Take this short, 10-minute survey to let us know how you envision the future for the MLK Commercial Corridor at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HilltopRetail2](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HilltopRetail2). Your feedback will help shape this corridor as a Black and BIPOC-owned business destination while celebrating the cultural history of the area. You will be asked questions about how you currently shop and what additions/improvements you would like to see in the area.

**Background**

This survey is part of a Market Retail Study conducted by Forterra and the Tacoma Housing Authority that will inform commercial/retail development along Martin Luther King Jr Way. Both organizations have done extensive community engagement with residents and business owners to gather input about their new developments along MLK (except #DesignTheHill). The feedback from community members has stressed the importance of maintaining the diversity in the Hilltop and honoring its historic African American roots.

Based on this feedback, both THA and Forterra have committed to prioritizing Black and BIPOC owned businesses for their commercial/retail spaces. We want to make sure the commercial district along Martin Luther King Jr Way provides the types of goods and services desired by the community and results in a thriving and financially sustainable district.

**For You By You**

Your feedback will influence the types of businesses we will seek to become tenants in the commercial & retail spaces. Imagine seeing diverse retail options that celebrate local history while creating a vibrant cultural destination. The goal is to first preserve existing businesses while strategically attracting new and “homegrown” ones that align with community desires. That’s why the demographics section is so critical.

We know completing this information has been awkward or questionable in the past. However, our sincere desire is to realize spaces that value race and local perspectives. We can do that best by establishing a BIPOC source of opinions.

**Speak & Win**

When answering the questions, think about the entire Hilltop neighborhood. All questions are optional, and your answers will only be reported when combined with others. All individual responses are strictly confidential.

At the end of the survey, you can choose to enter a drawing to win 1 of 5 $50 Visa gift cards. Entry in the drawing is voluntary, and information provided for the drawing will be kept separate from your survey response to maintain privacy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

[Go to [bit.ly/HilltopSurvey](https://bit.ly/HilltopSurvey) to take the survey right on your mobile phone!]

*Help shape the future of the Hilltop!*
Hilltop Action Coalition

Hilltop Action Coalition (HAC) took a break during May to support Mayor Woodards 2021 State of the City Address. You can watch all the meeting videos in the 4 part series on City of Tacoma’s website at https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city-council/office-of-mayor/victoria-woodards/state-of-the-city-address.

On the June 21st HAC Virtual Weekly Update, you’ll meet new HAC Board Member Hunter Henderson. Hunter is passionate about the environment and will join the HAC Host Team with Brendan Nelson, Alyssa Torrez and Michealea Lemons.

HAC Virtual Weekly Updates have Special Guests each week that share empowering information we hope will improve your quality of life. Each speaker will have a Q&A time where your questions from the chat log will be answered. We’ll also share guest contact information and important resource links.

Can’t make a meeting? No worries! All virtual meetings are recorded and available to view on the HAC Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition by clicking on the Videos tab. Please support HAC’s Virtual Weekly Updates by taking the 1 Question Attendee Survey. This takes the place of the meeting sign in sheet and you only have to take the survey once per quarter. Thank you! Attendee Survey Link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1iQoosDRCUq1H29WRc-5V1iWb88f9Nzf7Bl/A2V/edr.

Meet your neighbors and become part of the Hilltop Community. Each week, we have presentations and information about community events, activities, policy, and important news.

President’s Message

By Brendan Nelson

Hello Hilltop Family,

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped us reach new heights as we continue to serve the community. It was very exciting to host our third Business Crawl in the spring. We have been able to support nearly 40 small businesses and BIPOC vendors. Residents and other organizations are checking in every day to inquire about both our programs and how to participate this summer.

It’s almost hard to remember that it was just 6 years ago that I stepped into the role of President for the Hilltop Action Coalition and was told that our doors would have to close. Today, the Coalition now has over 2,500 members and we are operating with a positive cash flow and budget for the first time in 30 years.

Hilltop Action Coalition (HAC) has experienced a time of significant growth these past two years and has also met the challenge of increasing program efficacy and meeting quality program metrics. We are extremely proud to be such an impactful part of the lives of so many residents, businesses, and stakeholders, but realize there is still much to be done.

HAC has made a commitment to continue providing the community with a high-quality for all experience for events and programs that we produce. We will also strive to continue to learn and develop practices and program models with demonstrated impact, ultimately leading to an even stronger Hilltop community.

We can’t do this alone and hope you are inspired to continue with us on our journey. To see what we are doing this summer please check out our website and social media pages.

In partnership,

Brendan Nelson
President, Hilltop Action Coalition
Meet New HAC Board Member: Hunter Henderson

Meet Hilltop Action Coalition Board Members! A Board Member will be highlighted in each edition of the Journal. Next month, you'll hear from Michealea Lemons.

By Aaliyah Walton

New addition to the Hilltop Action Coalition board, Hunter Henderson is a loyal and promising advocate for the community. A Hilltop native, Mr. Henderson graduated from Foss High School in 2007 and upon receiving the Achievers Scholarship, was able to attend college afterwards. He has always wanted to be a HAC board member and wants to be active in the community by improving community health. Hunter added that, “I want to use my education and passion for the environment to influence people’s behaviors on how we live our daily lives.”

According to Hunter, Tacoma is rated more than a 6 in most of the categories on the Washington Environmental Health Disparity Map. This map is a tool used to compare health disparities across communities by measuring environmental exposures, environmental effects, sensitive populations and socioeconomic factors according to the Washington State Department of Health website.

Henderson aims to lower Tacoma’s high ratings. He graduated from the University of Washington, Tacoma with a Bachelors in Environmental Studies and a minor in restoration ecology and Hispanic studies that he wants to put to use on the HAC board as well as future endeavors in the political field. He has hopes of becoming Mayor of Tacoma and pursuing higher positions in administrative offices to offer his own fresh perspective.

As a member of the Hilltop Action Coalition Board, Mr. Henderson will bring to the table a perspective centered on diversity and providing opportunities that inspire personal enrichment. “I am honored to serve the community I grew up in. I promise to do the best I can to enhance our community and protect the vibrant legacy of the Hilltop community.”

Welcome to the board Mr. Henderson, the community is excited to meet you and your new ideas. If you would like to reach out to Hunter Henderson, email him at grifoth134@hotmail.com.


Information about the WTHIN Disparity Map: [https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtn/WTNIBL](https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtn/WTNIBL) then select “Environmental Health Disparities” on the menu to the left of the map.

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“*All In*”

By B.Lyte of Power 2 The Poetry

Have you ever been discriminated against
Because of the color of your skin
Have you been told you are less than
Because you are a woman
Have you been berated with insults
Due to your sexual preference
Can you answer yes to any one of these questions

Have you ever been excluded
Because you are different
Have you ever tried to speak up
But no one will listen
Do you feel like society
Your triumphs are hidden
That no matter how hard you work
You remain in the same position

You ever get the feeling
A strong disposition
Continuously met with resistance
Based on biased opinions
Are we not all human
Do we not have the same needs
Do we not thrive from love
And strive to follow our dreams

We all dream
And for some our dreams become reality

If you dream it
You can achieve it
But only if you believe it
And every goal seems so much more achievable
When you can actually see it

When those before you
Have paved the way
Affirming it is truly possible
For any and all to great

When barriers are broken
And new heights are reached
It gives us the confidence
To truly be free
To spread our wings
And soar towards our dreams

Because we can be anything
We can do anything
We will not be denied of our destiny
We do this for the future
This is our legacy
We will no longer tolerate
Hate, injustice or exclusion
Love and respect for everyone
Defines our movement
We can go further together
We all offer meaningful contributions
Unity is the solution
Really the only viable conclusion

Diversity and inclusion is the only way we all win
So I have one last question
Hilltop are we all in?

Bethany Montgomery aka B.Lyte
Founder & President of Power 2 The Poetry LLC
TedX Spokane - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pR99bPNJyDk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pR99bPNJyDk)
Website [https://power2thepoetry.com/](https://power2thepoetry.com/)

“I am honored to serve the community
I grew up in. I promise to do the best
I can to enhance our community
and protect the vibrant legacy of the
Hilltop community.”

~ Hunter Henderson, HAC Board Member, Environmental Advocate
Hilltop Is Beautiful

We're back! The Hilltop Business Association has fallen by the wayside during the pandemic - when our business district required our support and resources the most. Thankfully, organizations like Hilltop Action Coalition remained focused on community engagement and our Hilltop businesses. With the help of HAC and the City of Tacoma, we were able to reinstate the HBA before complete dissolution. We paid our license dues to preserve our Business District status and completed the City invoicing, enabling the HBA to continue receiving funding so we may support our business community.

With a new board (there are some familiar faces still), we have refocused our mission, vision, and values to reflect the community of Hilltop. We recognize that, as a member, there needs to be real VALUE to you and your business. We hope to bring value to your membership by asking questions about your needs and offering programming from local professionals. This can be in the form of presentations at the membership meetings or separate workshops throughout the year.

We will continue to hold member meetings at 8 AM on the third Thursday of every month via Zoom. The first meeting for 2021 was held in May and we encourage everyone, business owners and community members, to join in. You do not need to be a member to attend the member meetings, you do need to be a member to vote on matters. The zoom link for meetings and membership info can be found at https://www.hilltopba.org/.

Why join? By attending meetings and getting to know the business and community members, you will become better informed about the value of HBA and the concerns facing our business district. You will have an opportunity to not only ask questions, but understand the concerns of others, including their hopes and dreams. A portion of your membership fee goes to support the Broken Window Fund. You will become part of a revitalized Hilltop!

Feel free to reach out to HBA by emailing info@hilltopba.org.

The NEW HBA

Why join the Hilltop Business Association?
You'll become better informed about the value of HBA and the concerns facing our business district.

Meet the HBA Board

David Combs, President
Jennifer English, Vice-President
Michelle Marconi, Secretary
Jennifer Richardson, Treasurer
Corena Scott, At Large
Timothy Marlowe, At Large
Anne Artman, At Large
Jo Davies, At Large & HAC Representative

Forterra has contracted with local Hilltop Artists to provide murals on the Rite Aid building as a sign of space activation. This mural, “To Shine a Light on Our Colorful Past, Present and Future,” was created by Adika Bell.

“Maiden Flight of the Phoenix,” by Jeremy Gregory.
Living In A Litter Free World
Litter Free 253 wants to help make ongoing litter cleanups easy for Hilltoppers.

By Jo Davies

At least 600 volunteers citywide filled to overflowing the 300 gallon dumpsters that were located at 28 sites around Tacoma including six locations on the Hilltop. It’s estimated that well over 12,000 gallons of litter was removed from Tacoma streets and public land! Tacoma was definitely a #PrettyGrittyCity after the Litter Free 253 event on Saturday, April 17th.

The West End Neighborhood Council, with the support of other Neighborhood Councils, spearheaded Litter Free 253. Austin Goble, a member of the Central Neighborhood Council which encompasses most of the Hilltop was “thrilled to see how many people turned out for Litter Free 253. I think Tacoma has a reputation for having a strong community, and events like this prove that to be true.”

If you were one of the Hilltop volunteers, you know how satisfying it was to participate, to work alongside others for a common purpose, to meet new and old neighbors, to connect with your kids in a community service event. It was a proud day!

Now we know how easy it is to help keep our neighborhoods looking spiffy. Litter Free 253 wants to help make ongoing litter cleanups easy for Hilltoppers. They have donated a supply of litter-grabbers to the HAC office for Hilltoppers to borrow for litter pickup events. Just call the HAC office at 253-442-8848 or email hacoffice16@gmail.com to reserve up to 12 grabbers.

The Neighborhood and Community Services Department of the City sponsors two litter clean-up programs: Adopt-A-Spot, which involves a commitment to clean up an area twice a year for a two-year period and Neighborhood Litter Patrol for one-time or sporadic clean-ups. For information about either program, contact 311. In addition, several Neighborhood Councils sponsor regular clean-ups, and @trashtalktacoma, @citizensforhealthybay and Safe Streets have regularly scheduled clean ups! Don’t have a regular clean-up in your neighborhood? They are easy to organize – help is at hand, call HAC.

Everyone can set a good example and inspire others to take up a litter-grabber or bend over and pick up trash (wearing gloves, of course). Be sure to take pictures of your work and results and post them to the HAC Facebook page or submit them to the Hilltop Action Journal.

It doesn’t matter how long your route or how much time you spend at it; all litter hurts, every little bit picked up helps. LET’S GET UP, GO OUT AND GRAB THAT LITTER!

Hilltop Star Award
Friendly competition during Litter Free 253.

By Kristine Coman

Hilltop Action Coalition (HAC) signed up Team HAC to help out with Litter Free 253. Coalition Volunteers joined us at People’s Park to show their support for their neighborhood. Volunteers worked alongside HAC Board Members and Staff - Brendan Nelson, Jennifer Schaal, Micheala Lemonis, Alyssa Torrez and Kristine Coman. Another Board Member, Jo Davies was working down the street at 8th and I. HAC reached out to HBA for some friendly competition to add some fun to litter pick up. It was pretty simple, which ever team turns in the most bags of trash will win a Hilltop STAR trophy.

As you can see by the photograph, Team HBA won the trophy! Come join us next year for Litter Free 253 - your organization or group can join in the fun and maybe...walk away with a Hilltop STAR!

Jennifer English, Hilltop Business Association Vice-President, accepts the Hilltop STAR Award.

We want to hear from you.
Tacoma Link fare options

Now is your chance to weigh in on new fares that will begin when the Hilltop Extension opens in 2022.

Learn more today and take the survey starting June 28.

Email us: fares@soundtransit.org
Call us: 800-201-4900

Sound Transit / Powering progress
By Mary Cogger

Three members presented a power point and answered questions at a Hilltop Action Coalition virtual meeting April 19th. It gives deeper information than space allows in this article. You can view the slide show at: https://www.tacomahilltoplibrary.org. It has background information about the committee along with many suggestions and links to help you pursue personal action supporting the committee.

Working with the Tacoma Public Library, Tacoma Housing Authority, City of Tacoma and many others including Mayor Woodward, the status is still unsure but getting closer to reality. City Council approved the budget for a feasibility study for the 2021-2022 budget, but funds were pulled due to the pandemic and resulting economic crisis. Now HLCP is working to have the study restored. When complete, the study will lay the groundwork and establish strong data to restore library services to the underserved communities of Hilltop and The Eastside.

Currently there is momentum with the mayor and city council. At a joint meeting of the City Council and Library Board of Trustees on April 6th, Mayor Woodards stated that the city may be able to use federal America Rescue Plan funds to restore feasibility study funds. That will make it possible to conduct and complete the study. Councilmembers Lillian Hunter and Keith Hunter both spoke in favor of restoring the funds. The progress is being made from the library side too. Library director, Kate Larson is working hard to bring more funds to the library. She wrote an editorial published in the News Tribune May 8, 2021 supporting the Build America’s Libraries Act – H.R.1581 and S.127. The article discusses the information about how you can support the Build America’s Libraries Act: go online to https://www.buildamerica.org.

In addition, the Tacoma Public Library Foundation is reactivated after a ten-year hiatus. Committee members are hopeful that this additional body of passionate library supporters with a fundraising focus will help us move toward and ultimately accomplish our vision of re-establishing full library services on the Hilltop.

Hilltop is currently experiencing huge growth with Forterra developing the old Rite Aid Building, Tacoma Housing Authority developments, and the light rail moving closer to completion. Residents of the underserved Hilltop community seek a library and we need to ensure that a library is part of the changes.

We need to look at the current example set by Fletcher Jenkins and those who worked with him to have a pool on the Hilltop. Look at their community support, and hard work, but Peoples’ Center has become a community gathering place. Now we need a library.

How to Connect with HLCP

You can reach out to the Hilltop Library Planning Committee by calling (253) 533-2447 or emailing contact@tacomahilltoplibrary.org. HLCP meets monthly. Please join them at their June 17th, 2021 Zoom Meeting from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. The Zoom Link is https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81960422100 with Meeting ID 819 604 22100. One tap mobile (253) 215-8782 with Meeting ID 819 604 22100.

Your support will make a difference in bringing equity to the Hilltop.

Send an email to our Tacoma City Council by clicking on this link: https://www.visitTacoma.org/government/city-council. Send a letter to the Tacoma City Council and Mayor Woodward: Tacoma Municipal Bldg. 247 Market ST 98402. Spread the word to friends, family, and community. You can even contact the

Hilltop Library Planning Committee with opportunities to address community groups, churches. To find out more, visit https://www.tacomahilltoplibrary.org.

View other ideas from the HAC presentation available at https://www.tacomahilltoplibrary.org.

By Jane Trancho, Hilltop Resident

In 2018, Jeff Bezos created the Day One Fund, a $2 billion initiative to combat homelessness and support early childhood education. The Bezos Academy was formed as an outgrowth of that fund on a model of working with organizations that can host space for their programs. It has a goal of reaching children and families across the nation. Last year the first Bezos Academy opened in Des Moines, WA. This fall they will bring 5 more schools online including a Bezos Academy Montessori Preschool located within McCarver Elementary School here on the Hilltop. McCarver Elementary School here on the Hilltop.

Tacoma schools currently provides free preschool for 1077 preschoolers at 25 sites. Montessori programs at Bryant and Geiger Elementary are the only school-district sponsored preschools that have a fee. All the others are free: The Head Start (federal) and CACFP (state) preschools have differing requirements for family income to participate. Other preschools that are defined as “peer inclusion,” which means that there is a mix of students with and without disabilities and no income requirements. In addition, the school district leases space at the Hoyt Early Learning Center in Proctor to the folks at Greentrike to operate its own fee-based preschool there (this organization also runs the Children’s Museum). According to Katie Ford, the Bezos Academy Head of Communications, “Tacoma was on our radar early as we dug into the data about unmet preschool need in Washington. There are great schools and programs in the area, but there is a clear gap between the raw number of low-income preschool aged children living in Tacoma and the number of ‘seats’ available in existing early learning programs. We were compelled to try to help address this gap. We met the team at Greentrike who introduced us to some of the TPS leadership team and we also met some of the teachers and administrators responsible for the wonderful Montessori programs at Geiger and Bryant schools. These connections led to a conversation with district administrators about how we could collaborate to support more kids in the community.”

Except for Greentrike, no local non-governmental agencies were contacted prior to the Academy’s commitment to the McCarver site. In this case the model of working with host organizations appears to be limited to only a strict lease relationship in Tacoma. According to Dan Voepel, Executive Director for Communications with the Tacoma School District, “The preschools operated by Bezos Academy are separate and distinct from our schools, which have no oversight or relationship. Tacoma Public Schools simply leases space to Bezos Academy, which operates its own preschools independently of TPS.”

When asked about the extent of community engagement in the placement of the Bezos Academy in the Hilltop, Mr. Voepel noted, “There was no community engagement about the lease of space in the McCarver Primary building. Similarly, we don’t have community engagement when we decide to add or subtract TPS preschools from our elementary schools.”

Principal Stephany Wright at McCarver declined to comment for this article. The McCarver facility will be able to serve 80 students in four classrooms. The program goal is “to enable every child to become a creative leader, original thinker, and lifelong learner.” It will provide a year-round education that is tuition free, full day, and five days a week. All teachers will be state licensed and trained as early child educators, and classroom ratios will be at least 1 staff member for every 10 children. Multiple meals and snacks will be provided for all students throughout each day. The Academy will be fully equipped with all the materials and supplies necessary to meet the needs of every child and will work collaboratively with families and the community.

The school’s curriculum has four main areas. It is Child Centered, the needs of the child come before anything else, and the school will integrate support for diverse and multilingual learners to provide an equitable experience for all children. It will be Culturally Responsive; each child’s culture and strengths are identified and respected. The school uses a Montessori-Inspired Approach with trained educators and materials yet can borrow from other methods to best meet the needs of the students and to support each child’s development. Their Standards-Based Approach allows teachers to track developmental milestones and inform individual instruction. Children 3-5 years of age are eligible. Household income must be less than 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and half the seats will be reserved for students coming from families that are below 250% of the FPL. Online applications for McCarver will be open from June through August and can be found at https://www.bezosacademy.org.

For more information go to https://www.bezosacademy.org.

Bezos Academy Montessori Preschool To Open At McCarver Elementary This Fall

“The program goal is to enable every child to become a creative leader, original thinker, and lifelong learner.” It will provide a child-centered curriculum with learning areas. It is a Culturally Responsive approach with a Standards-Based Approach. Teachers will provide materials and supplies necessary to meet the needs of every child and will work collaboratively with families and the community. The school’s curriculum has four main areas. It is Child Centered, the needs of the child come before anything else, and the school will integrate support for diverse and multilingual learners to provide an equitable experience for all children. It will be Culturally Responsive; each child’s culture and strengths are identified and respected. The school uses a Montessori-Inspired Approach with trained educators and materials yet can borrow from other methods to best meet the needs of the students and to support each child’s development. Their Standards-Based Approach allows teachers to track developmental milestones and inform individual instruction. Children 3-5 years of age are eligible. Household income must be less than 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and half the seats will be reserved for students coming from families that are below 250% of the FPL. Online applications for McCarver will be open from June through August and can be found at https://www.bezosacademy.org.

For more information go to https://www.bezosacademy.org.
New Mary Bridge Children's Hospital To Bring Kid-Centric Care To Tacoma

Mary Bridge Children’s is the only Level II Pediatric Trauma hospital in Western Washington.

By Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital

For more than 60 years, Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital & Health Network (https://www.marybridge.org) has provided the pediatric services the South Sound community needs — working to continually advance pediatric specialties such as surgery, orthopedics and cancer care.

We’re excited to grow and introduce a new era of children’s health care to Tacoma with the opening of a new Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital building. MultiCare Health System announced this project last July and construction is scheduled to begin in early 2022. (View the press release at https://www.multicare.org/press-releases/multicare-health-system-announces-new-hospital-camp). We anticipate the hospital will open its doors for care by the end of 2024.

Mary Bridge Children’s is the only Level II Pediatric Trauma hospital in Western Washington. Maintaining this designation and opening a new state-of-the-art facility is an incredible development in pediatric medicine for our region and is a critical step forward as we continue to provide the best health care to children in our communities.

Expanding access to care.

Today, nearly 500,000 children live in the South Sound, and the population is expected to increase by 25,000 by 2023. A standalone pediatric hospital not only provides opportunities for closer collaboration and coordination between care teams, but also improves access to specialty care services for patients — from premature infants all the way up to young adults.

Currently, Mary Bridge Children’s is embedded within MultiCare Tacoma General Hospital, one of the busiest adult hospitals in the region. Giv- ing Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital its own space will allow us to deliver services that are fully designed for our pediatric patients.

The new Mary Bridge Children’s will have a clear presence from the corner of Division Avenue and Martin Luther King Junior Way. It will feature architecture and design elements that nod to our Pacific Northwest roots and home in Tacoma.

Every facet of care, from all stages of the patient experience, is being designed exclusively with the unique needs of children in mind. The new hospital will include 82 private patient rooms with space to meet future expansion needs, as well as eight operating rooms, a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), a hybrid cardiology–radiology suite, dedicated MRI, CT and ultrasound imaging, a state-of-the-art infusion center, endoscopy, and pharmacy services. The new hospital will also have a hospital for airfield transport needs in partnership with Airlift Northwest. The pediatric Emergency Department will include 38 treatment rooms and a pediatric mental health crisis stabilization unit.

Patients and their families will have easy access to both inpatient and outpatient services located in one place. A new parking structure will connect directly to the hospital, providing convenience for families and visits alike.

How we’ll get there.

Building a new hospital from the ground up is a large undertaking and one that takes not only community buy-in but also community support. It is a once in a generation opportunity to create one of the best and safest children’s hospitals in the nation.

The new hospital campus will be built across the street on sites currently occupied by Jackson Hall, the Jackson Hall parking garage, the east wing of Mary Bridge Children’s Outpatient Center, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

The LDS Church, located at South Fourth Street and South L Street, will be demolished its structure. MultiCare is purchasing the vacant land and incorporating it into the plans for the new hospital campus.

Jackson Hall does not meet code for hospital occupancy and cannot be zoned for a modern hospital facility due to structural, fire, mechanical and seismic requirements, and was not incorporated into the new hospital’s design. This building will also be demolished to make way for the new campus. It is MultiCare’s intent to honor the legacy and history of Jackson Hall, which originally housed Tacoma General School of Nursing until 1975, within the construction of the new Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital.

Relocation of specialty clinics currently located in Jackson Hall and the east wing of the Outpatient Center is currently in progress, with demolition of these buildings scheduled for early 2022. We anticipate construction of the new hospital building to begin in spring 2022.

The role of the community.

The vision and support of community members more than 100 years ago is what brought Mary Bridge Children’s to Tacoma in 1955, and with that same community-driv- en mindset and support, we’ll soon bring expanded pediatric health care to our community with the opening of the new hospital. (https://www.marybridge.org/blog/mary-bridge-brings-pediatric-care-west-100)

Thank you to the Mary Bridge Brigade (https://www.marybridgebrigade.org) for donating $10 million to the hospital for the new Emergen- cy Department, and to the following Pierce County family foundations that have each made historic gifts to Mary Bridge Children’s for the new hospital: Koran for Kids Foundation, Woodworth Family Foundation, Tom and Meg Names Family Foundation, Ben B. Cheney Foundation, Bamford Foundation, the William and Joyce Edwards Family Foundation, and one foundation that wishes to remain anonymous. Mary Bridge Children’s Foundation is in the early planning stages for a community fundraising campaign in support of the new hospital.

To learn more, you can visit the new hospital page of Mary Bridge Children’s website (www.marybridge.org), or our new hospital page. Please note that picture above is an artist rendering—the design is not finalized.

For information about upcoming community meetings, you can contact Coleman & Associates (www.colemonassociates.org) the con- sulting firm managing community engagement for the project. For project-specific questions, you can contact David Nokes, senior director and project manager with CBRE (da- vid.stokes@cbre.com).
Home In Tacoma: A New Housing Growth Vision

Utilize housing growth to create neighborhoods that are inclusive, welcoming to our diverse community, resilient, thriving, distinctive and walkable, with robust community amenities and a range of housing choices and costs.

The illustration below shows the transition from Low-scale to Mid-scale housing, with taller structures only near dense centers. Design Standards will ensure new housing compliments existing neighborhoods.

Implementation steps:

- Recommendations are summarized below—for more information, visit https://www.cityoftacoma.org/commission/apps/webappviewer/index.htm-l?id=180033.
- To support the new housing growth vision, the proposals include updates to City policies, including:
  - Increasing housing options throughout the City.
  - Ensure that new housing is well designed and complements Tacoma’s distinctive neighborhoods.
  - Evolve our housing vision to be more inclusive of all members of our community.
  - Recognize that housing is a fundamental building block of community that affects multiple goals.

This new housing vision will use design standards to ensure that infill complements neighborhood scale and patterns. It will provide smooth transitions from low-scale to higher scale areas and protect the character of historic districts by promoting reuse of existing structures. Recommended changes would shift Tacoma’s housing rules from an emphasis on housing types (such as single-family) to building form, design and scale. The objective is to provide more housing options, support affordability, diversity, walkability and thriving neighborhood businesses while ensuring that new housing complements the overall scale and residential patterns of existing neighborhoods.

The recommendations call for enabling diverse housing types, often called Missing Middle Housing, throughout Tacoma’s neighborhoods. The term “Missing Middle Housing” describes a long-term trend in many American cities of reserving the majority of neighborhoods exclusively for single-family houses, while limiting areas where smaller, attached or clustered housing types are allowed. This limits housing supply and choice, and drives up housing costs.

The Commission finds that allowing diverse housing types is an essential step toward meeting housing affordability goals. However, by itself the for-profit housing market is not likely to produce housing affordable to moderate and lower income Tacoma residents. To address this need, the recommendations call for expansion of regulatory affordable housing incentives and requirements and anti-displacement actions. These tools, in combination with increased public investment and other actions called for by the Affordable Housing Action Strategy, allow the City to partner with developers in affordable housing creation.

Next Steps

At the June 8th study session, the City Council will begin their discussion of the recommendations, with additional dates to be scheduled soon. In support of the upcoming City Council public hearing, staff are preparing additional public notice and engagement opportunities.

If the City Council directs, the City will begin a second project phase to work on zoning, standards and other implementation steps, in collaboration with the community. Stay tuned...We hope that you will continue to participate!

For more information, visit www.cityoftacoma.org/homeintacoma. Check out the Home In Tacoma Project at https://storymaps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.htm-l?id=9da8f8dbbf684f02ab40f-54736b846e477126959f1c3a406903e or the interactive Recommended Housing Growth Scenario Map at https://tacoma.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.htm-l?id=5a94c9a23d44672f5b2c4840-9b3a4b69e45e.

Feel free to reach out to Elliott Barnett at EBarnett@cityoftacoma.org.
Applicants Sought For The Planning Commission

The Tacoma City Council is looking to fill two positions on the Planning Commission, the District Nos. 3 and 5 positions.

Applicants must reside in that district and will serve a term of three years from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024. The Planning Commission develops and updates the Comprehensive Plan and its elements; formulates effective and efficient land use and development regulations and processes that implement the Comprehensive Plan. (View the Comprehensive Plan at https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=1698&pageId=1358015)

This Commission reviews various planning issues, such as area-wide rezoning, general plan modifications, and capital facilities programs. Meetings occur the first and third Wednesday of each month beginning at 5:00 p.m. The City is committed to creating an equitable and anti-racist community and wants our committees, boards, and commissions to reflect our diverse community. For these vacancies, Black and Indigenous community members, people of color, LGBTQ individuals, individuals with disabilities, seniors, immigrants, and Refugees are especially encouraged to apply.

Applications must be submitted to the City Clerk’s Office by the end of day Friday, June 18, 2021. To apply, please visit https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/committees-boards-commissions/applicant-tracking-system. Questions about the application process, to request the application in an alternate format, or to submit additional documents please contact Katie Foster in the City Clerk’s Office at servetacoma@cityoftacoma.org or (253) 591-5505.

Join The HBA Today!

With a variety of options available, there is a membership for you. From Hilltop Resident, Business Owner, or Community Partner...we’ve got you covered and will keep you up to date with local issues and business resources.

This has been a tough year for everyone, especially businesses. This is why the HBA is offering all memberships at the ‘new member’ price of $25.

Visit https://www.hilltopba.org/memberships and take advantage of this amazing Hilltop Business Association membership offer!

Evergreen Options Program

Apply for a $50,000 Grant for renewable energy projects.

By Lis Saunders, Grant Manager

Local schools, nonprofits and government agencies are eligible to apply for a grant of up to $50,000 from the Evergreen Options program to help with the purchase and installation of on-site renewable energy projects located in Tacoma Power’s service territory. Applications accepted through August 20. Visit the website located at https://www.mytpu.org/community/energy/evergreen-options-program or contact evang@cityoftacoma.org for more information.

By Lihuang Wung, Staff Liaison for Black and Indigenous Resources Center

The Tacoma Urban League is looking forward to once again hosting The State of Black Tacoma. This year’s event will be held virtually on Wednesday, June 9th at 11 AM. They invite you to join them at this important townhall exploring the state of our community and issues unique to the African American community. Speakers will address topics such as education, transit, employment, housing, healthcare, criminal justice and policing and more. Please register at https://tacomaurbanleague.maxgiving.bid/about-us.

Business Info Series Conference Calls: Wednesdays 11AM

Pierce County is open for business. As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to evolve, they’re here to help businesses access the resources and information they need. You can log in with Zoom at 10:45 am - Webinar begins at 11:00. The next episode will be June 9th with Kierra Piffer presenting from Puget Sound Energy.

COVID-19

On your computer or Cell Phone with Internet Capability click the link below to join the webinar and ask questions:

Click here to join on your computer: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xG1fP75yWVNYELGUL843841095

Click here to join on your phone: +16699006833,,843841095# or *9

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Despite Challenges, The Tacoma Boxing Club Doesn’t Throw In The Towel

By Jenni Prange Boran

Early April of 2021, far from home in Shreveport, Louisiana, Tacoma’s Dedrick Crocklem, 17, won the 2020 USA Boxing National Champions’ 132-pound title bout. He beat title-holder Emilio Garcia in a split decision. You can view the match on YouTube, and watch the moment where, amid a din of on-lookers’ cheers and the final verdict of the judges echoing over a PA system, Crocklem joyfully embraces his opponent. Garcia returns the gesture, and both athletes place medals around each other’s necks as the audience quiets down and wanders out of the gym behind them, the fight over.

“He’s one of the more serious kids. He knew what he wanted when he started. He really listened and did the things he needed to do to get where he wanted. Straight-A student, too.”

This is Tacoma Boxing Club’s Head Coach Tom Mustin talking about Crocklem, an upper classman at Lincoln High School. “When did I get him, when he was like 9-years-old?”

Tom turns to Emmett Linton, Assistant Coach and Program Director, who responds, “Yeah. He’s one of those that works hard in the gym and he works hard in school.”

It turns out boxing isn’t always fists flying and missing teeth and black eyes like you see in the movies. Sometimes there are no cuts. Always, if you’re doing it right, there is discipline. Even in the face of challenges, such as the pandemic which shut down gyms and prohibited contact sports of any kind.

Those that work hard in the gym and work out. That’s what Tom’s doing. He really listened and did the things he needed to do to get where he wanted. Straight-A student, too.

Despite the setback, young athletes Crocklem and others like him in the club persevered. “He stayed in shape,” says Mustin. “Like a lot of the kids, they worked out in their garages, they have the bags set up and stuff and they jump rope, and they knew the road work so they would do the running on their own.”

Linton continues, “The workload that Tom has them doing, the stations, when you learn to work those stations, you can go into anybody’s gym and work out. That’s what Tom’s teaching also. Flexibility.”

Mustin learned a lot of these training programs in his decades of coaching athletics of all sorts. All over the world. In the year 2000 he took the US team to the Olympics in Sydney, Australia. “I learned a lot of things there, things about training and setting up programs.”

Mustin and Linton have been heading the Tacoma Boxing Club since 1974. So how long have they been boxing themselves? “Never boxed a day in my life,” Linton says. “I just the coach;” Mustin smirks. But having a coach – who has never boxed comes with its own benefits. “Sometimes if you have a coach who’s never played the sport, the coach can teach the basics, but the athlete is going to give it his own style. A good analogy of this is the military. Everyone coaching in the military has come up in the military boxing, and so they all are training that same style. If you know your opponent’s style, it’s easier to beat them.”

Mustin was a newspaper man for a living, a manager at The News Tribune for decades. Linton worked in Human Resources at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. All of the time the men have dedicated to the club has been a labor of love, volunteer time and volunteer funds that often ended up in personal debt. “Lots of money, Him.”

Linton nods at Mustin, “he bought two or three vans to haul the kids around to meets. I invested out credit cards to make sure we were able to do what we intended on doing. “We want to make sure the programs we worked for and worked at is doing well. I like the kids. I want to make sure the kids are okay. They ain’t my kids, but they are my kids.”

The Boxing Club has been an important part of the community for 47 years. From the early years at the old Boys & Girls club downtown on 25th to the 36 years at the Al Davies Club to (after they were displaced from that location by a remodel and repurposing of the gym – that’s the short story) the Edmund Annex at the location of the old Gray Middle School…to basements and garages during the pandemic. Some of the young athletes describe the club as having turned their lives around.

Says Mustin, “It’s something to do, it’s something to keep them out of trouble. Sometimes, you know, some of the kids find themselves in trouble and so their parents will put them in boxing so they’ll have something to do with their life to keep them out of trouble.”

Linton jokes, “We’re the cheapest babysitters in town.”

He’s not kidding. A membership to The Tacoma Boxing Club is currently at $20 a month. Even at double the $10 a month it has been for years, that’s a bargain. Last time I checked, most babysitters charge $10 an hour, and teach far fewer life lessons than the club.

Says Mustin, “Boxing helps the kids in their life choices because if you’re going to be a boxer, even a fairly good boxer, you’re gonna have to be on time for the runs. You’re gonna have to learn and listen. It helps you later on in life. If you’re going to get a job, you’re going to have to be there, on time, you have to be a good worker. It’s a discipline. Some people have a stigma with boxing that it’s brutal and that type of stuff but basically it’s not, it’s a learning process for the kids.”

Linton continues, “If you’re disciplined enough like, say, Dedrick, the kid who just won the Nationals. For him, it’s a no-nonsense approach when he comes in the gym. He gets to work, He puts in the work. Come fight time, he’s ready to perform. That’s why he gets the results.”

The club gets results too. Over the years, the club has produced over 50 amateur National Champions, 8 World Champions, 5 Olympians, and numerous professional boxers. Dedrick Crocklem is in good company and will be joining fellow Tacoma Club boxer Jermay Jj Carrillo at the upcoming Nationals in Lubbock, Texas, in a matter of weeks. Good luck! Tacoma is proud of you.
Learning Opportunities For All Ages

Tacoma Learns database is full of out of school and summer youth programming.

Tacoma Learns is an online directory connecting families and youth to Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs) in Tacoma and Pierce County. Discover out of school and summer learning programs, free meal sites, COVID-19 relief, and more. Visit their website https://www.tacomaseaums.org/ to find out more. They have interactive maps for each category: ELO Programs, COVID Resources, Student Meals and Internet Access. The map below is an example of ELO Programs.

By Perry Newell

The Breakthrough Prize Foundation sponsors a $250,000 post secondary scholarship, a $50,000 prize for your scientific idea in fundamental physics, life sciences or mathematics with a short video (three minutes maximum). For more information, please visit https://breakthroughjuniorchallenge.org.

Enroll Now for Summer Day Camp at Al Davies Boys & Girls Club

No child is ever turned away for economic reasons. Financial assistance is available at all Clubs for fee-based programs.

Welcome to the Al Davies Branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, located at 1620 S 17th Street. Summer Day Camp registration is now open and begins June 21st. An in-person Teen Program will be available this summer. Contact (253) 502-4631 for more information or check out their website at https://www.bgcsps.org/join-a-club-al-davies. Register on line here https://online.traxsolutions.com/bgcsp.sps/knpw#!/dashboard. Distance Learning Day Camp is also available for 5 years to 5th grade. Please call for details - space is limited.

Kids Need To Play: Summer Camp Financial Assistance

Kids Need to Play is providing 60 to 90% discounts for kids summer camps across Pierce County and is automatically applied at registration.

By Emily Buck, Pierce County Public Information Specialist

Pierce County Parks has created a program named Kids Need to Play! (KNP!) funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funding allocations to provide discounts for kids' summer camps and programs. Several public and private recreation providers are collaborating on the initiative to bring kids accessible opportunities to learn, create, explore and compete.

While remaining safety-conscious, many camps and programs for preschool (ages 3-4) and school-age (ages 5-18) kids will be deeply discounted at 65-90% off for all youth this summer across Pierce County. The discount will be automatically applied at time of registration. Participating camps will include the Kids Need to Play! symbol.

Lakewood Parks, Metro Parks Tacoma, Pen Met Parks, Payntown Parks and the Town of Steilacoom have partnered with Pierce County Parks to offer this opportunity. Participant discounts will not affect the quality, allotted time or format of programming offerings. Camp providers will still receive the revenue they require to produce safe, high-quality camps through ARPA resources.

The goal of this program is to ensure that kids can return to camp this summer and benefit from the enrichment of camp activities and safe social interactions. For this reason, discounts are going directly to the families at the time of registration with no wait, coupon or reimbursement needed. If a family has already registered for a camp that is participating in the KNP! program, they can request a refund and re-enrollment by June 28 to take advantage of the discounted price.

Over 15,000 youth are expected to benefit from $1.5 million in funding available this summer. There is no limit to the number of KNP! camps or experiences a family can sign up for from June 28–Sept. 3 in Pierce County. However, each camp is subject to the capacity specified by the camp provider.

For more information on the Kids Need to Play! promotion, visit www.piercecountywa.gov/knpw. Families inquiring about participation may contact Pierce County Parks and Recreation representative Emily Smith at 253-798-4199 or via email at emmi.buck@piercecountywa.gov.
Vaccine Information for COVID-19

Hilltop Family Medical Center Has Our Neighborhood Covered

Walk-up or Drop-in Vaccine Clinic for the Moderna Vaccine & COVID-19 Testing

Hey Hilltop, you don’t need a special vaccination event to get your COVID-19 shot. Community Health Care’s Hilltop Family Medical Clinic has you covered! Located at 1202 Martin Luther King Jr. Way and East S. Brazill Street, the clinic is conveniently located for Hilltop residents. You can register in advance at https://forms.gle/36x635 - very helpful for staff. To walk-in, just stop by between 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM every Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Anyone 18 or older can get the Moderna Vaccine.

If you need a ride to your vaccination or are volunteering at a vaccination site, Pierce Transit will provide free bus rides to passengers traveling to or from COVID-19 sites along local bus routes. The free rides include travel to mass vaccination sites as well as other immunization locations, such as pharmacies. For help with trip planning, contact Pierce Transit’s Customer Service office at 253.581.8000 (option 1, then option 1 again), use Pierce Transit’s online Trip Planner at https://tripplanner.piercetransit.org or page tripplanning or download the Transit app at https://www.piercetransit.org/transport.

Around the Sound provides transportation for people with limited mobility, including those who use wheelchairs or scooters. Call (253) 858-7088 or visit https://attrans.org/. Community Health Care offers testing for COVID-19 even if you are not a Community Health Care patient. Testing is offered as a Drive Thru service, by appointment only. You need to call (253) 722-2161 for a Tele-Health screening appointment. If the screening appointment/visit indicates you need a test, a Drive Thru Test will be scheduled (do not come into the clinic). The most common reasons to get a test are that you have symptoms, you have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, or you require a test before a medical or dental procedure.

Roadmap to Recovery

Let’s work together to stay healthy during every phase.

Stay home when you’re sick.

- If you feel sick, stay home.
- If you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, stay home.

At the time this article was written, we were in Phase 3. What does that mean for you and your family? Click on this link for updated guidance on what you can do.

- Maintain physical distance of six feet from others.
- Wear a multilayer face covering that snugly fits around your mouth and nose when in public spaces.
- Practice good hygiene.

A lot of us have already received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. If you’re fully vaccinated, you may feel like you can ditch the face mask - but wait - we are not done just yet! A lot of us have already received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Those who received the first dose have already received the second dose.

- Stay home when you’re sick.
- Follow COVID-19 precautions.
- Wear masks when in public spaces.
- Practice good hygiene.

Sign Up For Community Vaccine News Today!

The quickest way to find out about COVID-19 community vaccination clinics.

Hilltop Action Journal

 loses your COVID-19 Vaccine Card?

If you lose your COVID-19 Vaccine Card, you can call the Washington State Dept of Health at 1-800-325-5599 or submit a request at https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouAndYourFamily/Immunization. You will receive a new immunization record, showing your COVID-19 vaccine.

Let’s work together to stay healthy during every phase.

If you plan to visit a playground or park with your family, continue to practice safe distancing for you and your children. Encourage them to play but to stay 6 feet away from other people. Also, try to avoid standing in groups. If you are planning an event, like a birthday celebration, limit indoor social gatherings to maximum 10 people who don’t live in your household. Outdoor gatherings are allowed, but limited to 50 or fewer people.

Let’s work together to be safe so we can fully reopen by June 30th.

Hilltop Action Journal

Advertisement Rates

5x7 in. quarter page $50
10x7 in. half page $100
10x15 in. full page $200
Purchase 2 months & get 1 month free

For more details, contact Kristine Coman at 253-442-8848 or email hacoffice15@gmail.com.
How can we improve transportation in Pierce County?

We need your feedback!

The Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (PCCTC) is a dedicated group of people who understand that reliable transportation is important for people to stay independent and healthy in their community.

Please take five minutes to fill out an anonymous survey. Your answers will help us develop transportation services for people with limited or no transportation options.

PierceCountyWA.gov/Tsurvey

Call 2-1-1 for other languages or a paper copy.
Guaranteed Income: Growing Resilience In Tacoma (GRIT)

Growing Resilience In Tacoma is a first-of-its-kind guaranteed income demonstration in Tacoma. Participants receive $500 a month for 12 months as a supplement to their income and other benefits.

By Bryan Flint, Executive Director for Sound Outreach

In Pierce County, the average cost of healthcare, utilities, transportation, and other essential living expenses is over $72,000 a year — yet half of our residents make less than that. The looming end to the eviction moratorium, decreases in unemployment payments, and skyrocketing housing costs are exacerbating this statistic.

Having a job often isn’t enough. Many in the Hilltop need more than one job to attempt to make ends meet. And that’s not accounting for unanticipated costs, such as car repairs or doctor bills. Even before the pandemic, nearly 40% of Americans reported they couldn’t afford a $400 unexpected expense.

“This prior to the pandemic, there was already a lack of local affordable housing options and a national chronic shortage of affordable, high-quality childcare. These factors have been further exacerbated over the past year, putting even more residents on the brink of poverty, particularly those of color,” said City of Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards.

Nowhere is this felt more acutely than in the Hilltop, facing pressures of gentrification, many long times residents risk losing not only their homes, but their neighborhood. The vibrant cultural fabric of the Hilltop could be torn to shreds if families begin to lose the ability to afford monthly rent.

The GRIT demonstration is part of a national movement to advocate for the creation of an income floor as a supplement to families who need a replacement for wages but a replacement for wages but will come from MGI and local contributions. Planning is being coordinated by a Steering Committee with representatives from the City, United Way of Pierce County, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, Sound Outreach, Tacoma Urban League and Tacoma Housing Authority.

Qualified individuals must be Tacoma residents, single heads of household, and meet United Way’s ALICE criteria (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). ALICE includes individuals above the federal poverty level and below 200% of poverty. One hundred participants will be chosen at random from a pool of qualified individuals by independent researchers.

Applications will open later this summer.

For more information or assistance with the application, contact Deena Giesen at (253) 627-5626 ext. 106, Mon through Fri, or email dgiesen@tpc-habitat.org for more information or assistance with the application.
Taking Bold Solutions To Abolish Poverty

Now, this Grit City has a chance to experiment with bold solutions in the struggle to abolish poverty.

By Nikki Snowking

You can’t walk too far in any direction of the Hilltop without seeing the convergence of two realities. As summer nears, families emerge from their aging homes trending to their yards, escaping from the winter gloom, like the bloom of a Rhododendron. Kids ride their bikes together, and neighbors wave to each other over fences. You hear music traveling from open windows; you see different faces and hear different languages as people gather together on their front stoops. It is a neighborhood with a church seemingly on every corner. There is a new shadow cast from a skyline being constructed as apartments are built. New tracks are laid at the community’s heart—connecting coffee shops, boutiques, booze operations, bakeries, ice cream and candy stores. Unique spaces are being carved out for the community’s needs. New buildings suited for the community’s heart—connecting coffee shops, and each case has had varying results. In America, the latest results of a guaranteed income (GI) experiment conducted in Stockton, California, have shown that these payments can keep people living above the poverty line. In this project founded by the Stockton’s former mayor, Michael Tubbs, 125 people living in neighborhoods in Stockton’s median household income were given a monthly stipend of $500 for two years. Although this program was not universal, it is a testament to the principles in the idea. A periodic cash allowance is defined and understood among those who received the GI payments by 12%. Additionally, the GI recipients showed a measurable reduction in their feelings of anxiety and depression compared to those in the experiment’s control group. Of the 500 dollars that participants received monthly, 40% of the income was reported as going toward food. Participants also used the money to pay for their child’s summer camp, diapers, shoes, and car repairs. Former Mayor Michael Tubbs created a website at https://www.basicincome.org, to attract more people to participate in the GI experiment, made possible by a donation of $18 million to the Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, by Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, and through local partnerships with the United Way of Pierce County, the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, Sound Outreach, the Tacoma Urban League and the Tacoma Housing Authority. The coalition includes the Mayor of Tacoma, Victoria R. Woodards. This summer, 100 Tacoma residents will become a part of the GI experiment, made possible by a donation of $18 million to the Mayors for a Guaranteed Income. The coalition now includes 40 mayors from cities coast-to-coast who work to advance GI policy. The coalition includes the Mayor of Tacoma, Victoria R. Woodards. Former Mayor Michael Tubbs has created a GI website at https://www.basicincome.org, to attract more people to participate in the GI experiment, made possible by a donation of $18 million to the Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, by Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, and through local partnerships. The coalition now includes 40 mayors from cities coast-to-coast who work to advance GI policy. The coalition includes the Mayor of Tacoma, Victoria R. Woodards. Former Mayor Michael Tubbs has created a GI website at https://www.basicincome.org, to attract more people to participate in the GI experiment, made possible by a donation of $18 million to the Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, by Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, and through local partnerships. The coalition now includes 40 mayors from cities coast-to-coast who work to advance GI policy. The coalition includes the Mayor of Tacoma, Victoria R. Woodards. Former Mayor Michael Tubbs has created a GI website at https://www.basicincome.org, to attract more people to participate in the GI experiment, made possible by a donation of $18 million to the Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, by Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, and through local partnerships.
Fletcher Jenkins: Creating Connections & Collaborations In The Hilltop

By Mary Cogger

Fletcher Jenkins

Over many years Fletcher has had a variety of roles including contractor, Director of the Downtown Boys Club, working in Tacoma Public Schools, and as Chair of People's Center Steering Committee. He also served as President of the Metro Parks Board. Currently he is looking forward to retiring from his position helping with placement monitoring, and mentoring of those doing community service.

When asked, Jenkins agreed that his passion and main focus is kids. They are our future. When asked about his life, Fletcher spoke first of his time at Downtown Boys Club, a precursor to the current Boys and Girls Club. Fletcher was not the man upstairs who sat behind a desk. He actively welcomed and got to know the boys in the club as well as helping enforce the strict discipline. During his tenure, the program welcomed boys into a family, a home away from home. It fostered discipline, confidence, goals, respect, and social development as the Boys and Girls Club does today. Gang members were included as long as they followed the rules. Nobody was considered better than anyone else; no bullying was accepted. Fletcher told some, “change your ways or you're out.”

At that time the successful Tacoma Boxing Team was part of the Boys Club. Internationally known, it mentored members who became Golden Gloves winners and one, Sugar Ray Seales who won gold in the 1972 Olympics. In a 2018 Seattle Times newspaper article, Seales stated, “All the fighters at the Boys Club, we all became something.” Jenkins feels that boxing brought our what was inside the person. With discipline and skill, boxers didn’t need to prove themselves by bravading or bullying; they knew what they could do. On Hilltop, he worked with others to find a way to fight the hatred. Using knowledge from his childhood, Mr. Jenkins went into the streets to talk to gang members one on one. Originally from South Philadelphia, he learned self-survival on the streets. Although pressures to join a gang were great when he was young, Fletcher did not. He also worked with the police department including holding meetings with gang members to encourage better communication and understanding of each other.

Many know of Fletcher Jenkins through his work replacing the old pool and rec center which were closed in 2008 due to structural problems. Metro Parks held a meeting about how to replace them. Basketball courts were being favorably considered. Fletcher listened to the kids. “It was going kind of back and forth,” he said, and one of the young children at that time stood up and said, “we don’t need another basketball court. We need to know how to swim. When we fall in the water, we need to know how to get out.” And that set a spark throughout the community and the people who were at the meeting. And it just took off like a wildfire. Kids ignited that,” said Jenkins. The “new” People’s Center did not come easily. It took eight years of active support (2008-2016) by Jenkins organizing collaboration among individuals, businesses, and the community. In the end, many agencies came together to make the current People’s Center possible.

After the People’s Center opened, Jenkins did not consider the work done. Trevor Kagochi, a Tacoma teacher and youth mentor considers Fletcher’s work instrumental in establishing the Friday Middle School program. Kagochi described how Fletcher worked to achieve his goals. Fletcher told the hard truth, drawing you in with a laugh. His manner draws people in rather than pushing them away. Metro Parks changed their minds about the Friday program after Fletcher “made a stink about it.” Jenkins has also served as People’s Center Steering Committee president. Brenda Nelson, current president of Hilltop Action Coalition, used the word instrumental as well when describing Jenkins’s work for the People’s Center. In the same conversation Nelson said, “It’s like he’s the older gentleman sitting on the stoop-motivating and supportive.”

Nelson considers Fletcher Jenkins an unusual hero, a silent force helping to move things forward through his vision and action. Jenkins came from a loving family who tutored him how to follow the right road and be a man. His activism began early as he heard his parents’ words: “stand up for what you believe in unless you find out it was wrong, then change.”

Mr. Fletcher Jenkins

Jenkins attributes his activism to making the area affordable and accessible for all color groups and phases of life, all different situations - poor, rich, past, future. He did not seek fame or recognition. “It’s not about what I can give; not about me,” he says that his recognition comes from God. He prefers to work behind the scenes. “If it was on the Hilltop, I joined to help push it along. I always tried to be part of anything and pushed it from behind.”

In his attempts to improve the Hilltop, Jenkins has worked to create connection and collaboration in Hilltop. He spoke to the Black Collec- tive as a guest for their support. He has shared information with the Black Panthers. Harold Moss and Tom Dixon inspired Fletcher to run for the Metro Park Board where he served as president. He has also been a key member of the Hilltop Action Coalition.

Christianity plays a major role in Fletcher Jenkins’s life. He is Head Deacon at Edwards Temple located within walking distance of his home. He thanks God for permitting him to share with the community and states that God is there to help the situation. Fletcher had a good friend who happened to be a Southern White. Their two worlds were thrown into each other. As adults they knew what they could do. As children they were great when he was young, Fletcher turned it over to Jesus. “You do great things through Him.”

Another important part of Fletcher’s life is family. He brought two grandchildren into his home when they started to stray. With the help of his wife, church, Tacoma School District, and Peace Community Center, the kids got the support and structure they needed to become successful adults.

Jenkins is a warm, thankfull person with a big smile. He says, “I had a good life.” Along the way there were some dark times. One came when he entered the Air Force and was shipped to Florida he encountered overt rac- ism as compared to the hidden racism in the North. He was forced to move to the back of the train and the bus, something new to a Northern Black. It was a time of growth in his life, a time to deal with new situations. Fletcher had a good friend who happen- ed to be a Southern White. Their two worlds were thrown into each other, and over time, the friend stat- ed that he disagreed with his parents’ racist views. Fletcher says, “Love from church helped me to grow above racism.”

Mr. Fletcher Jenkins has lived a long life and seen many changes in the world. He watched an influx of new neighbors as the years went by. He worked hard to be a part of the changes he saw necessary. Jenkins told me that he still sees a need for people to come together and look to the young people of today to continue the Hilltop tradition.

His activism began early as he heard his parents’ words: “Stand up for what you believe in unless you find out it was wrong. Then change.”

Courtesy of Tacoma News Tribune, Sept 6, 2016. https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article100305637.html. Fletcher Jenkins, 80, stands proudly Wednesday beside the community's push for something it thinks adds value to the neighborhood, Jenkins said. The idea came from a young student eight years ago who said the Hilltop needed a pool more than another basketball court. DAVID MONTERINO dmontesino@thenewstribune.com
By Kim Davenport

As with Melturnus Washington and Art Mineo, it was military service that brought Joe Jordan to Tacoma. But as Jordan was nearly 60 when World War II began, there was never a suggestion he’d be facing combat; he was recruited for his expertise as a musician. His service to the military was to organize musical entertainment for African-American troops on still-segregated bases. Joseph Zachariah Taylor “Joe” Jordan was born in 1882 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was a composer, arranger, and pianist who made substantial contributions to ragtime. His long and diverse musical career is full of fascinating stories. His work included composing and arranging music, organizing and conducting bands, and programming shows. Although Jordan had seen much of the world by this point in his life, when he first saw Mount Rainier, he said, “I’m not going back to New York.” He would settle in Tacoma for the remainder of his life.

As a young man, Jordan often couldn’t enter the venues where his music was being performed; he found the postwar Pacific Northwest much more welcoming. In 1947, he became the first African American to be bonded as a real estate agent in Tacoma. In 1950, he was the first African-American to serve in the state attorney general’s office.

His drive to compose music, however, never waned. Having no previous connection to Lincoln High School, he decided in 1949 to write Dear Lincoln, a new school song. Although a Tacoma pianist, Lois Delano, who also had the opportunity to mentor Slack and Eubie Blake. He found the postwar Pacific Northwest much more welcoming.

By the 1940s, with ragtime largely out of style, Jordan found a new purpose for his musical life during wartime. After he went through officer training, Captain Joe Jordan was posted at Fort Huachuca in Arizona, and in 1944, transferred to Fort Lewis. His work included composing and arranging music, organizing and conducting bands, and programming shows. Although Jordan had seen much of the world by this point in his life, when he first saw Mount Rainier, he said, “I’m not going back to New York.” He would settle in Tacoma for the remainder of his life.

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All proceeds from selling copies of the sheet music were donated by Jordan to purchase a new piano for the school’s music program. He wrote Go, Giants, Go when the Tacoma Giants began their first season of baseball in Tacoma in 1960. One Hundred Years of Progress was his musical contribution to Tacoma’s Centennial celebrations in 1969. On Jordan’s 87th birthday, he was honored by the City of Tacoma for his many community contributions.

Late in his life, Jordan enjoyed a renewed interest in his work as a ragtime composer. In 1962, local Tacoma press eagerly covered his trip to the East Coast to record a new album of ragtime with two other musicians of his era, Charley Thompson and Eubie Blake. He also had the opportunity to mentor a Tacoma pianist, Lois Delano, who released a recording of his works in 1968. The album received positive reviews from critics at a time when scholars, composers, and performers alike were exploring and celebrating the history of ragtime.

Jordan died in Tacoma on September 11, 1971, leaving behind a substantial legacy of musical contributions and having impacted many lives in his adopted hometown.

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The weather was rainy and windy for the April Spring Crawl, but that didn’t stop Hilltop families from coming out to support local businesses. HAC, THA and HBA partnered together to bring a COVID safe opportunity for everyone to get out and about on the Hilltop. This family stopped by HAC and picked up a Spring Crawl Tote. We saw this family helping out with Litter Free 253 - it is always encouraging to see parents teaching their children about how to be good neighbors and be in community.

The Spring Crawl kicked off with a Happy Hour at Grit City Ciderworks, offered a Virtual Hilltop Marketplace, and encouraged community members to complete a Passport to enter into the Business Raffle Drawing. Please tune in to the June 10th HAC Virtual Weekly Update to find out which businesses won the People’s Choice Award and who won the Crawl Grand Prize! There is still time to enter to win the Grand Prize - a Cinemark Theatre 12 Month Movie Pass - visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13Uhp0gDp4c4zAgKHMsiUJmY4HrS1kZmD77Zuk7m7ntY/edit to enter and win.

A HUGE shout out to Sound Transit for their sponsorship. Stay tuned for more Crawl fun in the near future as we amp up the activities with a Summer Splash!
By Kristine Coman

As you may know, Shiloh Baptist Church won a $50,000 Grant from the Evergreen Options Program to help with the purchase and installation of on-site renewable energy projects. Shiloh chose Sphere Solar Energy the only minority-owned solar contractor in the region to lead the project and construct a 19.74-kilowatt solar photo-voltaic installation on the church roof that will reduce the church’s electricity spent for power and warmth. Shiloh sees this as a grassroots solution to reduce carbon emissions. Are you wondering what this solar installation will achieve for the building and environment? It will cover over 50% of the church’s electrical use and is the equivalent to growing 4,012 tree seedlings for 10 years.

I heard that Shiloh was hosting a Solar Energy 101 Workshop outdoors at the Church and decided to find out more about this grassroots project. I spoke to Sedonia Young, a member of Shiloh, who asked if we could provide outreach to get youth to attend and learn about solar career exploration. HAC provided community outreach and offered $25 VISA gift cards for youth in attendance.

It was a perfect evening for an outdoor workshop: partly sunny and breezy. Community members met Edwin Wanji, CEO of Sphere Solar Energy and watched a demonstration on how sunlight turns into electricity. Edwin explained outside Washington weather is actually perfect for solar panels because of our cool, sunny days, vs. say hot sunny days in Texas where extreme heat reduces the effectiveness of the panels. Shiloh will have 46 panels on their roof - on a sunny day they will produce 5 times the energy they need for that day. Shiloh will have a 10 year maintenance package for the solar energy system. Edwin said the panels will last until the roof needs replaced - plus they will not need to be cleaned due to rainy weather (does it rain that much here? - yes, it does...in Eastern WA they need to clean the dust off the panels regularly).

Extra energy produced by the panels goes to TPU as will appear as ‘credit’ on Shiloh’s energy bill that the church can use in the winter to offset its’ on Shiloh’s energy bill that the community and encouraging them to step outside the box and aim high. Shiloh is great. I learned a lot about solar energy and was surprised that West- ern Washington’s cool sunny days were perfect for solar panels. I was not surprised that solar energy system’s high cost keeps it out of range for most home owners which is why organizations like Shiloh need to lead the way to a healthier future for everyone. Thank you, Shiloh!

Keep Up-To-Date with Hilltop Light Rail Link Construction

Shiloh Baptist Church
Hosts A Solar Energy 101 Community Workshop

Sharing their green solar project and career opportunities in renewable energy with Hilltop adults and youth.

By Kristine Coman

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Extra energy produced by the panels goes to TPU as will appear as ‘credit’ on Shiloh’s energy bill that the church can use in the winter to offset their energy use. If Shiloh decides to install back up batteries, the power would stay on during a power outage. Edwin talked about other measures Shiloh can take to further reduce their energy consumption, like switching lights to LED, or putting a timer on motion sensors.

We talked about how Edwin switched his home systems to all electric to take advantage of cheap energy. He mentioned that Tacoma is phasing out new commercial construction with natural gas within the next 5 years and urging new construction to install green energy. Edwin said the 2 big pictures for Tacoma are that green energy career and apprenticeship opportunities are really opening up now; and, that neighbors can form a collective for solar energy power. It’s still pretty expensive for a single home to convert - about $15,000 to 30,000 before tax credits.

Shiloh contracted with Front and Centered to help the congregation understand the impacts of environmental justice and health solutions in the community. They held two workshops and determined that the community is not aware of opportunities and resources available; and, that we need to get involved to know what is out there and how we can benefit from what is available. Shiloh Baptist members appreciate Front and Centered for coming into the community and encouraging them to keep up now; and, that neighbors can form a collective for solar energy projects - reach out to her at auroralynmartin@gmail.com to find out more.

Shiloh’s Solar Energy 101 Workshop was great. I learned a lot about solar energy and was surprised that Western Washington’s cool sunny days were perfect for solar panels. I was not surprised that solar energy system’s high cost keeps it out of range for most home owners which is why organizations like Shiloh need to lead the way to a healthier future for everyone. Thank you, Shiloh!

Feel free to reach out to Shiloh Baptist Church about their solar project at (253) 272-4749. They are located on the Hilltop at 1211 S. 3 Street. Visit their website at https://shilohbaptist.org/

Edwin Wanji, Founder and CEO of Sphere Solar Energy, can be contacted at (206) 371-5809 or edwin@spheresolarenergy.com. Find out more about Sphere Solar Energy at https://spheresolarenergy.com/.

Reach out to Front And Centered at (206) 487-4303 or visit their website at https://frontandcentered.org/.
Until July 1 – People’s Community Center is FREE - The Center and the Pool are open at 1602 ML Jr. Way. [https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/place/peoples-community-center] Call for details 253-404-3915.

June 9 – Wednesday – The State of Black Tacoma! 11:00am brought to you by the Tacoma Urban League – [https://www.facebook.com/events/296787098425747/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%7D] Call for details 253-404-3915.

June 11 – Wednesday – New Tacoma Neighborhood Council Meeting Virtual 5:30pm-7pm on Facebook Live at [https://www.facebook.com/newtacomanighbors] For more information, please contact NCNTBoard@gmail.com.

June 12 – Saturday - Artist on The Hill, 2:30 pm Hilltop Indoor Market: Pop-up Shop: Tacoma Arts Community Center, 1102 S 11th St. [https://www.facebook.com/events/299729849842554/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%7D] For more information, please contact NCNTBoard@gmail.com.


June 17 – Thursday – Hilltop Business Association Meeting 8:00am Open to the Public – Zoom Meeting ID 823 7351 3090, Passcode 157990, One tap mobile 253-215-8782, Zoom Link [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82373513090?pwd=ROMMVVVDYnoc0z3B5Z3y0Z3B5Z3y0dz09]

June 17 – Summer Learning Academy Enrollment. Peace Community Center. [https://peacecommunitycenter.org/programs/summer-learning-academy]

June 19 – Saturday – Juneteenth – People’s Center will be open

June 20 – Sunday - Father’s Day

June 21 – Monday - HAC Virtual Weekly Update 6:00-7pm on HAC Facebook Live [https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition] Join HAC Board members Brendan and Michaela with guests Valerie Knight with Pierce County Human Services, Marissa Lyons, Ascent Fitness, and Hunter Henderson, newest HAC Board member.

June 24 – Thursday – Hilltop Library Planning Committee 6-7:00pm Zoom Meeting ID 819 6034 2310 Dial by location 253-215-8782 Zoom Link [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81960342310#success]

June 27th – Sunday - Sundaes on Sunday 1:30-2:30pm at People’s Park - Free Ice-Cream with HAC


July 1 – Thursday – Central Tacoma Neighborhood Council Meeting Virtual 5:30pm-7pm on Facebook Live at [https://www.facebook.com/CNCtacoma] For more information, please contact chair@cnc-tacoma.com.

July 4 – Sunday - Independence Day

July 5 – Monday - HAC Virtual Weekly Update 6:00-7pm on HAC Facebook Live [https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition] Join HAC Board members Brendan and Michaela with guests Patricia Coleman - Coleman & Associates, Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital, and Makieda Hart of Sgt. Hart’s BBQ Sauce.

July 12 – Monday - Virtual Weekly Update 6:00-7pm on HAC Facebook Live [https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition] Join HAC as they chat with Rebecca Rosato, Mr. Mac and Sam & Terry’s Barber Shop.

July 14 – Wednesday – New Tacoma Neighborhood Council Meeting Virtual 5:30pm-7pm on Facebook Live at [https://www.facebook.com/newtacoma-neighbor] For more information, please contact NCNTBoard@gmail.com.

July 15 – Thursday – Hilltop Business Association Meeting 8:00am Open to the Public – Zoom Meeting ID 823 7351 3090, Passcode 157990, One tap mobile 253-215-8782, Zoom Link [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82373513090?pwd=ROMMVVVDYnoc0z3B5Z3y0Z3B5Z3y0dz09]

July 17 - Saturday Memorial for Kris Bannon “Sonics Guy” 11:00 am OUR Church 5000 67th Ave W, University Place [https://www.facebook.com/events/outurch/kristopher-brannon-sonics-guy-memorial-ser/m548597494494271]

July 26 – Monday – Happy Hour with Cider & Conversation - 6:00 to 7:30pm at Grit City Ciderworks, 1016 MLK Jr. Way. Join HAC’ and HBA Board Members for a glass of cider and chat.

July 22 – Thursday – Hilltop Library Planning Committee 6-7:00pm Zoom Meeting ID 81960142300 Dial by location 253-215-8782 Zoom Link [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81960342310?pwd=success]
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