Here comes the Hilltop Business Crawl! The Crawl is an opportunity to connect with and support local Hilltop businesses and vendors impacted by Tacoma Hilltop Link Construction and COVID-19. The Crawl will spotlight businesses along MLK Jr. Way and S 11th ST and will also feature handmade goods, artwork and food in vendor areas.

Community members will use the Hilltop Business Crawl Passport to engage with participating locations. Visit a business, show your support, and receive a ‘Stamp’ on your Passport. Once you have 4 stamps, return to Hilltop Action Coalition and turn in your passport to win great raffle prizes from participating businesses! You’ll also have the chance to vote for your favorite business for the People’s Choice Award! Raffle Prizes will be drawn at the September 21st, HAC Monthly Community Meeting, via Facebook Live. HAC will also announce the People’s Choice Awarded at this meeting.

To participate, cut out the Passport from the journal; print a passport online at www.activatehilltop.org; or pick up your passport at HAC office during Crawl hours. Sat/Sun 10am-4pm. One Passport per Family. Raffle Prizes and Awardee to be announced September 21st at 6pm during the HAC Monthly Community Meeting.

For more information, visit www.activatehilltop.org or https://www.facebook.com/Activate-Hilltop. All participants are asked to wear a face mask and stay socially distanced while participating. Come by and pick up free face masks, sanitizer and bottled water at the Hilltop Action Coalition office. Spin the Prize Wheel for a chance to win a Hilltop Business Crawl T-Shirt (logo below) or Hilltop Action Coalition coffee mug. The first 25 community members that come to HAC for their Passport on Aug 22nd and 23rd will receive a FREE Hilltop Business Crawl tote bag!

Here’s how to participate:

1. Pick Up Your Passport at Hilltop Action Coalition office or print at home from activatehilltop.org
2. Visit Participating Hilltop Businesses on August 22nd & 23rd
3. Collect 4 Stamps on your passport & vote for your favorite business below.
4. Return Passport with contact info filled out to HAC office during Crawl hours. Sat/Sun 10am-4pm

How to vote:

Choose your favorite business below.

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President’s Message

By Brendan Nelson

Hi Hilltop Family,

With the rest of the nation and the world, we have been reeling with the fast-paced turn of events as we all manage the national health pandemic created by the spread of COVID-19. Like most other places, Hilltop Action Coalition is finding new ways to be in community, to be together, and to uphold one another and our work. Our hearts are breaking as we witness the fall-out from the effects of the pandemic on our communities. We are holding so much in our hearts and minds. We are holding the worry of those who are sick and the sorrow of those who have already lost a loved one to this virus both here and abroad.

We are holding parents and caregivers at home with their kids, managing the tension between supporting their children’s learning and just wanting to make sure they feel safe and loved in an unprecedented time.

We are holding all of the teachers and school administrators and education leaders who are trying to figure out how to support children and families, and how to do so equitably.

We are holding the gravity of the reality that in this moment of collective trauma and crisis, the negative effects are experienced much more drastically by those who are already vulnerable in our society, those in poverty, immigrants, the undocumented, people of color, Indigenous peoples, those with disabilities, those without safe and loving family structures. This crisis is expositing the extreme gaps in our society and the deep and abiding obligation we have to put things right.

We are trying to hold that there are also remarkable responses unfolding, as we push ourselves not be paralyzed by a state of despair. As our daily lives are rapidly reconfiguring, how can we be self-determining in the reconfiguration? We need to hold the devastating impacts of this moment, and can we also reach for what might be possible that wasn’t visible before.

We are thinking about these questions, and have been working hard to support our community, and consider what role we will play in meeting some of the very important needs of businesses, residents, schools and families that are pressing and urgent.

We hope that you and your loved ones are well, and we are more committed than ever to do our work in a way that supports learning and thriving of all Hilltop residents, businesses and institutions.

Please reach out to us with thoughts and ideas on how we can continue to move forward. We all need each other during this time.

Peace and Love,
Brendan Nelson
President, Hilltop Action Coalition

The Hilltop Business Crawl is for everyone! Get your Passport and visit the businesses and vendors anytime over the two days. Come alone or with members of your household to make it a family treat.

Visit participating businesses along Martin Luther King Jr Blvd and the designated vendor areas in the Hilltop Neighborhood on August 22nd and 23rd. Find businesses on your Map and have them stamp or sign your Passport to win prizes!

Support Your Local Businesses!

How to participate:
1. Pick Up Your Passport at Hilltop Action Coalition on Aug 22nd or 23rd
2. Visit Participating Hilltop Businesses on Aug 22nd or 23rd and collect stamps
3. Collect 4 stamps and return your passport to Hilltop Action Coalition to be entered in the Hilltop Business Raffle

Don’t forget to vote for your favorite business for the People’s Choice Award!

All participants are asked to wear a face mask and stay socially distanced while participating. You can also pick up free face masks and bottled water at the Hilltop Action Coalition office.
Meet Brendan A. Nelson, a Nationally Certified Nonprofit Professional with nearly 20 years of experience working in the education and nonprofit sectors. He is particularly effective at ensuring ongoing collaboration and accountability with young adults and community members. He has served his community in a variety of roles, such as the Co-Chair of the Hilltop Engagement Committee, Vice-Chair of the City Events and Recognitions, and is currently President of the Hilltop Action Coalition.

Find HAC on Instagram!

HAC Intern Stephon Graves, Student at University of Washington Tacoma, has helped launch hilltop_action_coalition to help reach younger audiences in the Hilltop.

Follow HAC at https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1013132081/hilltop-action-coalition/

When Carol Wolfe, with City of Tacoma Economic Development, heard that Hilltop Action Coalition was reaching out to local business with a marketing plan to fill the void left by the canceled Hilltop Street Fair, she connected HAC with Effie Gurmeza and the funds to pay for services. Effie is a Brand Photographer and Social Media Strategist and is working with Hilltop Business Crawl participants with Instagram marketing as a bonus for being involved in The Crawl. Check out @effiegurmeza to complete a social media strategy worksheet.

Brendan Nelson, HAC Board President, and Aaliyah Walton, HAC Intern and Hilltop Action Journalist, sit down for a refreshing drink while talking about impacts of Link construction and Covid-19 on Hilltop businesses.

Meet Brendan A. Nelson, a Nationally Certified Nonprofit Professional with nearly 20 years of experience working in the education and nonprofit sectors. He is particularly effective at ensuring ongoing collaboration and accountability with young adults and community members. He has served his community in a variety of roles, such as the Co-Chair of the Hilltop Engagement Committee, Vice-Chair of the City Events and Recognitions, and is currently President of the Hilltop Action Coalition.

Come visit Johnson Candy Company during the Hilltop Business Crawl August 22nd and 23rd. Complete your Crawl Passport and enter to win a 2 lb. box of chocolate! Follow us at https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/4039708/johnson-candy-company/!

HAC Virtual Meetings

Shifting how we meet in COVID.

Brendan Nelson and Alyssa Torrez, HAC Board Members, are hosting Virtual Monthly Community Meetings and Weekly Updates via Facebook Live during the COVID-19 pandemic. Join the Hilltop Action Coalition - That’s You! - on Mondays at 6:00 PM and find out what’s going on in your Hilltop Neighborhood! Say “Hello” to friends, and stay socially connected. See you Mondays at 6:00 PM and find out what’s going on in your Hilltop Neighborhood! Say “Hello” to friends, and stay socially connected. See you Mondays at 6:00 PM and find out what’s going on in your Hilltop Neighborhood! Say “Hello” to friends, and stay socially connected.

How to attend HAC Virtual Meetings

During the scheduled meeting, be on Facebook & click on the HAC has gone ‘Live’ notification to go to the live meeting.

No Facebook? Google search ‘Hilltop Action Coalition Facebook Live now’, during the scheduled meeting and click on the HAC Facebook link.

Meet Brendan A. Nelson, a Nationally Certified Nonprofit Professional with nearly 20 years of experience working in the education and nonprofit sectors. He is particularly effective at ensuring ongoing collaboration and accountability with young adults and community members. He has served his community in a variety of roles, such as the Co-Chair of the Hilltop Engagement Committee, Vice-Chair of the City Events and Recognitions, and is currently President of the Hilltop Action Coalition.

Hilltop Action Coalition is a community-based coalition and 501(c)3 nonprofit that is working to mobilize and empower diverse individuals, families, businesses and other public and community organizations to build a safe, clean, healthy resilient and unified community.

Community Priorities

- Good Jobs and Local Hires
- Affordable & Obtainable Housing
- Safety through Community Policing
- Pathways to Home Ownership
- Programs for Youth and Seniors
- Create a Hilltop Neighborhood Library

Hilltop Action Coalition

Visit https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition, and check out some of the new editions to the HAC Virtual Meeting Library:

June 1st Special Guest Sarah Jolyon, The Red Elm Café
June 15th Special Guest Congressman Derek Kilmer
June 22nd Special Guest Dr. Arunga, Evergreen Tacoma
June 29th Special Guest Elvin Bucu, Graduate Tacoma
July 6th Special Guest Fahren Johnson, Seeds of Peace Summit Director
July 13th Special Guest Bishop White, Church of the Living God
July 20th Special Guests - HAC UWT Interns
July 27th Special Guests - David Home, Grit City Ciderworks & Cassandra Williams, Love by the Slice
Aug 3rd Special Guests David Conib, The TSM Shop & William Johnson, Johnson Candy Company
Aug 10th Special Guest Eric Upchurch, Goodfellas Barbers

Hilltop Action Journal

Award-Winning Publication!

Journals are viewable online at www.hilltopactioncoalition.org!

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Advertise with us
Email hacoffice15@gmail.com

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Hilltop Tacoma Link looks like a train project as construction progresses

Liz Ellis, Sound Transit Community Outreach Specialist, is often seen on the Hilltop working with businesses and contractors. She provides HAC with construction updates and photographs to share with the Hilltop Community. Liz has been a guest speaker at many HAC meetings.

The Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension looks more like a train project as crews install track along the route, including on Martin Luther King Jr. Way in Hilltop. I’d like to give an update on the project in Hilltop, encourage neighbors to keep supporting Hilltop businesses, and let you know how to keep in touch during this “stay at home” time.

Hilltop Tacoma Link opens for service in 2022. Construction will continue through 2021. Then, the trains and system will be tested. We can’t wait for you to hop on the Link in Hilltop!

Crews are working safely to protect workers and the public during COVID-19. Construction workers wear masks, wash hands frequently, sanitize tools, and keep a distance. While many people stay at home and businesses reopen, we are trying to do as much construction as possible to reduce impacts. We are working together with the community to help people get where they need to go—safely—during construction and this health crisis.

The contractor is making good progress installing underground utilities and track. Most of the underground utilities are installed in Hilltop, and the contractor will complete the sewer and stormwater work on Martin Luther King Jr. Way between 6th Avenue and S. 9th Street this summer. Crews continue installing track on Martin Luther King Jr. Way from S. 9th Street going south to S. 18th Street. Later this summer, crews will start installing track on MLK Jr. Way at Division Avenue going south, and will start building the traction power substation on S. 8th Street and the platform for the Hilltop station.

Sound Transit is committed to keeping access open and encouraging customers to keep coming to businesses along the route during construction. As part of the Loyal to the Local campaign, we will take more photos and videos of Hilltop businesses, and feature businesses in Facebook ads and marketing materials. We recently featured Second Cycle, Red Elm Café, and Pho King in Facebook ads. We continue to support community connections and proudly sponsor the Hilltop Business Crawl.

Like many of you, I am working from home during COVID-19 and provide project information by phone, email, social media and online. If you have questions or concerns about the Hilltop Tacoma Link project, please contact me at 253.208.0586 (call or text). Learn more about the project by signing up for email updates at https://www.soundtransit.org/system-expansion/hilltop-tacoma-link-extension and join the Hilltop Tacoma Link Facebook group at https://www.facebook.com/groups/505066506854906/. I also welcome the opportunity to participate in virtual meetings. Let’s stay connected while we’re physically apart, together.

This project more than doubles the length of Tacoma Link with 2.4 miles of track and seven new stations. Four stations will serve the community along Martin Luther King Jr. Way: Tacoma General Station near S. 3rd Street, 6th Avenue; Hilltop just south of S. 11th Street; and St. Joseph Station near S. 18th Street. Trains will run every 10 minutes, offering convenient service to the Stadium and Hilltop neighborhoods. This project also expands the existing operations and maintenance facility in the Dome District to hold five new light rail vehicles.

Submit Articles, Photographs or Advertise in the Hilltop Action Journal!
Email hacoffice15@gmail.com for more information.
Forterra sets the stage for future developments: In Tacoma, Community Comes First

The ‘Rite Aid’ site development project is driven by the Hilltop Community through the use of a Community Investment Council to ensure Forterra addresses “the real needs of the community and reflect the neighborhood’s rich history and culture.”

By Kristine Conom, in collaboration with Jeff Dade

This month I had the pleasure of speaking with Jeff Dade, Sr. Project Manager for Community Development with the nonprofit Forterra. Forterra has been known for regional land conservancy for over 30 years. Their mission is to “act with immediacy to protect, enhance, and steward the land and real estate that are the foundation of our region’s most precious resources – its communities and its ecosystems.” I asked Jeff about the Rite Aid building lot and Forterra’s plans to develop it.

Currently, Forterra plans to build over 300 residential units, about half of which are purposefully called “attainable”—they will be at 60% AMI, meaning they will be priced for families with incomes that are 60% of the area’s average income. The building will include space for shops, offices, non-profits and businesses on the first floor. Half of the homes and the businesses will be cooperatively owned (co-ops), while the other half will be rental. Co-ops lower the cost of ownership by reducing down payments and monthly costs and keep the control with the residents and business owners.

Forterra is collaborating with Fab-5 to hold three design events and two bura Sessines forums to make sure they capture community values, needs, and wants for the site. These meetings will be a continuation of the #DesignTheHill community planning efforts begun last year.

To help keep costs down, Forterra is also using innovative modular construction methods and cross laminated timber (CLT). While CLT has been used widely in Europe and is known for its strength, sustainability, and beauty, it is still catching on in the U.S. By the end of next year, Forterra will have a model modular unit at the property for community members to check out.

Community Design

Forterra is taking development advice for the Rite Aid lot from a Community Investment Council whose members are a part of the Hilltop Community. “Our number one goal with this project is to fight displacement of long-time residents and businesses in Hilltop,” said Michelle Connor, Forterra President and CEO. “We’re committed to listening closely to residents as we design this project. We want the development to address the real needs of the community and reflect the neighborhood’s rich history and culture.”

What’s Next?

Construction is slated to begin in 2022. Meanwhile, Forterra wants to help make use of the space. In partnership with Fab-5, Christopher Jordan, Kiana Daniels, and Brendan Nelson they will putting out the call for artists who can make interim use of the building until it is built. This call will specifically be for local Hilltop artists. They are looking for 3-4 murals to permanently transform the feel of the property and create original works of art that will be a permanent part of the future buildings. The Selection Committee for the artists will include Fab-5, member of the CRC, and Forterra.

This art will be created and installed prior to building demolition and will help signal the community to “Get Ready” for new opportunities ahead. The four commissions will be awarded at $3,750 per artist. Work is to be completed or before September 20, 2020. Selections will be made by a committee comprised of Forterra, Fab-5, and members of the Community Investment Council. (Hilltop Call for Artists #DesignTheHill, Page 1)

There are 2 projects artists can submit a proposal for:

1) Celebrating Hilltop: Get Ready, which is “an opportunity to use art to activate the vacant buildings right now. This art will signal to the community that this space is changing, as we “Get Ready” for new opportunities ahead.”

2) Celebrating Hilltop: Lasting Legacy, which is for “pieces that will be permanent fixtures in the new development—leaving a “Lasting Legacy.”"

CELEBRATING HILLTOP: Get Ready (Project 1)

Four (4) commissions for engaging the community activation art that will transform the existing buildings at the site of the former Rite Aid at South 11th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way. This art will be created and installed prior to building demolition and will help signal the community to “Get Ready” for new opportunities ahead. Four commissions will be awarded at $3,750 per artist. Work is to be completed or before September 20, 2020. Selections will be made by a committee comprised of Forterra, Fab-5, and members of the Community Investment Council. (Hilltop Call for Artists #DesignTheHill, Page 2)

CELEBRATING HILLTOP: Lasting Legacy (Project 2)

Five (5) to ten (10) commissions for engaging the community and creating art pieces that will become permanent fixtures in the new development, creating a “Lasting Legacy.” The commissions will be awarded at $7,000 per artist. Studio space will be provided in the former Rite Aid building. Selections will be made by a committee comprised of Forterra, Fab-5, and members of the Community Investment Council. (Hilltop Call for Artists #DesignTheHill, Page 3)

Hilltop CALL for ARTISTS #DesignTheHill

We are looking for Black artists with roots in Hilltop to apply their creative talents to the transformation of South11th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way (the former Rite Aid site).

Both the art commissions and the community-driven development project are aligned with the ideals of #DesignTheHill, a community development initiative through which historic Hilltop residents reclaim physical, economic, civic, and cultural space to abolish displacement, transform vacancy and waste into agency and opportunity, and redistribute power in community development and city planning. (Hilltop Call for Artists #DesignTheHill, Page 1)

Request For Proposals To Hilltop Artists Information provided by Fab-5 & Forterra

Check out the Request for Proposal’s specific guidelines, timelines and criteria at https://drive.google.com/file/d/19oPaZ2NniA4Yk-xT1wD0T81ldODe/view.

Hilltop Call for Artists Application - #DesignTheHill Check out the online application here https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScXDfNTI7z6TSLShbP5Qkz-g8Cvxz5cJbYi6K9O-(C)_w/preview. You’ll find links to additional information about Fab-5 and #DesignTheHill, Hilltop’s Black History, and about Forterra’s Hilltop Project.
Are you Loyal to the Local? When you shop local, you help your neighborhood businesses grow and thrive. Why is that important? Because these businesses depend on people like you, and shopping local means you’re helping your community as well. So, instead of driving across town, shop local. With COVID-19 restrictions, local businesses have met the challenge to serve the community in a new fashion. For example, The Red Elm has turned their doorway into a customer service zone by placing a table at the door and allowing walk up service. You can still get your hot coffee and delicious waffles with a smile! Check out their coupon in this edition of the Hilltop Action Journal for a “Buy One Waffle, Get One Waffle Free” coupon. Stop by today to show your love and support. We look forward to when we can come inside and sit to chat with friends! Visit Loyal to the Local at https://www.soundtransportation.org/system-experience/building-your-local-hilltop.

Hilltop Addition to Help Homeless Youth

Pierce County Area Director, Greg Walker, introduces an organization centered around helping at-risk and homeless youth to the Hilltop.

By Azlyah Walton

A new Hilltop development birthed in 2018 is finally coming to life: The Coffee Oasis, a non-profit whose mission is to change the world for homeless and at-risk youth. The Coffee Oasis originated in Bremerton over 20 years ago and is now coming to Pierce County to make positive change in the lives of our Tacoma kids.

The organization was founded by a faith-driven, embracing man named Dave Frederick, who sought to house and help these unseen youth of the community. Being a police chaplain led him to discovering a staggering number of children with no place to truly call home, therefore inspiring him to create that place. It began with his own living room but when it became too small for the many at-risk youth that crossed community, he ended up buying an abandoned coffee shop called The Coffee Oasis. Ironically, Dave was not a coffee drinker according to Greg Walker. Although, a coffee business was not in the original plan, Dave Frederick saw a useful opportunity for the youth of Kitsap County, in that they could fund their efforts as well as have a community space for children because, “Coffee is what gathers community”, says Greg. If you ever want to meet up with someone and talk, it’s usually over a cup of coffee. A place to study? Coffee shop. A place where kids can get off the streets or out of toxic homes? The Coffee Oasis. In this culture, coffee is welcoming and for our homeless youth it doesn’t have to be the shameful experience of walking into a shelter and telling them that they have nobody. It’s extremely hard to admit to oneself, much more to others that you don’t have a safe place and you need help. At the Coffee Oasis, they can have somebody, create community and when they are comfortable enough, they can use all the great resources and opportunities that are there specifically for them. In other words, “It really is a gateway for youth to access our services.”

From that, the organization began to evolve from drop-in centers to creating shelters and building programs that would teach job skills and equip youth to make an income through internships and job training. In Kitsap County, these services were created due to the lack of their presence. However, there is a different approach in Pierce County, so instead of growing from a drop-in center, they started with what we needed most which is shelter. It’s a non-permanent location until another is in the works, but until then Serra House was created as the first emergency shelter for youth under 18 in Pierce County, located at 6002 S. Alaska St. The temporary housing includes 6 beds and a drop-in center. A 2018 study recorded that in Pierce County alone, 69% youth were homeless while attending school, which means that there are a whole group of kids in school that were not considered. Mr. Walker expresses a sad but true fact that “youth homelessness is invisible”. That is why projects like Coffee Oasis and Serra House is so important for us, because it gives our kids a chance to be seen and helped.

With that being said, the plans for Coffee Oasis are coming very soon. On the corner of 15th and Tacoma, there will be a new shelter expected to open this Fall and the café to open by next spring as well as a drop-in center. With the unexpected global pandemic, Coffee Oasis developments have been stumped, but haven’t stopped. It has explored many questions for the organization moving forward like, how will they be able to create their ideal community with homeless youth when shelters and centers are highly interactive? Or how will the prevention of COVID be safely implemented? What will housing and providing opportunities for homeless youth look like in this new normal we are living in? The Coffee Oasis plans to take all the necessary precautions in maneuvering this pandemic and still providing resources to the kids of Pierce County. For example, a common safe and structural place for youth is school, so Coffee Oasis must think of ways to replicate a safe learning environment and technology access.

This organization knows the importance of community input and while they analyze their future in Pierce County, they want Hilltop to know that they are listening, especially because they don’t have all the answers. “We want to be good neighbors”, says Greg. They are excited to be collaborating with the Hilltop community and being a part of the positive change for our youth. For more information, visit https://thecoffeeoasis.com, check out their Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/thecoffeeoasis, follow them on Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/thecoffeeoasis/, or call (253) 328-6127.

Coffee Oasis Coffee!

“While we don’t have a cafe open yet, we do provide a way for people to order our fresh-roasted beans (in Bremerton).”

– Greg Walker
Gratitude
By Bethany ‘B.Lyte’ Montgomery
Instagram @b.lyte222

I’m done fighting back my tears
I now choose to embrace them
My demons I done faced them
I no longer internalize hatred
I’m tremendously grateful
So I always say thank you
Absolutely appreciative
Just know I’m thankful
For all the blessings
This universe provided
I look toward the future
Never short sighted
Embrace opportunities
Never indecisive
Never undecided
Because no task is too giant
What you focus on expands
So me
I choose to focus on statements of
I am
I can
I will
I do
I want
I love
Because
Our thoughts become things
So I believe in my dreams
I have control over my own reality
Enjoying the positive energies
Of those who share my same mentality
Good vibes is what I choose to surround me
I practice meditation
Allowing me to maintain my consciousness
So I remain an optimist
Ya girl don’t quit
I do the exact opposite
Failure is not a consequence
I use what I learn to propel
Like a rocket ship
There are no limitations
For ambition and confidence
I set my goals and then accomplish them
I treasure the gifts I’ve been given
All the souls who listen
To my poetry
The words I speak
Emitting an aura of abundance and love
So I glisten
No longer holding onto negative beliefs
Practice what I preach
Tap into the frequency
Peace
Power 2 The Poetry
More poems at power2thepoetry.com

My TEDx Spokane Tall 2018
https://youtu.be/pR99bPNJyDk

The TSM Shop
Keeping it local in the Hilltop.

When Hilltop Action Coalition needed to get t-shirts and tote bags made for the Hilltop Business Crawl, they knew just where to go: The TSM Shop right around the corner at 920 MLK Jr. Way. Keeping your partners local keeps the Hilltop strong! Willie was exceptionally helpful going over the t-shirt proof details to make sure the appearance was professional and able to be delivered on time for The Crawl.

The TSM Shop is part of the Loyal to the Local Program which reminds us that when we shop local, we help our neighborhood businesses grow and thrive. Spending money locally has a BIG biggest challenge: breaking the habit of convenience shopping online or at big chain stores. Taking the time and visiting local shops keeps money circulating within the community, building wealth and opportunities, supporting neighborhoods and social capital. Keep it local... Keep Hilltop Strong!

“By keeping the circulation of money within our local community, our energy or wealth is kept intact, and our community is able to meet its needs and prosper. This local availability of wealth can stimulate opportunity, creativity, enterprise, and jobs within our local community.”
~ Courtesy of Leigh Tremaine, Powerful Benefits of Keeping Your Money Local

Keep Up-To-Date with Hilltop Tacoma Link Construction on Facebook
After-Hours Construction Hotline: 888-298-2395

Keep it local in the Hilltop.

Photographs of The TSM Shop courtesy of Sound Transit.

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Keep it local in the Hilltop.
The Fish House Café: A Hilltop Legacy

By Kristine Corman

The Fish House Café is one of Hilltop’s Legacy Businesses, feeding neighborhood families since 1987! I began eating there last year; starving at work, I texted the board president to find some down to earth, wholesome food to eat. I went to the Fish House, ordered fish and chips, and was pleasantly surprised to find real fish, breaded lightly and deep fried in clean oil. I’ve been back many times and always get the fish. :) No minced meat, fish sticks here!!

Are you wondering how Fish House Café became a Hilltop Legacy Business? Good men from the community (Walter Gary, Ray, Wallace Anthony Muhammad, family members and many others) began selling fish sandwiches as a fundraiser. In 1987, Pastor Petit, Associate Pastor at Peace Lutheran Church, centered the menu around fish. Anthony Muhammad’s family has worked there since 2000. He passed the business down to his son, Ahmad, to keep the restaurant a member of the community.

Community members have passed down the love for Fish House’s wholesome, delicious, economically priced menu items from parents to children. Interviewed on Veterans Day 2020, Anthony Muhammad said he has seen parents come in as teen agers, then with their babies; pretty soon those babies grew up and were walking in themselves with their kids. People have taken ownership of The Fish House (nick-name), which is evident by the hundreds of photographs in collages on the wall. Anthony often hears from the customers, “This place has always got to be here!!”

What the Hilltop Means to Me...

“I fight to protect it any day of the week. I was part of the group that started the Hilltop Action Coalition. We did good trouble as we fought to protect our homes, our children’s safety, and to eliminate the drugs and the drive byes that we all were afraid of. We worked together as a team to turn our neighborhood around and we did with the help of the police department, the fire department and our ever trusty building inspector. He taught us about code violations. Without the help of these organizations and many others the Hilltop would not look like she does today. The Hilltop is constantly growing and changing each day, each month, each year. HAC needs to continue to grow and change with each year. As its Stewards we need to see that everyone within its borders becomes truly involved and helps to build its leadership core to prepare for whatever our future may hold.”

Sincerely, Crestina Marez
By Harlan Shoop

The Tacoma Ministerial Alliance (TMA), a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, has over forty years of collaborative work in the Tacoma/ Pierce County area serving the holistic needs of the community. Over the years the TMA has marched and rallied for social justice, the minimum wage increase and challenged the health care system for better health in our most vulnerable communities, as well as tackled other social issues. Those efforts happened on a limited budget that was generated by the giving of TMA member congregants and the sponsoring of special services and events. Over the years, monies received from these sources has allowed the TMA to award over hundreds of scholarships to graduating high school seniors and monetary support to elementary and middle school students in the Tacoma area.

The TMA knew that in order for them to have a greater impact on empowering people of color and to preserve the legacy of African American businesses, they needed an additional stream of financial resources. Therefore, in 2017 the TMA stepped out on faith and purchased the historic Sam & Terry Barbershop.

The Sam and Terry’s Barbershop was founded in 1958 by Sam Daniels and Larry Terry; it’s the first black-owned barbershop in Tacoma. It’s also more than that. Over the years, Sam and Terry’s grew into a trusted gathering spot for the black community and a constant amidst years of change and, at times, turmoil on Hilltop. The hope is to keep the barbershop a part of Hilltop for years to come, while at the same time using profits for good services in the community.

In addition, in 2018 the TMA purchased a men’s clothing store, the historic Mr. Mac LTD which was founded by Morris L. McCollum notably called “Mr. Mac.” Mr. Mac’s clothing store has been in Tacoma for over 60 years and on the Hilltop for the past 21 years. Mr. Mac LTD is an icon in the Hilltop Community and remains the go-to store for clothing fashion that caters to People of Color. The TMA wanted to preserved the tradition and protect the history of Mr. Mac.

After the purchase of both businesses, strategic planning by the TMA initiated the consolidation of the two separate businesses into one location. It was in 2019 that Sam & Terry Barbershop was relocated with Mr. Mac. Now on MLK Jr Way in Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood, there’s a place where you can get service from “head to toe”, all in one place: a haircut, a suit and shoes.

You can support the TMA efforts by getting a haircut and shopping at Mr. Mac. Also, you can help by spreading the word to others to shop at Mr. Mac and get a haircut at Sam & Terry Barbershop. By doing so you are not only supporting the preservation of legacy, but you are also supporting the financial need of high school graduates through scholarships and the continual educational support to our youth through merit awards.

For more information, visit our website at https://tmatoday.org/. Click on the Programs tab and find out about TMA’s community programs and partnerships. TMA works with the Homeless Prevention Project, Homeless Intervention Program, and with Power Up Pierce 98404.

Mr. MAC Ltd. is located at 1124 MLK Jr. Way - call (253) 383-2737, visit their Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/Mr-Mac-Ltd-164173117060407/, or visit https://www.mrmac.com/

Sam & Terry’s Barbershop is right next store - check out their Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/samandterrysbarbershop/.

Sam Daniels, right, opened Sam and Terry’s Barber Shop in 1958 with business partner Larry Terry. In this 2013 photograph, Daniels, who died in 2016, visits with long-time customer, Charles Armstron. Photograph courtesy of Janet Jensenm, News Tribune.

Photograph courtesy of Matt Driscoll, News Tribune.

A FASHION ICON
TACOMA HILLTOP LEGEND
Mr. Morris L. McCollum (Mr. Mac)

Mr. Mac cares about the Tacoma Hilltop deeply. He began with K Street Boosters Club, then the Upper Tacoma Business District and later the Hilltop Business Association. In 2015, Mr. Mac received the NAACP Lifetime Achievement award. In 2016, he received the Hilltop Hero award which honor’s Hilltop Legends.

I DID IT MY WAY
2020: A free street tree program

Recognizing the needs of our local community, the goal of the program has shifted in recent years to equitably increasing tree canopy and growing happy and healthy neighborhoods through community tree planting.

The City is committed to racial, social, climate, and environmental justice for our community. Recognizing the needs of our local community, the goal of the program has shifted in recent years to equitably increasing tree canopy and growing happy and healthy neighborhoods through community tree planting.

In fact, the City is committed to anti-racist transformation to achieve better outcomes for our community, and even trees have a role to play. As part of the City’s commitment to equity and goal of reaching 30% canopy coverage by 2030, the Grit City Trees program prioritizes planting in Tacoma’s traditionally underserved neighborhoods. The City is committed to anti-racist transformation to achieve better outcomes for our community, and even trees have a role to play.

Why plant a Tree? Adding more trees to neighborhoods is proven to help keep places cooler on the hottest days, clean the air we breathe, manage stormwater runoff, slow neighborhood traffic, provide mental health benefits, and so much more. The first benefit is especially important. The “Urban heat-island effect” happens when buildings, roads, and other infrastructure absorb and hold onto more of the sun’s heat compared to natural landscapes.

The impact of this heat can cause an increase in heat-related illness to the community. Natural landscapes, including trees, can significantly reduce temperatures. The differences in temperature have been measured across Tacoma. “Almost all cities experience a degree of the heat-island effect, but neighborhoods with low canopy coverage suffer the most, sometimes registering temperatures up to 7-9 degrees hotter than surrounding areas. The neighborhoods with the highest heat island values almost always directly correlate with low-income, historically minority neighborhoods. This holds true in Tacoma as well.” – Tacoma Tree Foundation 2020.

Tree coverage is a major factor affecting the livability of a neighborhood and leads to clear differences in quality of life across neighborhoods in Tacoma. With tree canopy coverage as low as 2.9% in some traditionally underserved neighborhoods, it is vital that the City provides resources to support tree growth in these communities.

The City can promote planting, but it takes a village to grow a forest. Neighbors are encouraged to work together, while following COVID-19 safety precautions, to apply for Grit City Trees as a group. Individuals are also eligible to apply. Trees and other supporting materials such as TAGRO, tree stakes, and tree ties will be available for individuals to pick up at the City’s Plant Holding Facility this fall. Free delivery to neighborhood groups will start in October. Planting should occur during the fall.

In the spring, watering bags will be available for ease of watering during the dry summer months. Regularly watering a new tree for at least the first three years after planting is crucial for them to establish healthy roots and thrive.

Tacoma residents interested in participating will need to send in the Grit City Trees application with the included tree care agreement signed by all participating property owners. These trees are for planting in the right-of-way only, are not for resale. All applications will be considered on a first-come first-serve basis, with preference given to neighborhood group applications from Tacoma’s traditionally underserved neighborhoods. Applications are available at https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=111377.

Additionally, we want to extend an open invitation to talk about the urban forest and the Grit City Trees program. We recognize this program may be limited and are especially interested in learning about how to best support traditionally underserved communities. To reach out and learn more information please visit https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=111377.

In the 2018 and ‘19 seasons, Grit City Trees distributed about 460 trees with an average of 60% going to Tacoma’s traditionally underserved neighborhoods. We hope to continuously increase the number of trees being planted in our traditionally underserved neighborhoods. We hope to continuously increase the number of trees being planted in our traditionally underserved neighborhoods and increase the quality of life for people living there.

We would not have reached these numbers and we won’t surpass them without the amazing work of “Tree Captains.” These community leaders inspire their neighbors to take incremental actions like tree planting, which continuously improve the environment and quality of life in their neighborhoods for generations to come. For that, we are forever grateful.

Information provided by Arin Lewis. Arin works in the Office of Sustainability/Urban Forestry, at City of Tacoma.

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By Arin Lewis

Grit City Trees is the City of Tacoma’s annual free street tree giveaway program. This program provides free street trees to Tacoma residents who are interested in planting in the right-of-way, the planting space between the edge of the road and the property boundary, in front of their property. Applications for the 2020 season are being accepted now through August 30, for individuals and through September 6, for groups of neighbors.

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Information provided by Arin Lewis. Arin works in the Office of Sustainability/Urban Forestry, at City of Tacoma.
Own Your Mouth

80% of disease symptoms are related to problems in the mouth.

By Arlene Thomas, with Ohana Health, a Hilltop Business Crass 2020 Participant

Fluoride in water, toothpaste and dental treatments is industrial waste more toxic than lead. Products containing fluoride have a warning: Do Not Swallow. If it gets in your mouth it gets absorbed into your bloodstream. FLUORIDEGATE (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TV5lwdPCyW8), a Film by Dr. David C. Kennedy documents the dangers including how Blacks and Hispanics have a higher genetic vulnerability than whites. Mercury in “silver” fillings is directly linked to cancer, M.S. and other diseases. In the YouTube video Smoking Tooth Smoking Tooth Tammy DeGregorio, DMD, NMD, shows mercury gas, odorless, colorless, tasteless and toxic seen under a black light. Mercury vapor out-gasses from silver amalgam dental fillings into the bloodstream and brain. Heavy metal toxicity is linked to a short temperament, closed mindedness and easily agitated behaviors common in the homeless. Spirochetes in root canal treated teeth, plaque, cavities and gum cause insulin resistance, mood disorders and aging symptoms. They are aggressive bacteria that migrate throughout the body to joints often leading to arthritis, to the brain-dementia, to bone-osteoporosis. The most common oral infections are asymptomatic resulting in heart disease and cancer.

Take charge of your health:
1-Make fluoride free water your main beverage. Sugary and acidic drinks weaken tooth enamel. Brush your teeth at least twice daily and oil pull toxins daily or as often as possible.
2-Safely remove any mercury filings and root canal treated teeth to prevent and possibly reverse disease.
3-See a biological dentist twice a year to eliminate spirochetes-hidden infections. Enter your zip code on the IAOMT website at to locate one near you (http://www.iaomt.com/)

Members receive special discounts and a voice in the future direction of the store.

By Melissa Bostic

305. That is the number of member-owners needed to make Grit City Co-op a reality. In 2016, a group of Tacoma residents began to gather to address the lack of access to locally produced and minimally processed food options in Central Tacoma. By early 2017, a steering committee had formed to open a new Food Cooperative. In 2018, this cooperative bore the name Grit City Co-op, a name selected by the growing membership. The steering committee then became a Board of Directors with a mission to provide sustainable food and goods to support the well-being of our peoples and region. Grit City Co-op is dedicated to opening a new food cooperative in the Hilltop/Central neighborhood. The Grit City Co-op Board of Directors works to develop policies and procedures, connect with the community stakeholders, and build membership – all in the drive to open a storefront. Member-owners are asked to purchase a share of the store with a one-time payment of $100.00, or $25.00 per year for 4 years. Member-owners will receive some special discounts when shopping in the store, but the true value of ownership is having a voice in the future direction of the store. This includes voting in annual Board elections and holding the board accountable for decisions, such as hiring, location, products sold, budget use, and more. If you have questions or want to get involved with Grit City Co-op, please email us at gritcitycoop@gmail.com

For more information about Grit City Co-op and ways you can become a member owner go to https://www.gritcitycoop.com/GRITCityCo-op also announces events through Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/thefriendsofthecoop/ Facebook and on Instagram with a handle of Grit City Co-op.
Fern & Foster Family Wellness: Building Community and Supporting Families

Danielle Schell and Emily Ager are proud Hilltop business owners that support and build community with growing families in Tacoma. The wellness center has gone virtual!

By Aaliyah Walton

Fairly new Hilltop business, Fern and Foster Wellness on 11th and Sheridan has a mission to provide community support to growing families. Although they are inclusive of everyone, they are highly accessible and hyperlocal to Tacoma residents, striving to listen to the community and accommodate services to be Tacoma-related.

Founders, Danielle Schell and Emily Ager discovered that as birth workers and mothers and no matter the years of experience or research, still struggled with navigating the medical field and finding support that was right for them. As a Doula, Danielle thought she knew what to expect, but when it came time for her to be a mother, she found herself struggling with postpartum depression and regret in the transition to motherhood. She found herself used to make candy for families. That sense of community is hard to replicate with minimal in-person interaction. Luckily, the wellness center has gone virtual, and a positive response generated from the community because of it, which inspired Danielle and Emily to continue with that option in the future to accommodate all customers. Ideally, they want to provide both options to include people without access to technology or internet, but they are still working hard to navigate this global pandemic.

Fern and Foster is an amazing addition to Hilltop, and their commitment to aiding the people of Tacoma including BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities is exactly what we need.

Visit Fern and Foster at https://www.fernandfoster.com, on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/fernandfostercompany, email them info@fernandfoster.com, or call (253) 655-7817.

Johnson’s Candy Company: Serving Hilltop for 96 years

Johnson’s Candy Company: Serving Hilltop for 96 years

Construction activity has meant navigating detours to access businesses along MLK Jr. Way. With many legacy businesses near the Link route, like Johnson’s Candy Company serving the Hilltop for 96 years, construction has had impacts on customer traffic. Visiting local businesses during construction will help keep the community vibrant.

Johnson’s Candy is participating in the Hilltop Business Crawl and is donating 2 pounds of chocolate as a Raffle Prize!

Construction & community support

Are you a local Hilltop business owner?

Find out how you can become a Local to the Local business today by visiting https://www.soundtransit.org/system-expansion/building-system/using-construction-impacts/business-relations

Stop by for handmade chocolates today!

Making Johnson’s Caramelized Butterscotch Crunch is a creative process that requires old-school techniques with steady hands and eyes. Kitchen tools date back to the early 1900’s and include candy making equipment from 1908 and 1914. Young workers used to make candy for Hilltop families.

William Johnson stands in front of Johnson’s Candy Company. Below, William stands in the shop, happy to be serving Hilltop! Photo courtesy of Sound Transit.

Have a sweet time at Johnson’s Candy on Sat, Aug 22nd, or Sun Aug 23rd and receive a Stamp for your Crawl Passport! They are open from 11am to 3pm at 924 MLK Jr Way. A box of chocolates makes a splendid gift!
Helping young explore and process their own experiences of discrimination.

Panelist Whitney Miller, a local Clinical Social Worker shared both clinical advice and her personal experience of discussing race with her children after losing her brother-in-law while in police custody in Tacoma. Whitney shared “as parents, we need to recognize our own biases and assess our own comfortability with discussing racism and social justice. Recognize that growth is continual.” Whitney offered suggestions of creating safety for kids and the importance of story telling and exposure when talking to kids about race and social justice.

The full webinar as well as additional resources and training materials are available on the Kids’ Mental Health Pierce County website: https://kidsmentalhealthpiercecounty.org. Kids’ Mental Health Pierce County is a coalition of people and agencies in Pierce County that are joining together to address the growing behavioral health crisis among school age children. For more information see the Kids’ Mental Health Pierce County website: https://kidsmentalhealthpiercecounty.org/. For more information about Kids’ Mental Health Pierce County, visit https://kidsmentalhealthpiercecounty.org or contact Ashley Mangum, Project Manager at amangum@multicare.org.

Grants can cover up to 100% of tuition plus service and activity fees, and do not need to be paid back. https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/college/washington-college-grant.

The ANGELA AWARD
Award details - This award honors one female student in grades 5-8, who is involved in or has a strong connection to science. The award has been established in honor of Gerry Wheeler, Executive Director Emeritus, and his outstanding dedication to NSTA and lifelong commitment to science education. https://www.nsta.org/ParadigmChallenge/Program/Deadline: December 10, 2020

AMAZON Future Engineer (AFE) PATHWAY - Computer science opportunities, from childhood to career. As part of Amazon’s $50M commitment to Computer Science (CS) Education, students now have access to Advanced Placement (AP) CS course offerings, scholarships, and early college internships through the Amazon Future Engineer (AFE) Pathway. https://www.amazonfutureengineer.com/

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YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM - Sponsor: Jack Kent Cooke Foundation - Amount: Up to $40,000 - Program is open to high-performing 7th grade students, high school seniors and undergraduates. Students can get a head start on college money with scholarships for youth from 5th grade to college. Get the Education you deserve... Scholarships and opportunities for all 6th-12th grades served 1st.

FREE STUDENT MEALS
It’s time to apply for more than $300 worth of free meals for each student under the Free or Reduced-Price Meal Program. Apply online at https://www.mealsnapnow.com or download an application in multiple languages at https://www.tacomauschools.org/departments/nutrition.

DISTANCE LEARNING DAY CAMPS OPEN IN SEPTEMBER
Tacoma Public School partners are offering Distance Learning Day Camps for preschool through 5th grade. Find out more at www.freemartntacoma.org/activities/tacoma-activity-guide.

LAPTOPS FOR STUDENTS
Students in grades 6 through 12th are able to check out their laptops from their school before classes begin. Check out the Laptop Distribution Schedule at https://www.tacomauschools.org/about/newsroom/story-detail/~board/20-21news/post/laptop-distribution-schedule-
through-5th-12th-grades-served-1st.

GET THE EDUCATION YOU DESERVE...
Grants can cover up to 100% of tuition plus service and activity fees, and do not need to be paid back. https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/college/washington-college-grant.

OPTIONS AND AWARDS FOR STUDENTS
Elementary school children may not know where they want to go to college or what they want to study but thinking about paying for college can be intimidating for their parents. So, You Want To Go To College. Now What? Grades 6-12- https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/.

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A conversation with youth and community leaders to talk strategy and next steps regarding racial equity in policing and education.

Jessica Curry and Kristine Conlan attended the virtual Seeds of Peace Summit and took notes so we could share the experience with those who could not attend.

By Jessica Curry

The Seeds of Peace: After the Protest - Next Steps was a Zoom event on June 26, 2020 from 3-5 PM.

The summit was started by an introduction by Fahren Johnson, the Youth Summit Director. Her opening statement reminded all members of the event that we’re dealing with a 400-year-old oppression, and encouraged everyone to “keep pushing.” This opening statement rang true throughout the entirety of Seeds of Peace.

After the opening statement, Fahren Johnson introduced the Youth Panel which was made up of students who recently led and/or organized protests. Everyone was given the space to share the ups and downs that came to light during their time organizing protests in Tacoma, WA, and surrounding communities.

Plamedie Masiala organized a protest in downtown Payette; her biggest low was that her family was afraid of her showing her face, fearing their own as well as her safety. Another low she experienced was not knowing where to start, and being able to ensure peace during the protest. Plamedie listed her biggest high was when a Native American blessed the land. Her second biggest high was being able to give the younger generation a voice because they want to be part of the change. Plamedie ended her piece with a message for community leaders, “we do want police reform – they need different training.” She wants police brutality to change, and for that to happen, the police need to be a part of the community, rather than against it.

Next, Bryan Sanders was given space to speak. His low was that he was told to never show his face. His high was that you could feel the energy of the people at the protest; and that you shouldn’t be afraid to attend a protest.

Gabriel Phillips followed Bryan, saying his biggest high was being able to see the community come together. His low was feeling overwhelmed with the news of planning, leading, and organizing protests. Gabriel has led protests through June, and runs a Facebook page. He is working to engage with community leaders to assist him with his dream to set up a non-profit for racial change.

Kabastin Campbell, Stadium H.S., said her high was the amount of kindness and support protesters received from each other - everyone was looking out for one another. Her low was that the police utilizing flash bangs and mace on peaceful protesters, commenting, “it is just not right!” Towards the end of her piece, Kabastin said that she wants community leaders to be aware of the youth who are leading the current movement - “they are the ones at the protests. Listen to them.”

Following the Youth Panel, we watched No Justice! No Peace!, then lead into the Community Leader Panel. This panel featured Torrey Green, T’wina Nobles, Jihadan Canley, Amanda Scott-Thomas, Canz Mitchell, Seth Kirby, Mayor Victoria Woodards, and Josh Garcia. The panel started off with questions given to Mayor Woodards.

Mayor Woodards was asked about the use of the buddy system in order to reduce the excessive use of force: “what steps should the City take to move forward with this request?”

Mayor Woodards said we need a community outreach plan. She stated, “this is not about meetings, but about intentional outreach.” The Mayor took this opportunity to address a statement made during the Youth Panel, “the youth are not the future, they are a part of the now, and their voices should be heard.”

She spoke about the Mayor’s Youth Commission that was formed and shared that there have been new elected officers. Mayor Woodards asked us to consider what the city needs because the police are only one part of a big system that needs to be reformed. Systemic systems, including education, parks, streets, lights, etc. all make up a system that depresses people of equal opportunities. She said we need to look at every system that have an effect on the citizens of Tacoma; think of everything, and every system. Mayor ended this, imploring us to, “stay engaged!”

The next question was also for Mayor Woodards, and was about defunding the police.

Mayor Woodards said she supports looking at the actions of the police and how they do it, in order to refine actions and responsibilities. She turned attention to an advisory commission with a younger person on it who looks at the policies of the police station(s). Among many things, this commission is looking at the Body Cam policy and procedures to make sure it’s what the community wants; this commission also wants to develop a community outreach plan. This segment of questioning concluded with the mayor encouraging more youth involvement with Project Peace.

The next person on the panel was Josh Garcia, of Tacoma Public Schools was questioned about teaching Black history - “what does teaching Black history right mean?” We were told that, as of now, independent study programs are available and, if interested, to reach out to Fahren Johnson.

The next question as far as the HAC team was able to cover due to conflicts with time. The team was able to have Fahren Johnson on for an interview during our weekly update shortly after the virtual event, which is available on the Hilltop Action Coalition Facebook page.

Check out the July 6, 2020 HAC Weekly Update with Fahren Johnson and hear about her experience directing the Seeds of Peace Summit (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqR3Y9wJG9k).
I have been learning a lot during this time we are living in. I have definitely been hearing a lot of conversations about the BLM movement. I heard that they have changed street names for us and they are changing a lot of laws. A lot of my family members have been saying white people have been treating them nicely lately. I honestly thought they were funny, but I think it should have always been like that. People should have been treating all people with kindness, it doesn’t matter what color you are. Everyone deserves that.

I was always raised to love every race and color, because it doesn’t matter what they look like, they are human too. I never understood and I don’t think I will ever understand why people just judge someone by the color of someone’s skin. Like, if your black you are in a gang or if your white you are normal. I don’t think about it when I play or with friends, one was mixed with white and the other girl was white and they started playing a song and it was called the “black person song”. This is something where they talk about stereotypical things that black people do, but it is made by a black person so that’s probably why they thought it was ok to play the song near me. I told my mom about it and she said that it wasn’t ok. I didn’t really think much of it because those were my friends and I didn’t want to think that my friends were racist people, but at the end of the day that wasn’t ok for them to play that song.

Before I came to Meeker I went to Narrows View intermediate where the majority of the school was white kids. Me being black my hair was different from everyone else’s and it stood out. I would change my hair everyday, because for me that was normal. My hair isn’t thin or straight it’s kind of thick and long. I remember one day I wore my hair in a high ponytail and it was fluffy, and a kid said it looked like a mushroom on my head. And all the girls would touch my hair and say it was very soft. At first I kinda liked it because people were giving me compliments but they were always touching my hair and putting their hands in it. I wasn’t angry with them. I was just annoyed, because I don’t go up to them and touch their hair and say it is super soft and squishy. I didn’t understand why my hair was different from theirs.

Another thing I experience is sometimes I’m scared to even go into a corner store (sometimes my hair isn’t done so I put a hoodie over my head). I feel like it’s do that I look like I’m going to steal something. Or if I see a cop anywhere around me my heart starts beating fast. That’s scary. We are afraid of something white people don’t have to worry about. I have never heard one of my white friends say that they were scared of a police officer. For us you don’t know if it’s going to be a good police officer or a bad one. That’s scary. Why are we afraid of someone that is supposed to protect us? If we really need help and call the police we can’t even really depend if they would really help us or not. I watched this one video on YouTube where a guy went to the dollar tree just to get juice and was almost arrested for being there in the store. And there are hundreds of videos just like that one where a black person is being harassed by a white person. But it’s not called racism, or its the black person’s fault. And this is why us black people are starting to get mad and why we are protesting and as of late have turned into riots. We are not heard and our problems are pushed to the side, our kids are dying more than any other race and no one hears our pain, we are treated poorly in America but no one hears us. We are lynched in public for everyone to see and people still find a way to say it was the black person’s fault that they were killed or they deserved it. That is sick! No one deserves to die, no matter what you did. It is only for God to decide when and how someone will die. People can say “All lives matter” and as much as I want that to be true, it’s not. All lives can’t matter until black lives matter. How are we supposed to get our point across to the public if we were saying all lives matter when we’re the ones that are dying for no reason it doesn’t make any sense.

There is this white girl that made a tik tok where a girl was trying put out a house on fire and another neighbor was like what about my house aren’t you going to help my house, but that neighbor house wasn’t on fire. So the neighbor that was trying to put out the house that was on fire was like are you serious? Why do you think your house is more important right now when it’s not on fire like the other one was? And that’s how it ended. I was scared of a police officer. For me you don’t know if it’s going to be a good police officer or a bad one. The meaning behind it is that people say all lives matter when black people are the ones on fire and are the ones who need help right now. Everyone is not on fire right now so how are people going to claim all lives matter.

We need allies like that girl who made that tik tok. She is speaking up for us. If we are white and not speaking out then you are a part of the problem or any race in general. We need white people to tell their friends and families what’s going on. We need white people to educate themselves so they can understand that it’s not right what’s going on. I’ve also been watching YouTube and a lot of my favorite YouTubers (most of them are black) have been posting videos like this, explaining what they feel right now and how to educate yourselves about what’s going on right now. If you look at it all over the internet. It’s more trending than the coronavirus.

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Hill Top Loans
has been serving Tacoma for over 30 years!
Located at the corner of South 11th ST and MLK Jr. Way, they provide short term loans to those with financial need. Hill Top Loans specializes in buying precious metals like gold, silver, and platinum. Hill Top Loans also provides collateral loans on a vast array of items available to the general public: TVs, DVD/Blu-Ray Players, Tools, Bikes, Game Consoles, Laptops, Tablets, DSLR Cameras, Collectibles, and Musical Instruments. Hill Top Loans - 1101 S 11th ST - (253) 627-4899

By Melissa Bostic

Buddhist Moon was started a few years ago as a hobby. I started making things that I couldn’t find at stores that suited my lifestyle. I had recently gone from vegetarian to Vegan. A junk Vegan. So, I grabbed my beer and started making. It became my version of hold my beer and boy, did I really go in. There were messes and a few expletives (well more than a few). I still do a lot of the same, but now it’s controlled. I always try to make all my products fun, interesting and feel good.

I began by making candles with just soy wax, cotton or wood wicks, essential oils or fragrance. Then I started branching out to soaps. Now I make an assortment of personal care products trying to keep all ingredients simple and always vegan and cruelty free - visit her at the Hilltop Business Crawl!

Another goal of mine is to reduce waste. All scraps and “inventions” either get donated or reused. I try to keep my packaging to a minimum. I reuse clean and reuse the candle jars whenever possible. I have a plan to roll out a candle jar and wax melt container return incentive. I hope to continue to make steps to lower waste.

To learn more, contact Melissa Bostic, Public Information Officer with the Tacoma Police Department, at (253) 591-5968, or via email at whaddow@cityoftacoma.org.

Please check out my Facebook page, Buddhist Moon, or my Instagram Buddhistmoonsoaps at https://www.instagram.com/buddhistmoonsoaps/. I recently started consignment in a small store in Auburn and hope to do the same in Tacoma.

Or see me in person the last Sunday of the month at Organically Grown Muscle (https://www.instagram.com/organicallygrownmuscle/) for the Vegan mini Market, where a percentage of my profits get donated to Misspits Rescue (https://www.instagram.com/mيضديسپيتز/).

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HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

A Walk Home: A Journey for Change

By Aaliyah Walton

Burlene Padilla, motivated by people in need and the negative effects of the pandemic, took a journey from Tacoma to her home, the Navajo Nation in New Mexico, on foot to help during the COVID crisis.

The Navajo reservation is in a serious COVID-19 crisis where they are being neglected the basic necessities like food and masks. Burlene made it her personal mission to travel home on foot and help them as well as raise awareness for this huge issue.

Mrs. Padilla started her journey in Tacoma and her favorite moment from it was the overwhelming support coming from friends and family because she didn’t have to start alone. Moving towards Seattle with a sign for her cause; she noticed all the tagged and boarded up buildings, but it felt like a comfort to her. When she arrived at Capitol Hill, she felt empowered knowing that she was standing up for her people and she was bringing this awareness to people’s eyes as people approached her with curiosity, many unknowing of this crisis. Everything with the Black Lives Matter movement made her walk all the more powerful. It was the perfect storm of empathy, despair and a motivation for change. As she walked, Burlene through to Portland she found strength in the honks of support that she received and the sound of her drum, playing along the way as she walked alone for the first time. Portland had the same aesthetic as Seattle with most buildings shut down which helped because of the familiarity and encouragement. However, that all changed when she hit Boise, Idaho. “I felt really out of place”, she describes as she only got about two honks of solidarity there the entire time and one middle finger. Washington and Oregon had welcomed her, but with the racial tension in America she felt uncomfortable and scared of what might happen during her time in Idaho going on Utah. Getting closer to New Mexico brought about more support and emotional moments for Mrs. Padilla, but not as much as she would feel when arriving at the Navajo Nation in Shiprock.

Burlene and her family were met with a shocking experience at the detox center as well as many other Native Americans. There were no soap, masks or hand sanitizer. The outskirts of the stores were neglected nooses, poor or drunk, but she realized that all Native was the lowest of the low, addiction? Why are most Natives in poverty? Once we educate ourselves, asking yourself why it’s like that. Why are Native Americans more likely to commit suicide and struggle with addiction? Why are most Natives in poverty? Once we educate ourselves, inspired her to take her journey to social media to raise further awareness. Another thing you can do is donate and seek out legitimate donors that actually give money to who they say they give it to. Finally, have compassion for one another. Burlene is currently looking for other ways to help and is excited to go back to her Navajo community to help them more. Be the voice. Spread awareness. Educate.

Check out https://www.discovernavajo.com for info on the Navajo Nation.

Photographs courtesy of @awalkhome Instagram page.

By Aaliyah Walton

Why is this woman’s journey important to the Hilltop community? Because the cause for the journey is an invisible crisis that isn’t being covered by other sources of media. Residing on Indigenous land, we have a responsibility to listen and uplift the Native community and right now they are in danger. Burlene Padilla is a Navajo woman who saw her own personal privilege, in that she was able to stay home and have access to everything she needs during a global pandemic. The same can’t be said for the Navajo nation. The Navajo reservation is in a serious COVID-19 crisis where they are being neglected the basic necessities like food and masks. Burlene made it her personal mission to travel home on foot and help them as well as raise awareness for this huge issue.

Mrs. Padilla started her journey in Tacoma and her favorite moment from it was the overwhelming support coming from friends and family because she didn’t have to start alone. Moving towards Seattle with a sign for her cause; she noticed all the tagged and boarded up buildings, but it felt like a comfort to her. When she arrived at Capitol Hill, she felt empowered knowing that she was standing up for her people and she was bringing this awareness to people’s eyes as people approached her with curiosity, many unknowing of this crisis. Everything with the Black Lives Matter movement made her walk all the more powerful. It was the perfect storm of empathy, despair and a motivation for change. As she walked, Burlene through to Portland she found strength in the honks of support that she received and the sound of her drum, playing along the way as she walked alone for the first time. Portland had the same aesthetic as Seattle with most buildings shut down which helped because of the familiarity and encouragement. However, that all changed when she hit Boise, Idaho. “I felt really out of place”, she describes as she only got about two honks of solidarity there the entire time and one middle finger. Washington and Oregon had welcomed her, but with the racial tension in America she felt uncomfortable and scared of what might happen during her time in Idaho going on Utah. Getting closer to New Mexico brought about more support and emotional moments for Mrs. Padilla, but not as much as she would feel when arriving at the Navajo Nation in Shiprock.

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Photographs courtesy of @awalkhome Instagram page.

By Aaliyah Walton

Why is this woman’s journey important to the Hilltop community? Because the cause for the journey is an invisible crisis that isn’t being covered by other sources of media. Residing on Indigenous land, we have a responsibility to listen and uplift the Native community and right now they are in danger. Burlene Padilla is a Navajo woman who saw her own personal privilege, in that she was able to stay home and have access to everything she needs during a global pandemic. The same can’t be said for the Navajo nation. The Navajo reservation is in a serious COVID-19 crisis where they are being neglected the basic necessities like food and masks. Burlene made it her personal mission to travel home on foot and help them as well as raise awareness for this huge issue.

Mrs. Padilla started her journey in Tacoma and her favorite moment from it was the overwhelming support coming from friends and family because she didn’t have to start alone. Moving towards Seattle with a sign for her cause; she noticed all the tagged and boarded up buildings, but it felt like a comfort to her. When she arrived at Capitol Hill, she felt empowered knowing that she was standing up for her people and she was bringing this awareness to people’s eyes as people approached her with curiosity, many unknowing of this crisis. Everything with the Black Lives Matter movement made her walk all the more powerful. It was the perfect storm of empathy, despair and a motivation for change. As she walked, Burlene through to Portland she found strength in the honks of support that she received and the sound of her drum, playing along the way as she walked alone for the first time. Portland had the same aesthetic as Seattle with most buildings shut down which helped because of the familiarity and encouragement. However, that all changed when she hit Boise, Idaho. “I felt really out of place”, she describes as she only got about two honks of solidarity there the entire time and one middle finger. Washington and Oregon had welcomed her, but with the racial tension in America she felt uncomfortable and scared of what might happen during her time in Idaho going on Utah. Getting closer to New Mexico brought about more support and emotional moments for Mrs. Padilla, but not as much as she would feel when arriving at the Navajo Nation in Shiprock.

Burlene and her family were met with a shocking experience at the detox center as well as many other Native Americans. There were no soap, masks or hand sanitizer. The outskirts of the stores were neglected nooses, poor or drunk, but she realized that all Native was the lowest of the low, addiction? Why are most Natives in poverty? Once we educate ourselves, asking yourself why it’s like that. Why are Native Americans more likely to commit suicide and struggle with addiction? Why are most Natives in poverty? Once we educate ourselves, inspired her to take her journey to social media to raise further awareness. Another thing you can do is donate and seek out legitimate donors that actually give money to who they say they give it to. Finally, have compassion for one another. Burlene is currently looking for other ways to help and is excited to go back to her Native community to help them more. Be the voice. Spread awareness. Educate.

Check out https://www.discovernavajo.com for info on the Navajo Nation.

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Photographs courtesy of @awalkhome Instagram page.
The Hilltop Community Quilt: Recognize your quilt square?

A BIG “Thank YOU” to Hilltop Action Coalition Members who sat together at the end of HAC monthly meetings during Community Time to make quilt squares about what the Hilltop means to them. HUGE SHOUT OUT to Jo Davies, HAC Board Member, who sewed the squares together.


Aug 24 – Mon 6-7pm - HAC Virtual Weekly Update - Meet Virtually via Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

Aug 31 – Mon 6-7pm - HAC Virtual Weekly Update - Meet Virtually via Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

Aug 27 – Thu 5-6:30pm – Free Crisp Health Classes via Zoom - Multicultural Child & Family Hope Center - https://www.facebook.com/events/1545846489112390512/?event_time_id=1148661572569154

guided-ftb-oct-27-2020


Aug 28 & 29 – Thu 5-6pm - HAC Monthly Community Meeting - via Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

Sep 8 – Tue 7-8pm - Virtual Tour of Tacoma’s Waterfront via Facebook https://www.facebook.com/events/1073636177067544/

Sep 7 - Mon  – Labor Day Holiday - No HAC Virtual Weekly Update

Sep 8 – Tue 5-7pm – Tacoma City Council Meeting with Citizen’s Forum - Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market ST, visit the City’s website & click on Agenda, Minutes & Video/Audio - https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_council/committees


Sep 11 & Sep 28 – Mon 8:30-9:30am – How to Do Business with the City of Tacoma - https://www.facebook.com/events/1137953343437447/?event_time_id=1135959069758283

Sep 1 – 15 – Tue 10am-12pm – Free Food Boxes for Families - Tacoma Community House, https://www.facebook.com/events/315466489112390512/?event_time_id=1148661572569154

Sep 3 – Thu  5-8:30pm – Central Neighborhood Council Virtual Meeting via Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/CNCtacoma/?ref=br_rs

Sep 4 – Fri 8-9pm – Virtual Tour of Tacoma’s Waterfront via Facebook https://www.facebook.com/events/1073636177067544/

Sep 7 – Mon  – Labor Day Holiday - No HAC Virtual Weekly Update

Sep 14 – Mon 6-7pm - HAC Virtual Weekly Update - Meet Virtually via Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

Sep 21 – Mon 6-7:30pm - HAC Monthly Community Meeting - via Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

Sep 25 – Fri – Hilltop Action Journal article submission deadline

Sep 28 – Mon 6-7pm – HAC Virtual Weekly Update - Meet Virtually via Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

Visit HAC Facebook for more virtual events near you! https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/events/?ref=page_internal

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Could your business use some PPE?

To help your business comply with COVID-19 Safe Start guidelines, the Pierce County Economic Development Department is providing free disposable masks and no-touch infrared thermometers for local businesses. Apply for free PPE for your business: www.piercecountywa.gov/business-support.

Is your business getting the help it needs during COVID-19?

Check out the multiple programs going on through the Pierce County Economic Development Department including forgivable loans, cost-offset reimbursement grants, and free PPE for businesses. Learn more here: www.piercecountywa.gov/6744/Covid-19-Business-Updates.

Sign Up for National Night Out!

Strengthen Neighborhood Spirit

Did you know HAC participates in National Night Out (NNO)? Our Board Members will come to your neighborhood event to say “Hello,” and bring a Safe Streets SWAG Bag with additional HAC items to share. Email hacoffice15@gmail.com once you have registered your neighborhood’s event with Safe Streets at https://safest.org/events/nno2020/. We will add you to the HAC list and see you on Tuesday, October 6th to celebrate community!

National Night Out is designed to:
*Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
*Send a clear message that our neighborhoods are organized and will not tolerate illegal activity
*Generate support and relations/cooperation
*Support community and police relations/cooperation

For more information, contact Safe Streets at (253) 272-6824 today!

“Thank you,” Lt. Aguirre for serving Hilltop...

...Welcome to the Hilltop, Lt. Mueller!

Lt. Aguirre advice to newcomer Lt. Mueller, “Get out on foot in the neighborhood. When officers are on foot, people will approach them and talk to them, which fosters trust and understanding. You get to know your community and they get to know you. Without our community, we are nothing.”

What was Lt. Aguirre proudest of during her time on the Hilltop?

What will Lt. Aguirre’s new responsibilities be? Homeless Outreach Team/Designated Crisis Responders/Officer Resiliency

How to address people experiencing homelessness, substance abuse and mental illness, which has continued to increase. Due to COVID, both mental health and homelessness will continue to rise and impact the community even more.

Determining how law enforcement can collaborate with social service stakeholders, the criminal justice system and community members to provide a holistic, humanistic and socially responsive approach to these issues.

Does Lt. Aguirre have any advice to share with Lt. Mueller? Get out on foot in the neighborhood. When officers are on foot, people will approach them and talk to them, which fosters trust and understanding. You get to know your community and they get to know you. Without our community, we are nothing.

What is Lt. Aguirre looking forward to in her new role? Creating a better whole system response to social issues with Tacoma Police as a partner, not always as the primary response. Continued work on our officer resiliency program. Every crisis response takes a toll on officer’s mental health. Keeping officers resilient, makes us better in daily duties.

What can Lt. Mueller tell us about herself? Lt. Mueller has been with the Tacoma Police Department since 1996. She has worked as the Graveyard Shift Commander for the last four years, prior to which she was the Accreditation and Hiring Sergeant. Lt. Mueller is known for her hard work and dedication while serving the citizens of Tacoma.
Are You Expecting?

Community Health Care has the full range of maternity services.

- **FREE pregnancy tests!**
  No appointment needed!
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Have your delivery at a local hospital.
- Specialized maternity program to help you prepare for your baby.
- You can choose your doctor from a staff of 12 physicians.

Hilltop Regional Health Center
1202 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Tacoma
(253) 441-4742
Learn more at www.commhealth.org