcabletoday.com>

<http://www.komando.com/tips/382344/how-smart-people-are-streaming-tv/all>

<http://cordcuttersnews.com/cord-cutting-101-beginners-guide-cord-cutting-2017-edition/>

<http://cordcuttersnews.com/ultimate-guide-legal-free-movies-tv-shows/>

<http://www.businessinsider.com/teens-dont-care-about-cable-tv-2017-4>

<http://www.tomsguide.com/us/what-is-amazon-prime,news-18041.html>

<http://www.tomsguide.com/us/cord-cutting-guide,news-17928.html>

<https://blog.roku.com/blog/2017/01/25/roku-channels-hidden-gems/>

<https://blog.roku.com/blog/2017/04/13/must-see-tv-shows-to-stream-for-free/>

PLEASE COMMENT to news@tacomanoorthslope.org

If you have suggestions on how to set up and use free AIR TV in the NSHD, please send information so it can be shared. We need stories from NSHD people.

If you have first-hand knowledge about ROKU, Amazon Fire, Amazon Prime or Apple TV and how they work, please send us this information. Again, we need stories from NSHD people.