

HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

April-May 2020 | Hilltop Action Coalition | Volunteer Organized | Award-Winning Publication

CENSUS 2020 - BE COUNTED!

Census 2020 is for everyone. Shape your future, and your community's future, by responding to the Census.

Earth Day 2020: Climate Action

"Our Elders tell us stories about the abuse our people endured during the boarding school era, when government officials would lock our children in closets for speaking their native language. To this day some choose not to shut doors in their homes. Parents attempted to hide their children during those times, so that they wouldn't be taken. The government knew who had children in the home and they were able to use that information against our people."

Jennifer Keating of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians shared this story to illustrate a barrier her community faces to participation in the U.S. Census. "The historic distrust is something that isn't just being hinted at, it's being called out directly. Tribal members have mentioned Elders telling them not to participate in census issues because they tell them this is how they steal our children."

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians is a member of the Pierce County 2020 Census Complete Count Committee, comprised of government, non-profit, and community leaders. The Complete Count Committee is working together to help ensure that every resident of Pierce County is informed, engaged, and valued in the census process. Data from the upcoming 2020 Census informs distribution of more than \$800 billion in federal funds to support vital programs to communities across the United States, as well as determining the number of political representatives in Congress.

When communities are undercounted, residents don't receive the services, funding, or political voice they need.

Jennifer explained why it matters for the Puyallup Tribe of Indians to have an accurate census count, "Due to our past history and the trauma our people have faced, there continues to be a great need for many social services in the native community."

Rena Thompson of Recovery Café Orting Valley is one of over 40 participants in Greater Tacoma Community Foundation's census outreach and education cohort. At a recent meeting, organizations discussed areas of distrust in census data collection.

Rena noted that, "People don't want to tell people information about themselves because they are very private. They fear the information will be used in the wrong way." Low census participation limits funding for community needs like school renovations.

All the communities engaging in census outreach are finding unique ways to support participation. The Recovery Café is holding community meetings and sharing census facts with their clients during regular face-to-face discussions. The Puyallup Tribe of Indians relies on personal relationships to network, while their communications



Take the 2020 Census at <https://2020census.gov>

team creates videos and social media posts to dispel misconceptions around the way census data will be used. The Census Bureau addresses concerns about census data usage and privacy directly on the [official website](https://2020census.gov). "The law prevents the Census Bureau from sharing your information with law enforcement. Your answers cannot be used to impact your eligibility for government benefits. Your answers are only used to create statistics about our country. The Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the U.S. Code to protect your personal information and keep it strictly confidential. That's every answer, to every question."

As the 2020 Census date draws near, Jennifer shares the importance of opening the door to census participation with her community. While acknowl-

edging the validity of the historical distrust, Jennifer also points to the importance of the services and representation that are determined based on the 2020 Census. "Even if they choose not to, maybe they don't personally use that social service, someone in their family, or others in our tribe depend on that service. Do it for the greater good of our community. Do it for the rest of us."

This article is courtesy of the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation whose mission is to "Strengthening our community by fostering generosity and connecting people who care with causes that matter." For more information about the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, please visit [www.Gtcf.org](http://www.gtcf.org), email info@gtcf.org, or call (253) 383-5622.

Census 2020 Key Dates

Courtesy of <https://2020census.gov>

2020

- **March 30 - April 1:** Census Bureau counts people experiencing homelessness

- **April 1:** Census Day is observed nationwide - where you live on April 1st is how you respond for the Census

- **April:** Census takers will begin visiting campus living students, people in senior centers, and other places where people live in large groups.

- **May - July:** Census employees will begin knocking on doors for those who have not yet responded

- **December:** The Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law

2021

March 31: By this time, the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to states where this information is used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes



Earth Day 2020: Climate Action

Earth Day Celebrates 50th Anniversary Supporting Environmental Protection

Earth Day 2020 is on April 22 - this year's theme resonates with the entire Earth: Climate Action. According to www.earthday.org, Earth Day is the largest annual civic event and led to the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts. Although we count this as amazing success, our Earth still faces loss of biodiversity, a plastic pollution crisis and climate changes with local and global ramifications.

Earthday.org has launched campaigns to spark a hopeful billion Earthlings to meet their Climate Action call and create the most "diverse global mobilization in history." Won't you take part? Take a look at these Climate Action Campaigns or [click here](#) to take the Earth Day Challenge.

[The Great Global Cleanup](#): planting 7.8 billion trees across the globe — 1 tree for every person on earth — in honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

world on April 22, 2020.

[Earth Challenge 2020](#): largest-ever global citizen science initiative arms individuals with the tools they need to report on the health and wellbeing of the environment, from water quality, to air quality, to the species around them.

[Foodprints for the Future](#): a collaboration with individuals, communities, and partners across all sectors to address one of the largest contributors to climate change: our food system.

[Artist for the Earth](#): artists from around the world use the power of their art to express our common humanity.

[The Canopy Project](#): planting 7.8 billion trees across the globe — 1 tree for every person on earth — in honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

[Act on Climate Change](#): user Guide for 2020 and beyond.

HAPPY EARTH DAY!
[Click here to see Google Maps Globe View](#)



A Year of Trees for Earth Day South Sound 2020

Throughout the month of April, [Metro Parks](#) invites you to get involved in a month-long, virtual celebration where you can participate in fun daily actions that are posted on the [Earth Day South](#)

[Sound Facebook](#) page, pledge to volunteer at a future community or tree planting event, take the Tree Pledge, or share your Tree Story. Visit the [Earth Day website](#) to find out more.

COVID-19: Home in Hilltop Community Comes Together to Serve Community

At home in the Hilltop, your senses tell you something has changed. You see and hear less activity on the sidewalks and streets. Handshakes and hugs are replaced with the Corona Wave for proper social distancing. Governor Inslee's Stay Home Order to curb the spread of COVID-19 keeps you home even if you are not sick to help prevent infection. You are living through a historical event: the

Now that the original Stay Home Order has been extended to May 4th, some of us may begin to feel shut in and socially disconnected. HAC would like to encourage you to stay in touch with family and friends through regular phone calls, social media, and video chats ([SKYPE](#), [Zoom](#), etc.). You are invited to HAC's virtual Monthly Community Meeting via [Facebook LIVE](#) on Monday, April 20th at 6:00 PM. A mental health representative and financial coach are scheduled to attend, provide resources and answer questions.

Looking for something interesting to do? WA State Historical Society is looking for people to [document COVID-19 history](#) for the future.

Over the past couple of weeks, HAC has seen the City, non-profit organizations and individuals rise up and provide much needed resources during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although HAC cannot share every resource available, we would like to point out some resources that may directly assist Hilltoppers.

HEALTH CARE
Community Health Care offers [COVID-19 Testing](#) (253) 722-2161

Tacoma Pierce County Health Department [COVID-19 Information](#) (253) 798-6500
City of Tacoma: Up-to-Date Information about [Coronavirus & Online Resources](#)
Metro Parks [Program & Facility Updates](#) (253) 305-1000

EDUCATION/YOUTH
Tacoma Public Schools [Distance Learning](#)

[Resources](#) (253) 571-1000
TPS Preschool & Elementary Grade [Resource Packets](#) (253) 571-1000
KBTC/PBS Kids [Schools Out BUSINESS](#)

[Make it Tacoma](#) COVID-19 Resources (253) 591-2012
[SBA Disaster Assistance](#) in Response to the Coronavirus
WA State Department of Commerce [Small Business Emergency Grants](#)
WA State Coronavirus Response - [Business & Workers](#)

PERSONAL FINANCE
Sound Outreach [Financial Empowerment](#) (253) 593-2111
Tacoma Urban League Black [Empowerment Center](#) and Budget & Finance Workshops
Goodwill [Key to Change - Financial Education](#) (253) 573-6500

NECESSITIES
[Tacoma Food Banks](#)
[Food Connection](#) (253) 383-5048
[Nourish Pierce Cnty](#) (253) 383-3164
[Coordinated Entry on Demand](#) for Housing Concerns Dial 211
COVID-RA Rental Assistance Call (253) 841-8886 ext. 800 or Email covid-ra@shareandcarehouse.org
[Department of Social & Health Services Metropolitan Development Council](#) - Energy Assistance, Housing Aid, Family Support Services (253) 572-5960
Need Help Paying Bills/[Pierce County Assistance Programs](#) - Rent, Food, Utilities & Job Assistance
[Tacoma Public Utilities](#) Emergency Assistance Program (253) 502-8600

Please share Hilltop resources with hacoffice15@gmail.com - HAC's Facebook will help spread the word.



Shut In,
By Jenni Prange Boran

Hilltop Action Journal
Award-Winning Publication!
Journals are viewable online at
www.hilltopactioncoalition.org.

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



**YOUR AD
HERE**

Advertise with us
Email hac.alyssa@gmail.com

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 united community.

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Hilltop Action Coalition is recruiting Board Members!

Email
hacoffice15@gmail.com

HAC Virtual Community Meeting



Monday, April 20th, at 6:00 pm

We know how important it is for you to stay up-to-date with Hilltop neighborhood news, resources and community concerns. Please join us on April 20th via [Facebook Live](#) for HAC's Monthly Community Meeting! HAC Board president, Brendan Nelson, and Board Member, Alyssa Torrez, will be your meeting hosts. Guest speakers include Rhoda Ramirez with [Catholic Community Services](#) and Tim Jumper with [Sound Outreach](#). Rhoda will share family mental health resources, and Tim will provide financial wellness information. Please feel free to text questions or concerns you may have in the comments section during the virtual meeting.

We hope this virtual space provides the opportunity for you, your family and friends to spend time in community with one another. Please feel free to text "hellos" to your neighbors in the comments section.

Join in on Facebook Live!

Have Facebook? Go to your Facebook page & "like" Hilltop Action Coalition. April 20th at 6pm be on your Facebook page & click on the HAC has gone 'Live' notification to go to the live meeting.

No Facebook? Google search 'Hilltop Action Coalition Facebook', click on the HAC Facebook link & be on the [HAC Facebook home page](#) April 20th at 6pm to view the live meeting.

Please share thoughts and questions by typing in the comments section during the meeting.

Miss the meeting? Visit HAC Facebook and click on the 'Videos' tab.



President's Message

By Brendan Nelson

Hilltop Family,

Many of us are experiencing a "new" normal. Remaining at home, working from home, and limiting our exposure in public places. We may be experiencing new relationships with our family and friends. The internet has become essential to obtain the news and social connections.

Watching the count of new COVID-19 cases has become a preoccupation but I am hopeful that we will learn lessons that will help us to be better and do better in our shared future.

Dark as this time might be, history and our own hearts tell us that light always overcomes darkness.

I would most sincerely like to thank the countless people of Tacoma and the Hilltop community who have enabled us to deal with this incredibly difficult situation. Without your strong and committed efforts, we would not have food for families, extended learning opportunities for kids, financial assistance for those in need and places for people to sleep.

Because of the many hands working together, our community can have the peace of mind knowing that the needs

of our brothers and sisters are being met to the best of our ability.

We have some challenging weeks ahead of us but we are a resilient community always ready to step up when needed, and that is why I am confident we will get through this season and come out an even more effective and dynamic community.

Love and Light,

Brendan Nelson
President
Hilltop Action Coalition
brendan.hac16@gmail.com

The Time is NOW: Make Black Count

Participating in Census 2020 Brings Federal Funds to the Hilltop



By Martha Lucas on behalf of Tacoma Urban League

It's here...Beginning in mid-March, households received their invitation letter to complete the 2020 Census in three different ways- online (my-2020census.gov), by phone (1-844-330-2020), and by mail in multiple languages. The Census form has 10 questions, takes about 10 minutes, but will have 10 years of impact on our community's daily lives and funding from local, state, and federal agencies. Only the invitation letter unique ID or mailing address is needed to complete the Census form.

The importance of us getting counted is best demonstrated by explaining the facts of how federal, state, and local money gets distributed in our communities. In 2017, 316 federal programs relied on 2010 Census-derived data to distribute \$1.504 trillion dollars to state and local governments, businesses, nonprofits, and households across the nation. The United States Census data is used to allocate billions of dollars of federal aid to state and local governments using formulas that factor in population characteristics and poverty levels. Undercounts may skew per capita data to higher income levels or miss

certain threshold requirements.

Census-derived data primarily doesn't determine the "size of the pie," but "who gets what slice of pie." This means that funds not received in one area due to an undercount are distributed to all other areas. In 2010, cities that over counted like Mercer Island (84%) would have received more funds for their schools, businesses, and nonprofits than cities like Lakewood (70%) that are under-counted.

Washington has a more difficult time covering the needs of its traditionally undercounted groups like Blacks and immigrants that exist in their communities with more "slice of the pie" resources being shifted to groups that tend to over count like Whites. For multiple of reasons, Blacks and African born immigrants have traditionally represented two undercounted communities which has resulted in millions of dollars of lost business, education, childcare, and health care funding available for our neighborhoods and schools.

In response to this traditional undercount, the [Tacoma Urban League](https://www.tacomaurbanleague.org), has spearheaded a "Make Black Count Committee" made up of Black and African led organizations including: Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, Tacoma Urban League, Washington State Coalition of African Community Leaders, One Vibe Africa, Rhonda Tilford & Associates, Cierra Sisters, Wakulima, TeamWrk, and the City of Tacoma. Our primary goals has been to raise awareness and provide technical assistance to help our Black and African communities in Pierce County get counted by hosting events from Winter to Spring 2020 including Driving Souls to the Polls January townhall co-hosted by Emmy award winning

talk show host from CBS, The Talk, actress and comedian - Sheryl Underwood and Warren Ballentine from the Black Solidarity Radio Network at Shiloh Baptist Church, It Takes All of Us event, Teen Census Party, Men of Change Awards, and Mardi Gras themed military event.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 and the Governor's increasing restrictions several of our events have been postponed or cancelled for public safety concerns and the ambiguity surrounding when the current lockdown will be lifted. One highly anticipated postponed event, Census Sunday unites Tacoma Churches, Community-Based Organizations, and Citizens to celebrate its historical significance through the biblical lens. For an updated list of upcoming Make Black Count Committee Census events, please visit:

<https://thetacomaurbanleague.org/events>.

Submitted by Martha Lucas, Census Project Manager for Washington State Coalition of African Community Leaders, on behalf of the Tacoma Urban League led Make Black Count Committee. For more information, contact Martha at (206) 482-9122 or at marthalucas1@gmail.com.

1. Reamer, A. "Census Guided Federal Program: A Comprehensive Accounting." George Washington Institute of Public Policy. Presentation November 18, 2019 at National League of Cities, Washington, DC. <https://gwipp.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs2181/f/downloads/Reamer%20NLC%20Census%2011-18-19.pdf>
2. Reamer, A., (2020), "Counting for Dollars 2020: The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds." George Washington Institute of Public Policy, George Washington University, February 10, 2020 <https://gwipp.gwu.edu/counting-dollars-2020-role-decennial-census-geographic-distribution-federal-funds>



Members of the Make Black Count Committee



Driving Souls to the Polls Townhall Attendees



T'wina Nobles, President & CEO of Tacoma Urban League, addressing Moderator Sheryl Underwood

"This America's Eulogy"

By Bethany "B.Lyte" Montgomery
Founder & President of Power 2 The Poetry

America
Land of the free
Land of the free

America
Money and greed
Money and greed

America
Land of opportunity

America
This is your eulogy

Destruction
Corruption
Extortion
Armed Forces
Pitch forks
And torches
White hoods
On horses
Or actually
Racist white men in red hats
Who state nothing
But alternative facts

Make America great again
Let's not pretend
America stands for everything we should be against
The government is not your friend
These politicians do not care about your problems
Please tell me any promise they've ever kept
I'll wait...

And if they did it was just a coincidence
Imagine if criminals actually had consequence
Actually my mistake criminals with pale skin
Because if you have any melanin
You are guilty until proven innocent
And even if you are innocent
It really don't matter because
America is the land of ignorant
And ignorance is bliss

And everybody is responsible
Even if you do have darker skin
We all commit sin
We all wish to win
But have you ever stopped to really think
Does living your best life
Affect others from living their best lives
Insight
You decide

Do jewelry cars and clothes
Make you a good person
Ever hear of blood diamonds
Yeah start researching
You know how much pollution we as a country produce
If the rest of the world was like America
Then we would be doomed

Hands up don't shoot
Don't eat veggies or fruits
Diet of trans fat, sugar and fast food
Kids overweight due to their parents mistakes
No exercise just snacks and video games
A truly dark future awaits
What is it going to take to produce change

America
The home of the brave
But everyday seems more like a false claim

America
We should be afraid
But nothing really matters
When you got money to make

America
The land of shame

Power 2 The Poetry

Learn more at power2thepoetry.com
<https://power2thepoetry.com>/
My TEDx Spokane Talk 2018

Community Vision

The January 27th HAC Monthly Community Meeting asked coalition members to share their ideas for Community Hilltop Action. Brendan Nelson, HAC Board President, explained the difference between a board led organization and a coalition led organization. He told the attendees that they are the Coalition and that this meeting was an opportunity for them to create a HAC Vision for 2020.

Before the Community Vision Activity, Liz Ellis, Sound Transit Community Outreach Specialist, shared 2019's Tacoma Hilltop Link construction progress and what's ahead for 2020. You can now see Link tracks on Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Liz mentioned that Sound Transit is not responsible for the Streetscape Design (see page 2) stage of the project. If you have any questions about Tacoma Hilltop Link construction, please contact Liz directly at (253) 208-0586 or via email at liz.satterthwaite@soundtransit.org. For construction updates please visit [HAC Facebook Notes](https://www.facebook.com/HACFacebookNotes) or www.soundtransit.org.

During the Community Vision Activity, Brendan passed out sticky notes and asked coalition members to write down 2 types of comments: Positive and Change. Take a look below to find out the top 3 comments listed for each topic.

*Positive notes on what HAC is doing right:

- 1) Hosting events like the Hilltop District 3 Candidate Debate
- 2) Community Calendar & Journal
- 3) Communication between city groups and the Hilltop community

*Change notes on what HAC can do better:

- 1) Active coordination with other organizations and presence of City leaders at meetings, especially City Council Member(s)
- 2) Clearer HAC priorities/projects and how each meeting relates (measurable outcomes)
- 3) More time for questions and answers with speakers

After collecting everyone's comments, coalition members were asked one more question: What actions should HAC take? An excellent response to this question was given by a Hilltop resident and business owner, "Encourage more people to attend various community meetings." Brendan added that they can report back at HAC meetings or write an article about the meeting for the Hilltop Action Journal. A Hilltop resident suggested we should, "Let our voices be heard," and, "do what you gotta do." Another resident asked, "What is the action? What is the 1 thing I can do at the end of each HAC meeting that I can take out into the community?" A neighborhood leader wanted to know, "How to get to capacity. More staff? More funding?" Brendan recommended writing HAC letters of support to the City Council.

Click here to read all comments received during the [Community Vision Activity](https://www.facebook.com/HACFacebookNotes). Brendan took the 2020 vision comments to the HAC Board Retreat where board members made sure goals lined up with community priorities. Thank You to everyone who attended and provided comments and recommendations.

Links to Opportunity Streetscape Design Update

The Links to Opportunity Project plans for the transformation of the way people will experience the streetscape along the Link rail system.



STREETScape IMAGES



By Jon Kulju

While the construction of the Sound Transit Hilltop Link Extension project along MLK Jr. Way continues to improve the roadway and light rail connection from downtown to S 19th Street, the City has plans of its own to make access to the rail system more attractive and accessible. The City has been working on the Links to Opportunity Project plans for the transformation of the way people will experience the streetscape along the rail system.

Like other planning efforts in the City, Hilltop will get a sidewalk facelift that will improve the way the community will connect and do business. While the minimum standard of sidewalks that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act are in the plan, many other features and facilities will be incorporated. These features were developed during a concerted

outreach and planning campaign to ensure Hilltop was represented and had its own look and feel. Features will provide connections to the past that life long residents will find familiar, while someone new to the area will feel the heart and caring that exists just by looking at their surroundings.

These sidewalks will be different because they send a message to the traveler that will both be visually stunning but thought provoking as well. The designs include colored concrete patterns and placement of welcoming mats that will be visually pleasing. Voices from the past and present will convey messages engraved in granite monuments giving thought to those who walk by. Messages from historic figures like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcom X, to contemporaries like Pharrell Williams and Alice Walker.

Strategically placed along the walking route will be single words

sandblasted into the concrete surface that are left up for individual interpretation and meaning. Words such as "Hilltopia" and "Resilience," among others, will be found in several locations along the way to give interest to the depth of meaning to the corridor.

Other features that will enhance the look and feel of the streetscape are landscaping and trees, bicycle facilities that go beyond the typical bike rack, pedestrian lighting that will brighten the evening gathering spaces that include game tables, a variety of benches and lighted seating blocks, lean rails for casual conversation and community base art work. Vertical colorful markers mark the entrances, invitations to enter the experience of Hilltop.

Funding for the project has been secured through several sources such as Street Initiative funds, Community Development Block Grant, Sound Transit System Access Grant and the

City General Fund. Construction will cost nearly \$10 Million dollars for the streetscape and administration of the project.

The City is committed to working with local developers and Sound Transit to ensure that it coordinates and incorporates safety and respect for the businesses and the community. Construction is scheduled to begin when Sound Transit has reached a substantial completion around the beginning of 2021. The construction will also be coordinated with public and private developments planned for the corridor occurring simultaneously.

The Links to Opportunity Project has been an extraordinary effort by a lot of people that have a shared interest and commitment to the community to ensure success. The Hilltop Engagement Committee, Hilltop Action Coalition, and Community Engagement Specialist have been working with City of Tacoma Project Leads on some of the final historical

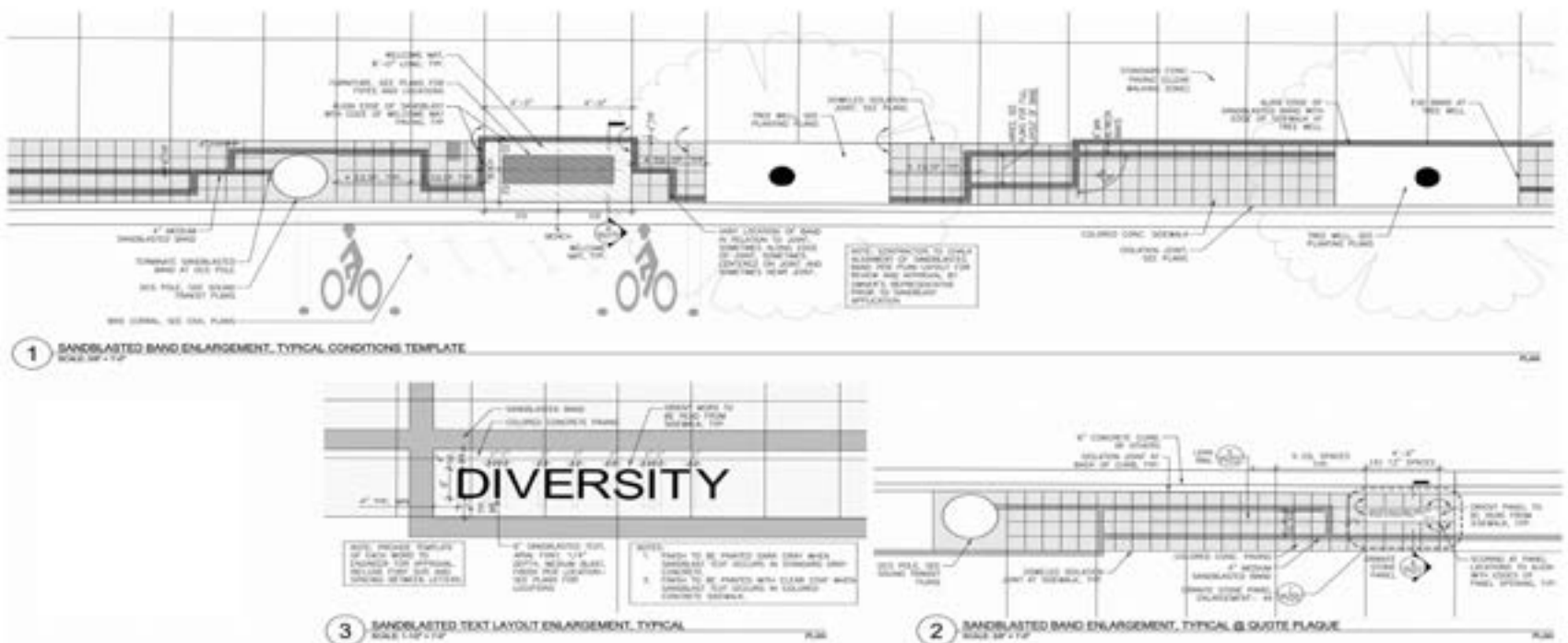
and culturally significant quotes and placement into the streetscape. They last met on March 4, 2020 to take a look at draft streetscape designs and will meet again to go over final plans.

The effort does not stop at the planning stage though; it continues into the construction phase with a liaison office to provide information and log issues that will occur during construction. As one of the messages engraved into the stone will typify progress on this project, "After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb" – Nelson Mandela, the Links to Opportunity Project staff will continue to climb those hills and take on the challenges that lie ahead.

Links to Opportunity Project Manager, Jon Kulju, can be contacted by phone at 253-591-5204; or, via email at JKulju@cityoftacoma.org.



STREETScape IMAGES



*Streetscape Images provided by Links to Opportunity Project Manager, Jon Kulju. [View clearer images](http://www.hilltopactioncoalition.org), in the digital Hilltop Action Journal at www.hilltopactioncoalition.org.

Celebrate Cultural Landscapes for Historic Preservation Month

All month long, a roster of events for all ages has been planned around this year's theme of Cultural Landscapes.

**City Council News Release
April 14, 2020**

Each May, the National Trust for Historic Preservation encourages local communities to celebrate National Historic Preservation Month. The City of Tacoma is excited to announce this year's Historic Preservation Month theme – "Cultural Landscapes," which celebrates the significance of Tacoma's open spaces and natural environment to our past, present and future.

"It's important to appreciate the impact our natural resources have on the people, environment and heritage that has shaped the City of Tacoma," said Assistant Historic Preservation Officer Lauren Hoogkamer. "This year, we will experience Tacoma's historic cultural landscapes, open spaces and natural resources through a series of innovative virtual experiences."

Preservation Month 2020 Calendar

Due to evolving public health social distancing recommendations, event changes are anticipated this year, please visit the new [Historic Preservation Month website](#) for the most current event schedule.

Virtual Tours are free and you can ask questions during the tour. Some program highlights include:

[Virtual Sacred Spaces Tour](#)

This virtual tour takes you through some of Tacoma's most beautiful, iconic, and in some cases under-represented, sacred spaces. You can join in on [Pretty Gritty Tours Facebook page](#) at 8pm, May 2nd.

[Virtual Wright Park Tour](#)

If you have ever wanted to know more about Tacoma's iconic Wright Park, from who actually plays bocce ball on those perfectly manicured lawns, to what kind of infidelity led to the statues being posted at the entrance, then this is the tour for you. The tour will be broadcast on [Pretty Gritty Tours Facebook page](#) at 3:30pm May 5th.

[History of Old City Hall](#)

To mark Historic Preservation Month, Susan Johnson of Artifacts Inc. will examine the history, myths and legends associated with Tacoma's Old City Hall. We'll also look at its future, as SurgeTacoma will share its vision for the building, along with renovation and restoration plans. [Click here](#) for more information on the May 11 7pm event.

[Sherman Elementary Virtual Salmon Release](#)

Take a virtual visit to Swan Creek and celebrate as Sherman Elementary students release their Coho Salmon, raised as part of the Salmon in the Classroom pro-

gram in partnership with the Foss Waterway Seaport. You can join in the excitement online at 8pm on May 16th.

[Historic Tacoma's Virtual Proctor District Tour](#)

This virtual tour will highlight the rich history of the Proctor District and its architectural treasures. On May 17th at 1pm, you can explore several blocks and some of the oldest, most iconic, and most mysterious parts of the neighborhood. Interested? [RSVP here](#).

[Wapato Park Virtual Bike Ride](#)

This virtual bike tour of the park will focus on the history of the area and delve into how the park itself came to be and what makes it so extraordinary. You can join by being on [Pretty Gritty Tours Facebook page](#) at 7:30pm on May 30th.

For more information on Historic Preservation Month activities, visit [hpmonthtacoma.com](#) or contact Lauren Hoogkamer at LHoogkamer@cityoftacoma.org or (253) 591-5254.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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MBDA-Tacoma Business Center

Want to know how to increase your product sales online, both domestic & global? Prepare to do business online.

MBDA invites you to an overview of the Minority Business and Technology Initiative, a collaboration between Amazon Business and the U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) that seeks to accelerate the inclusion of minority owned enterprises in e-commerce and to improve the use of digital technology for domestic and global sales. The Tech initiative will implement pioneering approaches that will support minority business owners and entrepreneurs in the following ways:

- Enable MBEs to increase their online presence by leveraging Amazon Business as a solution to reach more buyers and sell globally through ecommerce.
- Access to success coaches for products listed on Amazon Business.

Connect MBEs with business buyers in the B2B marketplace. All small businesses are welcome to participate in this webinar series.

Join the April 23, 2020 webinar from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and learn how to become a seller on the Amazon Business Marketplace. Learn how to take the next step in growing your Ecommerce business. Find out:

- What is Amazon Business?
- What makes a good business product brand?
- How do you get started selling on Amazon Business?
- How do you grow and scale your Amazon Business?

Where do you find additional resources?

Interested in finding out more? [Register here](#) and take advantage of free training by Amazon Business. Webinar registration is still open for the April 23rd event and for one on April 30th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm EDT. Be prepared for conducting business online - register today!

[Minority Business and Technology Initiative FAQs](#)

Find out program information and criteria. Such as, *do I have to be a client of an MBDA Business Center to apply/participate?* Anyone can participate in the "How To" seminars and training sessions to learn more about how to become a seller. However, they must have an approved product to sell on Amazon Business.

Is there a cost associated with participating in the Initiative for MBEs? If so, how much and what is all included in the program? There is no cost to participate in the program; however, there is a cost for selling products on Amazon Business. More than 20 categories are open for selling on Amazon; products in these categories can be listed without specific permission from Amazon. Some categories only allow listings for new products. Some categories have additional guidelines that sellers must follow. Want more info? [Visit www.mbda.gov](#).

City of Tacoma Micro-loan Program

Community & Economic Development department

WHAT IS THE MICRO-LOAN PROGRAM?

The micro-loan program is designed to provide funding necessary for a business to launch or expand in Tacoma. This program provides loans to businesses who are unable to access traditional financing and/or need to fill a financing gap.

HOW MUCH CAN I BORROW?

An eligible applicant may borrow \$5,000 to \$25,000.

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

Small businesses (including home-based businesses) licensed in and located in Tacoma. A person wanting to open a business or expand their business to Tacoma is also eligible.

ARE EQUITY & COLLATERAL REQUIRED?

Lack of collateral and/or equity will not disqualify you from being eligible for the micro-loan.

HOW CAN I USE THE FUNDS?

- Purchase of equipment & machinery
- Tenant improvements
- Working capital
- Commercial property acquisition
- Commercial land acquisition
- Soft costs



WHO DO I CONTACT?

Will Suarez
will.suarez@cityoftacoma.org
253-591-5590

4%

Fixed-interest rate or 75% of prime rate (whichever is lower).

5-7

Year amortization period.

\$0

Penalty fees for paying off your loan early.

Virtual City Council Meetings

Special Tacoma City Council Weekly Meetings on Coronavirus Updates - Every Friday at 2PM

The Tacoma City Council has established special weekly meetings to provide updates on the status and impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the City's response to the emergency every Friday at 2 PM. These meetings are open to the public but to comply with Governor Inslee's Proclamation, this meeting will not be conducted in-person. You can listen in on the meeting by dialing 1-855-747-8824 and using Passcode: 8215373. You may also listen on [Facebook LIVE Meeting Agendas](#) will be posted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

'Stay Home, Stay Safe' Order and Participating in Tacoma City Council Meetings

Consistent with the CDC's recommendation, and pursuant to the City's recent state of emergency proclamation, Council has set the maximum occupancy of Council Chambers, not

including Council and staff, at 10. Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and the CDC also recommend that individuals over the age of 60 as well as individuals with underlying medical conditions – like heart disease, lung disease or diabetes – stay home as much as possible and avoid crowds.

Community members are strongly encouraged to participate at Council meetings in written form. This guidance extends to Public Comment for items on the agenda and Community Forum for items limited to matters over which the Council has jurisdiction. Written comments may be submitted to cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org every Tuesday before 4 PM prior to that evening's Council meeting.

Council meetings are televised on [TV Tacoma](#), which is carried on both the Click! and Comcast Cable systems. Council meetings can also be streamed on tvtacoma.com.

Hilltop = NRSA

At HAC's Monthly Community Meeting on Mon Feb 24, Darian Lightfoot with City of Tacoma Community and Economic Development Department, shared with attendees what it means for Hilltop to be a part of a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA). We learned about the City's Consolidated Plan which provides a 5-year framework for addressing housing, human services, community and economic development.

Since Hilltop is in a designated NRSA, the district qualifies for Community Development Block Grants,

Emergency Solutions Grant and the Home Investments Partnership Program. These funding sources are intended to benefit lower-income persons and neighborhoods for housing, services, neighborhood improvements and job development.

Darian's department will be updating HAC on community outreach for the Hilltop. Look for this information, including a more specific community survey, in the June/July edition of the Hilltop Action Journal.

Youth News & Events

Library eResources for At-Home Learning

All online resources can be accessed for free with your Tacoma Public Library card.

By Jamie Gilmore, Tacoma Public Library Outreach Librarian

Keep students learning and engaged with Tacoma Public Library eResources that you can access anywhere! "TrueFlix, BookFlix, and HelpNow are three of my favorite eResources for students and parents," Jamie Gilmore, Outreach Librarian for Tacoma Public Library. "They are easy to navigate and have content that covers a lot of subjects and grades. I'm excited to share them with our Tacoma community members who are looking for outlets for at-home learning." I have provided some information about my three favorite eResources:

TrueFlix

TrueFlix is a nonfiction literacy resource for children grades 3 to 5. Each category has books, videos, images, web links, activities, and more. From extreme science to outer space, there are topics of interest for every student!

BookFlix

BookFlix combines fiction and nonfiction eBooks in a unique

learning experience for Pre-K through 3rd grade students. Materials are broken down into different categories such as 'Adventure' and 'People and Places.' Each fiction title is paired with a nonfiction title. Children can watch an animated version of the fiction title and read along with the nonfiction title. After they watch the book segments, students can explore puzzles, web links, and more related to the topic.

HelpNow

HelpNow includes live homework help, skill building, and writing workshops. Live tutoring is also available from 3:00 to 10:00 p.m., PDT, every day. Students of all ages can practice math, reading, writing, and more with the Skill Surfer, create flashcards with eParachute, schedule virtual meeting sessions with MEET, and more. HelpNow is a resource for students of all ages and supports elementary through adult learners, with a special section for parents.

Access these eResources, and many more, through the Tacoma Public Library website at tacomalibrary.org/resource. eResources are listed

in alphabetical order. The drop down box 'View apps available for:' allows you to choose Apple, Android or Amazon.

To make your life easier, eResources are available in the K-12 Homework Center and organized by Elementary School; Middle and High School; and, Parents and Educators where you can find printable activities from Scholastic for math, science, reading comprehension, STEM, writing and more. Check out some of the eResources available for your youth(s) below:

Elementary School

- BookFlix
- Culture Grams
- HelpNow
- Kids InfoBits
- NovelList Plus K-8
- SIRS Discover
- TrueFlix

Middle & High School

- Access World News
- Biography in Context
- eLibrary Curriculum
- General OneFile
- HelpNow
- Literature Resource Center



- News & Newspapers
- Research Library
- Science in Context
- Student Resources Reference Center
- U.S. History in Context
- West Newstream
- World History in Context

Parents & Educators

- NovelList Plus K-8
- Teachables

All online resources can be accessed for free with your Tacoma Public Library card by visiting tacomalibrary.org and selecting the Online Library tab, A to Z eResources, and Explore. If you have a library card, use your existing card number and pin (usually the last four

digits of your phone number) as your login. If you don't have a library card, you can sign up for an eCard at tacomalibrary.org/library-card-application.

Also, Tacoma Public Library has a [Pathway Partnership](#) with Tacoma Public School District to allow students library access with their student ID card. [TPS Pathway Partnership FAQs](#) answers both general and student access questions.

Questions? Email eresources@tacomalibrary.org; or, use the [Ask-a-Librarian Virtual Reference](#) resource where you can access an online chat service or email your question with a two day response time. You can also call the Tacoma Public Library Main Branch at 253.292.2001.

Oasis Youth Center



By Clara Macias on behalf of Oasis Youth Center

It's Thursday night and Oasis Youth Center is bustling with activity. In the kitchen youth share dinner, while the main space is full of socializing and board games. All are waiting for the 35 year Oasis tradition: Check-In. As old as Oasis, Check-In provides every youth the opportunity to share their triumphs and challenges and to be heard and validated by their peers. Youth leaders guide the group through Check-In, having been trained by the Oasis Queer Leader program. Did we mention the space is full? So full that we've had to expand! In 2019, Check-In officially went on the road, traveling to two Satellite locations, first on the Key Peninsula and later in Lakewood. Oasis aspires to expand to two additional sites by the end of 2020.

Oasis Youth Center, founded in 1985, is a drop-in, support, and resource center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning youth ages 11-24. Oasis gives youth a safe place in their community where they can connect, learn, and be their best selves. Oasis believes that with support our LGBTQ youth can become strong, confident leaders in their communities.

Oasis programs have been repeatedly selected for awards and recognitions repeatedly, including a CDC site visit to learn from Oasis's first-in-the-nation curriculum-based sexual violence prevention program

designed specifically for queer youth ages 11-14. The program, called Project 13, consistently has a waiting list due to the strong need in the community. Project 13 was the brainchild of youth on our action committee and is now entering its 4th year.

In the last 34 years, Oasis has grown to serve thousands of LGBTQ youth in Pierce County and surrounding areas by providing access to peer support, a safe space to be who they are, and to develop their leadership skills. As we enter our 35th year, we are excited to grow even more!

Historically, Oasis has held a Youth Leadership Summit, an opportunity to enjoy both traditional camp activities as well as focused leadership workshops. This summit is free for the youth participants and is a well-attended event.

In 2019, Oasis held its first annual Queer, Trans, Intersex Person of Color (QTIPOC) Retreat. This retreat is in outgrowth of the monthly QTIPOC program held at the center.

This summit provided queer, intersex, and/or transgender-identified Youth of Color the opportunity to heal and connect with other youth like themselves, facilitated by the retreat theme of self-care. The retreat followed the Oasis cross-generational model, as all the retreat staff were People of Color-identified. The QTIPOC retreat will alternate years with the traditional leadership summit. Oasis offers more than Check-In and retreats, however,

In addition to serving more than 864 youth in 2019 with programs like Check-In, Queer, Chef, Art Night, Rainbow Yoga, Youth Council, and others, Oasis provides resources to the larger community.

Oasis spreads the word by visiting local schools, agencies, and businesses to provide LGBTQ-related trainings for everyone from direct service workers to CEOs. Often, youth from Oasis's own youth speakers bureau participate in the presentations.

Oasis also goes into the community to provide a presence at local events, tabling at many throughout the year, including the Hilltop Street Fair and

Tacoma Pride. Visibility at such events sends an important message to queer youth and provides the community an opportunity to engage with the organization and learn about the programs and resources Oasis offers to youth and families.

In addition to a variety of programs to participate in, Oasis provides offers resources and advocacy. Mental health vouchers and referral services are available to help youth access therapy in the community, in addition to Oasis's in-house therapy. Emergency funds and bus passes are on-hand for youth in crisis, as well as crime victims advocacy, referral to case management and social services,

and more.

With all these offerings, Oasis is an asset for the greater Tacoma area, serving youth, families, and communities. With new unique programs, tried-and-true traditions, and relevant resources, Oasis meets the needs of many in our community in a way like no other. Join us!

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, receiving LGBTQ+ competency training, or joining Oasis, you can reach us at oasis@oasisyouthcenter.org, www.oasisyouthcenter.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#) at Oasis Youth Center.

GRAB AND GO MEALS AND ACTIVITIES

With KBTC and Peace Lutheran Church
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 11:00am-1:00pm

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
2106 S CUSHMAN AVE, TACOMA, WA

Stop by and pick up a FREE lunch and PBS KIDS educational activity packet during school closures.

Everyone welcome!

More information at kbtckids.org or kbtckids@gmail.com

Our Youth Count!

Census 2020 - Make Sure Everyone is Counted in Your Home

If you are filling out the census for your home, you should [count everyone](#) who is living there as of April 1, 2020. This includes anyone—related or unrelated to you—who lives and sleeps at your home most of the time. This includes newborns, youth, parents, relatives, tenants, or someone with no usual home elsewhere - [be sure to count them in your response to the 2020 Census](#). Where there are more people, there are more needs. An accurate count helps inform funding for hospitals, fire departments, schools, and roads for the next 10 years.



Jaxtin Scott peeks out behind a Census 2020 yard sign to remind you to [count newborns and young children](#) who live with you as of April 1, 2020.

Team “Swish” 2020 Youth Basketball Champions

By Naomi Wyrick,
11-year old Hilltop Youth

Hi I’m Naomi and I played for the Stanley Basketball Team On Hilltop where I made some new friends, and my parents were our coaches! This year we won our championship game! We had our games every Saturday, and practices on every Friday. Our team name was Team “Swish” and we played basketball for six weeks, undefeated. After the championship we had our basketball celebration at Defy!



The Power of Mentorship

This article is courtesy of [Graduate Tacoma](#) whose vision is, “A Tacoma where every child succeeds in school, career, and life.” Every Child. One Community. Cradle to Career.



In a city where most of our residents are White, but the majority of our student population is Black and Brown, investing in mentorship that reflects the identities of Tacoma students has become a leading conversation for Graduate Tacoma community partners.

Antonio McLemore is just one of the many leaders in Tacoma engaging youth through mentorship. As the Male Involvement Program (MIP) Manager at the Tacoma Urban League, he is approaching this work from a racial equity and gender lens to support the unique needs of Black and Brown boys.

“The only level of success that our children have seen that look like them is posters of athletes and entertainers. That’s the only type of success that society has allowed them to see,” says Antonio. “Even when you have an African American who is successful, oftentimes they don’t live in the communities they were raised.”

Black males are disproportionately impacted by negative stereotypes.

Stereotyping can cause anxiousness, fear, and distress to the targeted group, which can negatively affect academic performance – even when the targeted group does not believe the stereotypes assigned to them.

The Male Involvement Program offers mentoring from men of color to help provide a safe and supportive community for boys of color who attend elementary and middle school at Lister, First Creek, Gray, and Stewart. The partnership between the Tacoma Urban League and Tacoma Public Schools provides students with culturally-anchored activities and discussions that help foster emotional, personal, and academic growth.

Every time he meets a new student, Antonio considers how young people are often at the mercy of their environment and the adults in their lives.

“It was extremely tough for me [as a father] to raise two boys without even having a model myself,” he explains.

Antonio highlights the importance

of young people having role models that validate their racial identity, emphasizing that educators must lead with seeking to understand the unique barriers preventing minoritized and marginalized students from quality learning and growth.

“There are conversations we must be willing to have that go beyond ourselves and make us uncomfortable. We must learn not just to implement information, but to also connect with the individuals that are in the [class] room,” says Antonio.

At Birney Elementary, the Tacoma Gents after school program, similarly, equips students with the tools to succeed in Leadership, Image, Financial management, and Etiquette (L.I.F.E). Brandon Ervin, College and Career Readiness Counselor at Tacoma Public Schools mentors the young Gents to build a positive self-image.

“The goal is to ensure that these kids have the tools they need to navigate the world as they become older men,” says Brandon. “Life experiences hold a lot of weight, and if you can’t understand the journey these kids have been on, it’s going to be hard for you to engage with them.”

Shared life experiences help promote closeness and trust in relationships. This mutual understanding provides students with a knowledgeable individual to guide them at critical points in their educational and personal development.

“There were many cases in my Tacoma public education journey where I was a throwaway kid,” says Brandon. “If it wasn’t for mentors, I know exactly where I would be today because of the projection that was placed on Black boys during that time. I quickly realized that to ensure that it doesn’t happen to anyone else, I’ve got to insert myself into the conversations and the work.”

Tacoma Gents and MIP offer Expanded Learning Opportunities during and after school through the Tacoma Whole Child initiative. The initiative employs a systems-building approach using data-driven problem solving to maximize social, emotional, and academic growth for youth.

These two partnerships with Tacoma Public Schools epitomize the spirit of collective action that propels the Graduate Tacoma community-wide movement. Likewise, by connecting organizations, businesses, institutions, and people, as a movement we can ensure that

youth have support and access to opportunities when and where they need it.

Outside of the school setting, community leaders like Eric Upchurch, owner of Goodfellas253 Barbershop, step in to ensure youth of color have access to mentors and resources that promote social-emotional wellness and increase the visibility and representation of Black role models.

“Young people need to see successful people who look like

“My hope is to inspire other businesses to give back to their community because if [young people] don’t know what’s out there, then they don’t know how to pursue it,” says Eric.

In addition to community programming, Eric is in the process of turning a room in his barbershop into a computer lab with 3-D printers for youth to explore technology they wouldn’t otherwise have access to.

“I believe in the power of giving back,” says Eric. “I make sure that



Eric UpChurch (in Men of Courage shirt) with Mentees

them,” says Eric. “When you look at the people making decisions or at a voting pamphlet, you don’t really see a lot of people who look like me.”

Eric is a finalist in the Men of Courage Barbershop Challenge, an initiative aimed at furthering the positive narrative and imagery around Black men. The national challenge launched locally in Tacoma in partnership with the Washington State History Museum and the City of Tacoma – providing finalists with resources to implement community programming.

everything I do is positive. It’s what’s needed.”

These examples of the community-wide movement in action are rooted in shared responsibility and leadership through collaboration. This collective impact is critical if we are to serve all students in our community.

“There is no singular way to support a kid,” says Brandon. “Serving kids means holding teachers, administrators, community members, and organizations accountable. In order to make an impact, you have to be the impact.”



Antonio McLemore (left) with students from the Male Involvement Program



Tacoma Gents during Annual Gala

Why Kids in “The System” Need Focused Care



By Cathy Hall

Children in foster care or who have been adopted are a unique population that require specialized healthcare. Removals from home or first families are rooted in traumatic experiences and even a visit to a medical or dental clinic can be traumatic trigger. Adequate access to high quality care through a trauma informed lens has not been available in the Tacoma community, placing the nearly 1,300 children currently in foster

care in Pierce County at even higher risk. Community Health Care aims to bridge that gap by creating the first foster/adoption clinic in Pierce County and the only full-spectrum integrated model in the Puget Sound.

Foster Youth:

- 2x the rate of alcohol dependence
- 5x more likely to develop PTSD
- 7x the rate of drug dependence
- 10% of Pierce County’s foster kids will spend the night in a hotel
- 25% homeless with 4 years of

aging out

- 52% of males are unemployed
- 60% of sex trafficking victims were in the foster care system
- 71% of girls are pregnant before age 2

Community Health Care is dedicated to creating a focused health care space for children and their families/caregivers in the foster-adoption spectrum. Behavioral Health services will be the highlight in this therapeutic area to serve those that have significantly higher rates of depression and anxiety and suicide attempts directly related to trauma.

Providing individual and family style therapy in a non-clinical space is in line with the key principles of a Trauma-Healing environment. It is crucial for this clinic to feel welcoming and safe, and to achieve this we are hoping for financial assistance to create a trauma-informed space. By simply adding couches and beanbag chairs,

sensory-friendly wall hangings and educational toys that make them feel more comfortable, we will be helping children and families better engage in the care that is needed to better succeed in life.

This space will help facilitate de-escalation, prevent re-traumatization, and empower children and families to be a part of treatment planning and care. All funds that we receive will go directly towards creating a sensory modulation room that will be used primarily by behavioral health staff but can also be used by all clinic staff to facilitate the least-traumatic interaction with a child & their support group as possible. The room will also meet our standards for hygiene and materials used will be able to be sanitized in between patients.

Our team follows the American Academy of Pediatrics’ health care recommendations to provide a health screening within three business days and a well-child checkup within 30

days of removal. During these visits, the team will assess behavioral, developmental and chronic health care needs of the child. The staff also will partner with case managers to help coordinate care with required specialists and act as a continued resource for the children and biological parents.”

By fostering physical & mental health in this unique space, we hope to set the groundwork for healthy, thriving futures for the nearly 3,800 children in Pierce County in the foster/adoption experience. We welcome anyone or any entity willing to partner with us so that we can provide this crucial service for the kids in Pierce County that need it most.

The Foster Adoption Clinic is scheduled to open in June 2020. For more information, please email Cathy Hall, Marketing and Development Coordinator for [Community Health Care](mailto:chall@commhealth.org), at chall@commhealth.org.

A Door to Opportunity

Plan Ahead - Change You or Your Youth’s Future

By Perry Newell

Is your 7th or 8th grader college bound? Let me introduce you to the [College Bound Scholarship](#) established by the Washington State Legislature in 2007. This scholarship was created to give state financial aid to low-income students that may not have thought about going to college due to the high cost. It’s easy to apply: if the [income requirements](#) are met, the parent or guardian must submit an application by June 30th of the students 8th grade year; in the students senior year, they must meet the [College Bound Pledge](#) and income requirements. Plan ahead and make a positive impact on your youth’s lifetime.

The [Washington College Grant](#) will makes education and training

beyond high school affordable. More families are eligible, and more programs and types of credentials are included. Most changes will begin next academic year and will affect students who apply now for financial aid for the 2020-21 school year. The Washington State College Grants will cover full tuition (maximum award amount) at any [approved eligible](#) in-state public college or university including community or technical colleges; or, provide a comparable amount toward tuition and other education-related costs at an approved private college or career training program. The program is also expanding to provide support for apprenticeships.

Beginning in 2020-21, more low- and middle-income families will

qualify. [An eligible student](#) from a family of four making around \$50,000 or less per year would receive a full award. Partial grants are available for families making up to the state’s median family income, around \$97,000 per year.

There is no separate application for the Washington College Grant. [Students should complete a state or federal financial aid application](#), which colleges will use to determine eligibility and make awards. Application processes for non-campus-based apprenticeship programs have not yet been established.

For more information about these opportunities, visit wsac.wa.gov, [Facebook](#), email info@wsac.wa.gov, or call (360) 753-7800.



Check out READY SET GRAD at readyssetgrad.wa.gov - this incredible websight helps you or your youth plan higher education from 6th grade through 12th. It also offers planning for college and continuing education students. It’s pretty easy to find out what you need to do if you or your youth wants to go to college. Just select your grade and click on READY to find out what you need to know to go to college. Click SET to find out what you need to do to go to college. Then click GRAD to learn about what you need beyond graduation.

“Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction. The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.”

~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Hilltop Healthy Kids & Family Carnival

On February 29, 2020, People’s Community Center hosted the Hilltop Healthy Kids & Family Carnival. While strolling through the event, you may have been approached by three smiling, young ladies holding up signs that advertised Free Haircuts. If you stopped by the Hilltop Action Coalition table, a turn at the prize wheel may have sent you home with a hacky-sack ball, drum sticks or other HAC Swag.

There was a bouncy house and lots of carnival games for everyone to play. Vegetables were walking around to say, “Hello!” Drums played, a dance team mesmerized us with their performance with kids eyes lighting up as they watched hand clapping, foot stomping fun! Free dental cleanings, blood pressure screenings, food, prizes, and lots of community information made this a great event in 2020!



Free Haircuts! - Thank you!!!



HAC Booth with Alyssa Torrez!



Fun Carnival Games!



Entertainment!





Hilltop Artists is the Washington Organization of the Year

“To serve our state as these people have, decade after decade, takes a generosity of spirit and a tireless commitment to service that represents the best of all of us.” Lt. Governor Cyrus Habib

By Katy Evans

On January 24, 2020, Lieutenant Governor Cyrus Habib announced the winners of the Washingtonian of the Year, the Organization of the Year, and the winner of the Legacy of Service Award. This year, the Lt. Governor and the Association of Washington Generals, Washington’s official honor organization, chose the Tacoma-based Hilltop Artists as organization of the year.

In response to the announcement, Hilltop Artists Executive Director Dr. Kimberly Keith shared, “It is a privilege to be recognized for our 25 years of service to Tacoma and its young people. Many thanks go out to our staff, students, Board of Directors, and supporters - everyone in the Hilltop Artists Family has contributed to our success and we share this honor with you!”

This year’s recipient for Washington Organization of the Year, Hilltop Artists, is a nonprofit arts education and youth development program that provides glass art classes and experiences for over 650 students each year. The tuition-free program combines artistic instruction with community outreach and support services, with emphasis on serving

students ages 12 - 20 experiencing homelessness, substance abuse disorders, and physical abuse or neglect. Hilltop Artists delivers year round youth programs in their hot shops located at Jason Lee Middle School and Wilson High School in Tacoma, Washington.

The details of all the award winners can be found in [Lt. Governor Habib’s official press release here](#).

As shared in the above linked release, of the recipients, Habib said, “To serve our state as these people have, decade after decade, takes a generosity of spirit and a

tireless commitment to service that represents the best of all of us. I am proud to recognize their work, which has changed so many individual lives for the better, on behalf of our entire state.”

Hilltop Artists students, staff, and volunteers will accept their award at a ceremony February 20, 2020, at the Governor’s Mansion in Olympia, Washington.

For more information about Hilltop Artists, check out www.hilltopartists.org, [Facebook](#), email info@hilltopartists.org, or call (253) 571-7747.



From Left to Right: Bernadette Ray, Syd Bersante, Jp Avila, Greg Piercy, Dr. Kimberly Keith, Lt. Gov. Cyrus Habib, Luis Sanchez, Jason Mauer, MiShawn Cabrera, Coleman Anderson, Zach Abella, Jhordon Johnson, Katy Evans, Kathy Anderson, Sam Scalise, Jessica Hogan, Zowie Lockley, Serafina Halle, Brian Li, James Downey, Leila Kamibayashi, Monique Simkova

Story Behind the Painting



Painted by Artist Gereardo Pena

By Bryan Flint, Executive Director, Sound Outreach

to fit the space.

After working for 5 years to raise funds to help build the Eastside Community Center, I joined Sound Outreach on the Hilltop as its Executive Director. At the Eastside Center, emerging Eastside artist, Gereardo Pena, worked on commissioned artwork to recognize project donors. The new office at Sound Outreach had a lot of white blank walls; so, I reached out to Gerardo to find out if he had any painting available. The discussion turned to Gerardo painting something

The concept was to celebrate the grassroots spirit of the Hilltop and celebrate how the community works to lift everyone up. The painting is of a 3-D mural coming out of a wall on the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Way and South 13th Street. Emerging out of a cartoon landscape an Asian man and African American woman enter the world to lift a small child up. “My heart leaped out of my chest when I first saw the power and imagery and what it says about the Hilltop.” What a jewel to have this art at Sound Outreach.

Property Tax Relief for Senior & Disabled

Income Limits Raised in 2020 for Senior & Disabled Property Tax Exemptions in Your Community!

By Jo Davies

More Tacoma homeowners will qualify for property tax relief this year, due to an important change in State Law. The previous maximum household income allowed for a partial tax exemption was \$40,000 per year. The new maximum is 65% of the median household median, which in Pierce County is \$45,708.

If you are a homeowner at least age 61, or unable to work because of a documented disability regardless of age, and occupy your house at least 9 months a year, you may be exempted

from all voted property taxes on your principal residence. In addition, the taxable value of your primary residence will be frozen at the current amount.

There are also additional property tax exemptions for senior or disabled homeowners with household incomes below \$38,676 (55% of median) and \$31,644 (45% of median). Also, for military veterans, the required percentage of service-connected disability has been lowered from 100% to 80%.

To learn more about applying for an exemption, please click on

the “Property Tax Exemptions and Deferrals” tab on the left side of the Assessor’s webpage <https://piercescountywa.gov/91/Assessor-Treasurer>, then click on “Senior Citizens or Disabled Persons” to see more information about required documents and the application form.

If you have further questions, call the Senior/Disabled Exemptions Team at 253-798-2169 from 8:30 am to 4 pm weekdays or visit us at the Pierce County Annex, 2401 S. 35th St. in Tacoma. Information from the Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer webpage.

Submit Articles, Photographs or Advertise in the

[HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL](#)

Email hacoffice15@gmail.com

for more information.



Starting December 2019, the Coordinated Entry phone line will be replaced with 2-1-1.

- Visit a Coordinated Entry Access Point
- Call 2-1-1 for Live Support or to Schedule
- Speak to a Mobile Outreach Team

If you are experiencing homelessness, please contact us for on-demand support in finding housing solutions.

Learn more at PCHomeless.org/CEaccess

JOHNSON CANDY COMPANY MON - SAT
9:30 AM TO 5:30 PM

HANDMADE CHOCOLATES, CANDIES & GIFTS

SEA SALT CARAMELS, TURTLES, DIVINITY, FUDGE, PEANUT CLUSTERS & BRITTLE, SUGAR FREE CHOCOLATES

253-272-8504
S 10TH & M.L. KING WAY, TACOMA

The Road Home
Tacoma | Lakewood | Pierce County Continuum of Care
in Partnership with Pierce County Human Services

Pierce County
Human Services

Aspire 11 Building to Begin Construction

Mixed-use Building on the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Way and 11th Street will have commercial space and 283 market rate residential units

By Jane Trancho

The Aspire 11 Building on the northeast corner of MLK and 11th is nearing the beginning of its construction phase. This large multi-use building has been in the works for several years, with the public comment period occurring in 2017. The 6-story building will go from The Basket Nook to the corner,

encompass the alley, and wrap around Manifesto Coffee, Goodfellas, and 1022 J on to J Street. The vacant lot on the corner of J and 10th is owned by the same developer but will not be a part of this phase of construction. Design is complete, and it is currently in the process of finalizing last minute permit comments. Construction by Jody Miller Construction was originally slated to begin April 1st,

but current events have pushed this out until this coming July.

Designed by Graves and Associates, this mixed-use building will have 283 market rate residential units, with 172 studios, 101 one-bedroom units and 9 two-bedroom units. The average unit size will be 645 square feet. The building is designed with a strong transit orientation, with the expectation that its proximity to

the Light Rail Station will make it desirable for health care workers in the area, among others. It will have 204 residential parking stalls and 168 bicycle spots for residents. Residents will have amenities such as a theater, yoga/workout room, lounge and dog washing facilities. Residents will also have access to a 13,000 square foot exterior landscaped courtyard area.

There will be almost 17,000 square

feet of commercial space fronting Martin Luther King and J Street. It is still too early to have tenants committed, but the hope is that there will be a full-service restaurant at the corner of MLK and 11th.

Construction should take 2-1/2 years, with an estimated completion in summer of 2022. Design Plans below courtesy of Graves and Associates.



Hilltop Crossword Puzzle

HAC HILLTOP CROSSWORD PUZZLE CLUES

- Across**
- Offering Hilltop health care for over 50 years
 - Delicious fish restaurant feeding families since 1987 & was renamed to this in 2000
 - A neighborhood council located in the Hilltop

- Hilltop City Council Representative & Deputy Mayor of Tacoma
- Provides Affordable Housing on the Hilltop (acronym)
- Community members would like to see this in the Hilltop
- Martin Luther King Jr. Way shuts down to host this Hilltop August event
- Within view of the Hilltop
- A shared space for the Hilltop

- Community
- A place to learn English as a second language (acronym)
 - This restaurant began in the early 1950's, you'll need napkins for this menu
 - 75-year-old candy store on the Hilltop
 - Program reminding us to visit businesses along the Tacoma Hilltop Link Light Rail construction route
 - A place to swim and exercise on

the Hilltop

Down

- A Hilltop newspaper written by community members
- Transportation option coming to the Hilltop in 2020
- Providing quality merchandise to Hilltop residents since 1958
- Communications Anchor of the Hilltop

- A historic, diverse neighborhood in Tacoma
- Another name for Martin Luther King Jr. Way
- Helping the Hilltop Streets keep safe
- Hosts Hilltop Monthly Community Meetings (acronym)
- Where you can get your bike repaired —on the Hilltop

* Crossword Answer Key page 12



April is a good month to watch things grow in a healthy way – especially children. Use these internet tips to keep them safe.

Many uninformed parents fail to realize the threat to children by unsupervised use of computers accessing the internet. Children who are armed with preventative information are less likely to fall victim to illegal activity on the internet. Parents and other caregivers should discuss online safety with their children. The Tacoma Police Department recommends discussing the following topics with family members:



- Tell your child you will be monitoring their computer use and internet activities. Consider placing their computer in a common area like a family room or living room.
- Do not allow your child to have multiple e-mail accounts or create accounts without your knowledge. Insist your child give you their usernames and passwords.
- Register internet accounts and primary screen names under your name.
- Have your child contact you immediately if a stranger attempts to contact them using a computer.
- Learn who your child sends instant messages to or chats with. Prohibit the use of private chat rooms. Identify everyone on your child's contact or buddy lists.
- Direct your child not to divulge personal information on the internet, including his or her name, age, photos, gender, physical description, telephone number, address, schools attended, etc. Internet predators look at personal profiles on the internet to find their victims.
- Limit the sites that your child is allowed to visit.
- Set time limits on your child's computer use.
- Prohibit your child from chatting (sending instant messages) during homework-related computer time.



The Tacoma Police Department hopes that all families have a safe April online – and all year long!



Community Spotlight- Shiloh Baptist Church



By Harlan Shoop

Shiloh is a place. In the Hebrew Bible it is the place where the Israelites camped at the end of their sojourn in the wilderness. They gathered, worshiped YAHW, made plans for the future, prayed, ate, slept, argued with what was needed, went to war with other tribes, and the things people do when they are on a mission. You can read about it in the book of Joshua. You know the song- "Joshua, fit the battle of Jericho". It became the place of refuge for people who needed a safe space.

Shiloh Baptist is a safe "place" where a lot of the same things happen. It's a place of refuge for people. It's a place of compassion for people who are on the margins. All the activities around the ministries of Shiloh reflect a love of Jesus, the compassion for the neighborhood, a meeting of human needs both spiritual and physical.

I met Rev. E. S. Brazill shortly after coming to Tacoma. He was one of the prime movers to gain civil rights for African Americans here in Tacoma. I recall a meeting in the late 80's in which this gentleman who was fairly short and slight, don't let his size fool you, raised his fist and voice against injustices. The issue was police unfairly targeting African American young men. He was one part of 3 pastors who worked to change Tacoma's culture with regard to race. There is still work to be done, but Tacoma has a better relationship with Tacoma Police department today because of voices like Rev. Brazill's in the past.

In case you hadn't noticed- there is a street named after him that cuts through the hilltop and runs by the church he was pastor of for 44 years.

Shiloh Baptist Church organization history began on Thursday, July 23, 1953, at 2 p.m. in the Holy Communion Episcopal Parish House located at 1407 South I Street in Tacoma, Washington.

Rev. Brazill accepted the call to serve as Shiloh's pastor. Rev. E.S. Brazill officially assumed his duties as pastor on Easter Sunday, April 10, 1955. The Rev. Dr. E.S. Brazill retired after faithfully leading Shiloh Baptist Church as pastor for 44 years and eight months.

In January 2000, the congregation voted Rev. Dr. Gregory Christopher as pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church. He had served as the Youth Pastor for 10 years and was recommended by Rev. Brazill to lead the church.

Pastor Christopher is currently the President of the Tacoma Branch of the NAACP. He is president of the Tacoma Ministerial Alliance. He is also a member of the Tacoma Pierce County Black Collective and past Board chairman of the Tacoma Urban League.

Here is an interesting fact: In 2017 Pastor Christopher was arrested in Washington D. C., for protesting the repeal and replace of the Affordable Health Care Act, aka Obama Care. Pastor Christopher also ran for Tacoma City Council Position 6 in 2017 where he came in third out of the five candidates among voters.

Gregory and Evelyn were married in February 1989

and this blended family has 5 children, 13 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. Wow! Almost their own zip code.

You see the importance of this church's leadership by their doing what is hard and what is right.

Central to Shiloh is worship service on Sunday mornings at 8:00 and 10:45 is it's lively music and preaching and it will get you up out of your seat.

If you check the church out you will find people engaged in a multitude of ministries to the community. Ministries to children, youth, adults, men's groups, women's groups, that meet for fellowship.

They do other ministries that you may or may not know about. Locally, they have housing for low income families, a culinary school, SBC partners with the city of Tacoma and Rescue Mission to house homeless people when the weather is bad and there is a shortage of beds. Internationally, SBC also encourages members of their congregation to sponsor a child in Haiti and Dominican Republic through Compassion International.

One ministry that is quiet but important is that Shiloh is open for the community to use its facility. One example is that it is open to any family in the community who can't afford a place to hold a funeral or memorial service. SBC provides their space at no cost.

I talked with one of the members of SBC. Mother Mina McClarron, who has been a member for over 50 years. She is the official "mother" of the church. She and her husband came to Tacoma because her husband, a veteran of 3 wars, was wounded in Viet Nam and needed numerous and serious repair surgeries. He was in Madigan. Mother McClarron grew up Catholic, but she told her husband as he faced one of his difficult surgeries that was life threatening, she would go to church where ever he wanted. He was Baptist and so when he survived the surgery, they came to Shiloh. She loved Rev. Brazill's teaching and leadership. He gave her a love for scripture, especially the King James version which was refreshing after hearing scripture in Latin. She loved the freedom

Rev. Dr. E.S. Brazill



Rev. Dr. Gregory Christopher



of expression at SBC. Say "amen somebody", and everyone did.

Mother McClarron has been President of the mission, Choir Director, Chair of the deaconess board, Secretary of the Sunday School, part of the National Church Assembly, just to name a few. At almost 96, she is a steady and important advisor to Pastor Christopher whom she thinks is a great leader for SBC. She said he loves children and has promoted their Awana youth program for children from ages 3-18. She says he will do anything to help people, he is a

good pastor as he was present when she had a stroke recently to give encouragement to her and her family. She said no work is beneath him. Every congregation should have a woman like Mother McClarron. She is all in. And she is not the only one.

As I write Covid19 is in all our minds because our routines are drastically different. This will change how we go about doing church in the future. When we able to be back together, Shiloh's motto is "enter to worship and depart to serve". If you are looking for a place to worship and serve, this might be the "place".



ENDING HOMELESSNESS ONE JOB AT A TIME!



By Kelly Blucher

HIRE 253, tag-lined, "Ending homelessness, one job at a time," designed by the Pierce County Coalition to end Homelessness and launched as a quarterly event that is free and open to the public, has grown in scope and size since its first event in November 2017, which attracted 120 participants and 28 employers / resource providers.

The second event, which took place in March 2018 at the Salvation Army Citadel building, featured 40 employers and 140 attendees, with 85% walking away with interviews and 12% ultimately attaining employment.

Goodwill of the Olympics and

Rainier Region was scheduled to host March 2020 Hire 253; unfortunately, the event was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.

Goodwill and WorkSource Pierce are sponsoring HIRE253 Job Fair on June 25th from 10 AM to 2 PM at 714 South 27th Street, Tacoma WA 98409. Interested? Register for free at www.eventbrite.com. The first 200 job seekers attending the event will receive free lunches.

Visit [HIRE253 at their Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/HIRE253). For information on how your organization can participate, contact Kelly Blucher, Manager of Community Engagement & Outreach for Goodwill of the Olympics and Rainier Region at (253) 573-6853.

Social Security Financial Literacy

April is Financial Literacy Month, a month focused on educating people about the importance of planning for a secure financial future. Social Security is a vital part of any financial plan, and we have online tools to help you understand your potential Social Security benefits and how they fit into your financial plans.

You should periodically review your Social Security Statement through your personal my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. Your Statement is an easy-to-read record of your earnings that determine your future benefits. You'll want to verify that your recorded earnings are correct as they affect the amount you could receive. Your Statement also provides a summary of the estimated benefits you and your family could receive, including potential retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. The online Statement is paired with an interactive Retirement Calculator that allows you to run additional benefit estimate scenarios comparing how different future earnings and retirement benefit start dates affect your benefit amount.

Start focusing on your financial literacy today. Log in to your my Social Security account and view

your Statement. If you don't have an account, create one at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Online Services Remain Available

All local Social Security offices are closed to the public for in-person service as of March 17, 2020. This decision protects the population we serve—older Americans and people with underlying medical conditions—and our employees during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Secure and convenient online services remain available at www.socialsecurity.gov. Local offices will also continue to provide critical services over the phone. They are working closely with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov), state and local governments, and other experts to monitor COVID-19 and will let you know when they can resume in-person service.

If you need help from Social Security, please use their secure and convenient online services available at www.socialsecurity.gov/online-services. You can apply for retirement, disability, and Medicare benefits online, check the status of an application or appeal, request a replacement Social Security card

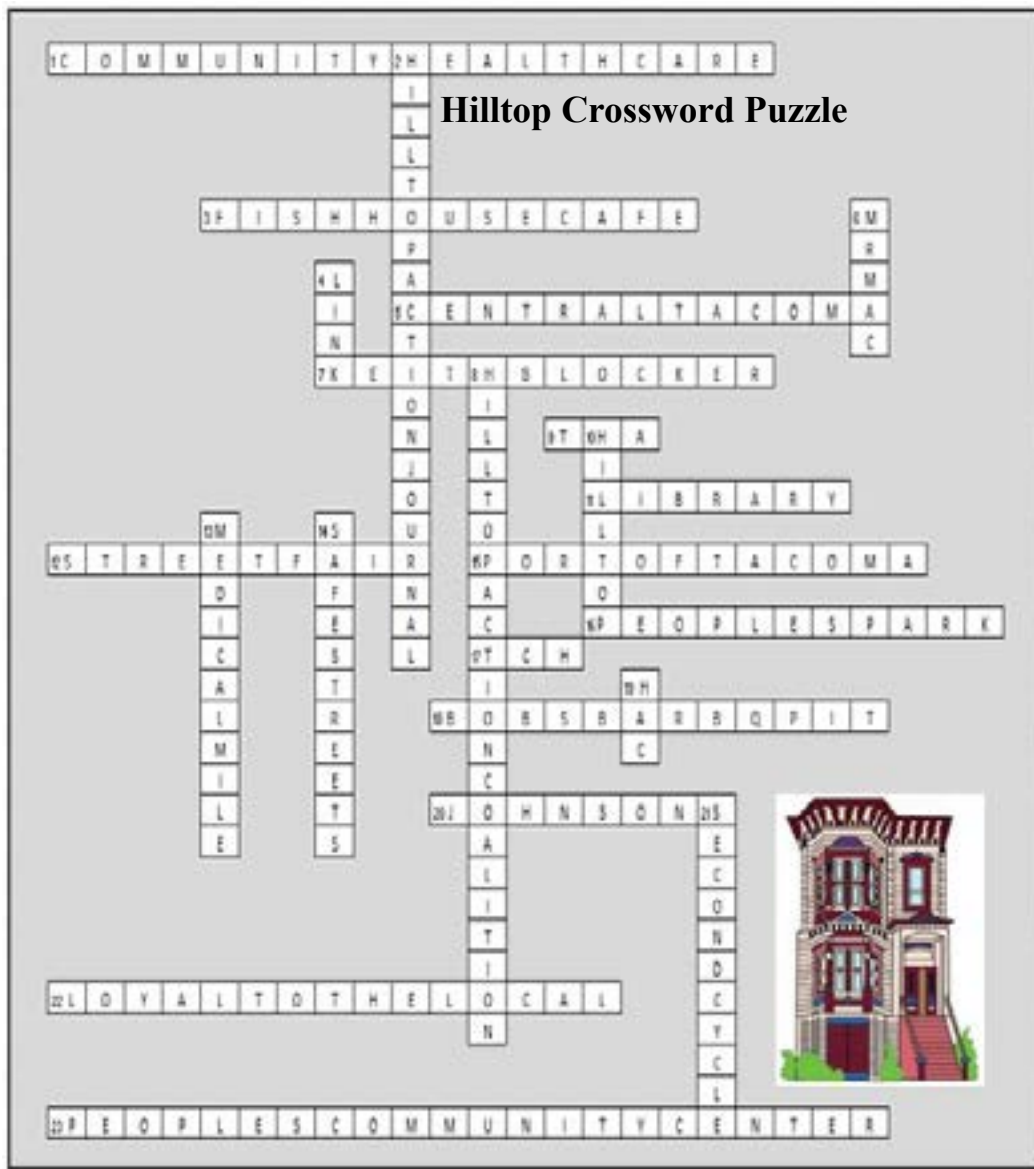
(in most areas), print a benefit verification letter, and much more – from anywhere and from any of your devices. They can also answer most of your Social Security questions online. Please visit their online Frequently Asked Questions at www.socialsecurity.gov/ask.

If you cannot conduct your Social Security business online, the Tacoma office will be able to provide critical services to help you apply for benefits, answer your questions, and provide other services over the phone (800-772-1213). Or, you can call their National 800 Number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Our National 800 Number has many automated service options you can use without waiting to speak with a telephone representative. A list of automated telephone services is available online at www.socialsecurity.gov/agency/contact/phone.html.

Information courtesy of Social Security Administration Regional Public Affairs Office, Community Outreach. Questions? Email SEA.ORG.RPA@ssa.gov



Securing today
and tomorrow



HILLTOP CROSSWORD PUZZLE Answer Key

Across

1. Offering Hilltop health care for over 50 years – **Community Health Care**
3. Delicious fish restaurant feeding families since 1987 & was renamed to this in 2000 – **Fish House Cafe**
5. A neighborhood council located in the Hilltop – **Central Tacoma**
7. Hilltop City Council Representative & Deputy Mayor of Tacoma – **Keith Blocker**
9. Provides Affordable Housing on the Hilltop (acronym) - **THA**
11. Community members would like to see this in the Hilltop - **Library**
12. Martin Luther King Jr. Way shuts down to host this Hilltop August event – **Street Fair**
15. Within view of the Hilltop – **Port of Tacoma**
16. A shared space for the Hilltop Community – **People's Park**
17. A place to learn English as a second language (acronym) - **TCH**
18. This restaurant began in the early 1950's, you'll need napkins for this menu – **Bob's Bar B Q Pit**
20. 75-year-old candy store on the Hilltop - **Johnsons**
22. Program reminding us to visit businesses along the Tacoma Hilltop Link Light Rail construction route – **Loyal to the Local**

23. A place to swim and exercise on the Hilltop – **People's Community Center**

Down

2. A Hilltop newspaper written by community members – **Hilltop Action Journal**
4. Transportation option coming to the Hilltop in 2020 - **Link**
6. Providing quality merchandise to Hilltop residents since 1958 – **Mr. Mac**
8. Communications Anchor of the Hilltop – **Hilltop Action Coalition**
10. A historic, diverse neighborhood in Tacoma - **Hilltop**
13. Another name for Martin Luther King Jr. Way – **Medical Mile**
14. Helping the Hilltop Streets keep safe – **Safe Streets**
19. Hosts Hilltop Monthly Community Meetings (acronym) - **HAC**
21. Where you can get your bike repaired on the Hilltop – **Second Cycle**

Looking for HAC Swag?

After the Stay Home Order is lifted, come on by the HAC office with your completed Hilltop Crossword Puzzle and pick up a Swag prize: Hacky Sack, Drum Sticks, or a Healthy Kids Coloring Book.

* Hilltop Crossword Puzzle created by Kristine Coman

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