# HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL



# EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT

**By Korbett Mosesly** 

### **Community Priorities**

- Good Jobs and Local Hires
- Safety through Community Policing
- Pathways to Home Ownership
- Sustain and Value Existing
   Community Organizations
- Programs for Youth and Seniors
- Peoples Center as a Cultural Hub of Information & Programs
- Create a Hilltop
   Neighborhood Library
- Community Journalism
- Keep Homes Affordable for Seniors and People with Fixed Incomes

## The Hilltop Action Coalition

Originally organized to respond to gangs, drugs, and crime on the Hilltop, the Hilltop Action Coalition now also works on other issues that affect neighborhood stability, such as housing, health, and a clean environment.

Throughout it's history, the Hilltop has been home to newcomers to the Tacoma area looking for a diverse neighborhood with old-world buildings with small-town atmosphere. The Coalition is committed to empowering and assisting residents to effectively improve life on their blocks. Block leaders have the opportunity to participate together in monthly support meetings to exchange their experiences, to sharpen their leadership skills, and to be informed of the resources available from the Coalition, the Tacoma Police Department, the City of Tacoma and other community partners. The Coalition also helps departments of the City of Tacoma better understand how they can serve residents of the Hilltop. Community-based policing, drug-house elimination, lighting and waste cleanups have all been part of this effort.

The Hilltop Action Coalition hosts a monthly area wide meeting on the 3rd Monday to bring together multiple residents and community leaders to engage in dialogue about what life is like on their blocks, to discuss issues, and share strategies for resolving concerns by working together.

# Area Wide Meetings: 3rd Mondays 6pm Community Healthcare Bldg.

1202 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Tacoma, WA 98405

To bring Hilltop neighborhoods together and improve the quality of life for its residents, the Coalition is needed now more than ever. Life in the electronic age makes it easy for common-interest communities to form through social media, but neighbors must still talk to each other to form neighborhood-based communities to look out for each other. A strong block leader program facilitates neighborto-neighbor connections as well as communication with service providers and city and county government. Beyond connecting residents most in need to services, the Coalition can have an impact on quality of life for

its neighborhoods and businesses. The city has developed plans and resources/budgets for comprehensive improvement of the Hilltop area. For example, the Tacoma Sub-Area Plan outlines many steps over the next four years to improve greenspace and tree canopy; walkability and transportation

to education, work and recreation outside the area; historic building preservation and neighborhood culture/history awareness; economic

development; affordable housing; hazard-contaminated site clean-up; youth program development; and others. The city does not, however, have the resources to communicate these activities to each and every resident in the Hilltop area. The city looks to the Hilltop Action Coalition to be the communications mechanism for voicing the community's needs, prioritizing resources, and keeping residents informed about the city's activities.

Find us on Facebook at Hilltop Action Coalition to keep up to date on what is happening in the community.

### HILLTOP RESTAURANT HIGHLIGHTS



**The Fish House Cafe Seafood** 1814 S Martin Luther King Jr Way Tacoma, WA 98405

(253) 383-7144



Southern Kitchen Southern Restaurant 1716 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA (253) 627-4282



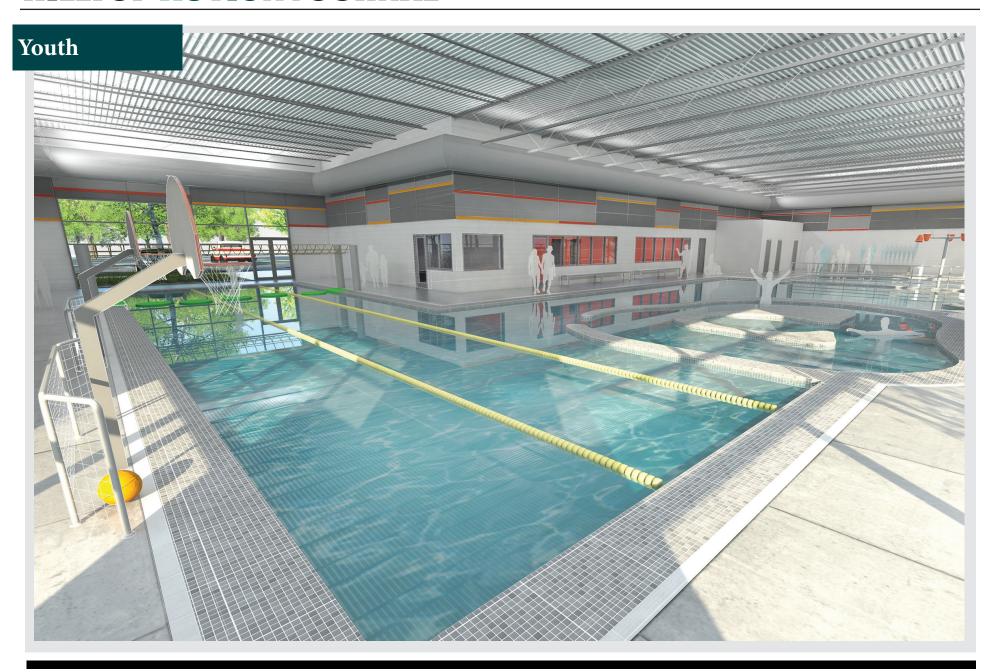
Pho King Thai Restaurant 1716 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA (253) 272-6287



**Le-Le Thai Restaurant**1012 M.L.K. Jr Way, Tacoma
(253) 572-9491



**Quickie Too Vegetarian Restaurant**1324 Martin Luther King Jr Way,
Tacoma (253) 572-4549



# People's Center Pool Grand Opening Sept. 24 @ 1pm

Get ready to dip your toes in Tacoma's newest public, indoor swimming pool at the People's Community Center. The grand opening begins at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24. Admission is free to everyone, regardless of whether you want to test the sparkling, 85-degree water or simply tour the renovated center.

Located in the Hilltop neighborhood, the new pool will have three lanes for lap swimming plus an indoor sprayground, current channel, water walk, water basketball and other features such as natural lighting.

People's Center was built as a result of strong community organization and effort. The small community building was constructed on the site in the 1960s and eventually named the Malcolm X Center. In the early 1970s, after the community began expressing concern that the site amenities were not adequate, the City of Tacoma pursued a federal development grant to fund a new, larger building. The new People's Center opened in 1978. Since then, People's Center has served as a cornerstone of the community for meeting and social functions.

The total project cost is \$7.6 million, with funding from several sources:

\$5,340,000 City of Tacoma \$1,740,000 Metro Parks Tacoma \$485,000 Washington State Department of Commerce.

With a primary focus on youth and after school programming, this central Tacoma "Hilltop" location is popular with adults and the many children and youth in the area.

Metro Parks Tacoma aquatics coordinator Jim Biles said programs at the new pool will emphasize water safety. The City of Tacoma owns the building, and Metro Parks operates it. The organizations worked together with a steering committee of local residents and stakeholders to plan for the pool's return.

"This goes to prove that partnerships work to bring to back a valuable asset to this community," said Park Board President Tim Reid.

Fletcher Jenkins, a resident who has headed the steering committee, said the pool's return is just one more example of what's happening to the Hilltop, including the opening of the Hilltop Regional Health Center, upgrades to McCarver Elementary School and the light rail to the neighborhood.

"I believe anything can be done as long as we come together as a group and let our voices be heard," Jenkins said.

This major building project began more than a year ago as a collaboration between Metro Parks Tacoma, which manages the center, and the City of Tacoma, which owns the building and led construction. The desire for a pool serving the Hilltop and central Tacoma is a long-standing one, dating back to before the construction of the previous pool. It shut down in 2008 because of structural problems, and officials considered turning the space into a gym. But community members lobbied hard for a new pool. Construction came about with the support of the City of Tacoma, Metro Parks and state taxpayers through the state Department of Commerce.

The grand opening is not just an opportunity for first-hand inspection of the pool and center. It's also a chance to meet Metro Parks and People's Center staff members, learn about planned People's Center programs and share your ideas for the future of the center and pool.

The pool features stair-step access to a shallow swimming area and submerged bench, perfect for introductory swimming lessons. The entire pool is relatively shallow, making it enjoyable

even for non swimmers. Metro Parks plans a regular schedule of lessons, water exercise, laplane and recreational swimming opportunities. The pool will be open daily.

### Key pool elements include:

- A spraypad especially for toddlers
- A current channel and vortex, designed for both fun and therapy
- Floating pads for walk-on-water play
- Two, poolside basketball hoops
- Two party rooms.

The walk-on-water feature is similar to those at popular water parks. Floating pads are shaped and colored to look like lily pads and log slices, and are anchored beneath a cargo net, which stretches from one side of the pool to the other. The trick is to use the cargo net for balance as you walk across the pool.

The side-by-side basketball hoops are ready for half-court, 3-on-3 basketball games.

The current channel is a smaller version of the lazy river at Metro Parks' Stewart Heights pool, minus the floating tubes. The highvelocity vortex and current also can be used for physical or occupational therapy.

The pool meets all Americans with Disabilities Act standards. It's equipped with a poolside lift and a set of closely spaced, parallel railings to ease entry and exit via stairs.

Learn more at: www.MetroParksTacoma.org/peoples

### PEOPLE'S CENTER PHOTOS









# **Need help with Medicare?** SHIBA can HELP!

Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors

# **Medicare Part D Enrollment** Starts Oct. 15

Enrollment in Medicare's prescription drug program (Part D) starts Saturday, Oct. 15 and runs through Dec. 7. If you're Medicareeligible and want to enroll in Part D or change your current plan, beat the last minute rush by enrolling early.

The Washington State Office of Insurance Commissioner's Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) can answer questions about Medicare Part D and provide help on other parts of Medicare as well as other health care topics.

Pierce County SHIBA is housed at Sound Outreach, a trusted community organization offering Affordable Care Act Navigation, DSHS benefit assistance, financial empowerment, Center for Strong Families and more, check us out at www.soundoutreach.org

To attend a SHIBA open enrollment event on Part D in Pierce County, call 253-596-0918 or 1-800-562-6900. For online requests go to www.insurance.wa.gov/SHIBA

**SOUND OUTREACH** 1106 M.L.K. Jr. Way, **Tacoma, WA 98405.** 

MEDICARE EDUCATION AND **RESOURCE EVENT!** 

# **AUGUST 27TH** 10am - 1pm

People's Community Center 1602 MLK Jr Way, Tacoma.

JOIN SHIBA for this FREE Education Event!

### We'll cover...

Medicare Parts A, B C, and D and Help you understand your Medicare benefits

**Options**Help paying for Medicare Medicare wellness benefits How to avoid becoming a victim of fraud

## **On-site services include:**

SHIBA in person counseling and Application assistance Local senior resource providers on site Dental resources available

**FOOD & BEVERAGES!** Join the Hilltop Street Fair down the street after event! RSVP @ 1-888-902-3011 ext. 1731

SHIBA offers free, unbiased health insurance education & assistance through the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

TALK TO A REAL PERSON FOR FREE, UNBIASED HELP #1-800-562-6900 or Pierce County Line #253-596-0918





**SHIBA Pierce County Sponsor** www.soundoutreach.org





# Tacoma Police Department

# Takes Proactive Steps to Improve Service to Local Community

Following a successful series of Project PEACE conversations designed to build trust, relationships and understanding between community members and Tacoma Police Department officers, the City of Tacoma is taking proactive steps to further these efforts. Tonight, the City Council approved Ordinance 28370, a mid-biennial budget adjustment of \$250,000 for use toward the development of a locally relevant, bias-free training program for police officers.

The planned training will cover fair and impartial policing, which is based on the scientific study of human bias, to include training on implicit bias and additional training on de-escalation skills. This is one of five action items identified through the Project PEACE initiative which include youth engagement, community relations and outreach, crisis intervention, transparency and accountability.

Designated as one of the Tacoma Police Department's most important action items, a five-week youth citizens' academy held in partnership with the Safe Streets Youth Leading Change program will be offered in October 2016 to help increase levels of high school youth engagement. This academy is designed to create opportunities for local youth to be informed about police operations, build relationships with police officers, and also consider law enforcement as a career option.

"We look forward to launching the youth citizens' academy," said Tacoma Police Department Chief Don Ramsdell. "We believe it is vital to invest in and actively engage with our local youth." Additionally, the Tacoma Police and Fire departments are partnering with the Boys and Girls Club of South Puget Sound to offer a Public Safety Youth Academy wherein a group of up to 20 middle school children will attend sessions hosted at the Henry T. Schatz Branch of the Boys and Girls Club starting in September 2016, for an insight into how the two departments work and the possibilities of a career in public safety.

The Tacoma Police Department has also been informally participating with the downtown YMCA to provide mentorship to youth participating in its late night programs.

With the goal of improving community relations and outreach, which were also ranked as highly important by Project PEACE participants, Tacoma Police Department officers continue to attend functions at Tacoma Public Schools, and community and neighborhood-based events.

"Our officers are, and have always been, a part of our local fabric," said Ramsdell. "By continuing to immerse ourselves in local community functions and events, we get to hear first-hand what the people we serve care about, what their concerns are and if there are any emerging issues that should proactively be addressed. What we've learned over the years is that many community members are very interested in the work that we do, and how we do it, so we look forward to rolling out another Citizens' Academy."

This will be the Tacoma Police Department's 48th Citizens' Academy. It will highlight the Tacoma Police Department's community-oriented policing philosophy, which strengthens the bond between community members and police officers as they proactively

work together to solve community issues of varying levels of complexity. The goal of the academy is to create a growing core of well-informed community members who are proud of their police department, and who can serve as ambassadors that share their experiences and knowledge about law enforcement with other community members.

A Crisis Intervention Team has been formed, and is currently comprised of 16 Tacoma Police Department officers who have gone through advanced training on issues surrounding mental illness, treatment resources and de-escalation techniques. Another 16 officers are slated to go through this training in September 2016. The training will focus on dealing with individuals who are verbally non-compliant or hostile, and provide techniques on how to diffuse the situation. In 2017-18, officers will go through the deescalation training to deal with individuals with mental illness. The team will work in partnership with the department's recently developed Co-responder Program, which is staffed by two mental health professionals who work alongside officers in dealing with individuals with mental illness.

Working with the White House Police Data Initiative, the Tacoma Police Department has committed to providing police data using an open data portal in an effort to improve transparency and accountability. A recently convened team of Tacoma Police Department personnel is also beginning its research on the operational and administrative aspects of body worn cameras, and plans to be in alignment with the Washington State Body Worn Camera Task Force's recommendations in 2018.

"Like many others across the nation, our community wants improved transparency and accountability. Our community wants us to reflect their diversity and their evolving needs. We hear you, and want you to know that we are working hard to improve the way we serve you," said Ramsdell.





# **Center for Strong Families**

## United Way of Pierce County Announces Partners for Sites

Sound Outreach, Tacoma Goodwill Selected for Centers Opening This Summer

United Way of Pierce County is pleased to announce that Sound Outreach and Goodwill have been selected as partners to help lowincome families through United Way's first two Center for Strong Families, slated to open later this summer. The Centers will help families work toward financial stability and are vital to United Way's 10-year goal of breaking the cycle of poverty. Funding for this work has been provided in part by a recent grant from State Farm to Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), \$200,000 of which will support efforts in Tacoma. Additional funding has also been provided by City of Tacoma, CHI Franciscan Health, MultiCare Health System, Washington State Employees Credit Union and Commencement Bank.

The Centers will serve families in their neighborhoods, many who are living in poverty and those who are classified as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) or living just above the poverty line. United Way of Pierce County's ALICE research revealed

earlier this year that in addition to the 12 percent of families living in poverty, there is another 22 percent who live above the federal poverty level and are employed but struggle to provide their families with basic needs such as food and shelter. The Centers focus on helping people change their financial behavior in a way that encourages them to make a long-term commitment to increasing monthly net income, building credit, and acquiring assets or "Earn It, Keep It, and Grow It".

Based on the Center for Working Families model developed by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, and adapted by LISC, there is a growing national network that includes nearly 80 Financial Opportunity Centers (FOC) across the country. All include local

community organizations that are trusted, known for their history of providing quality services, and convenient to where people live and seek out services. United Way is excited to add to this network with the two new centers in Tacoma.

Through extensive research, the Annie E. Casey Foundation found early on that the more that the services were bundled, the greater the chance for an individual to become financially stable. Because this is a relationship based model, results are based on two- to three-year relationship with the clients. While the return on investment varies, most Centers see a significant return on investment over a 36-month period (sometimes less). The initial research showed a 400 percent ROI over that timeframe.

"We don't just want to help people get on their feet, we want to help them stay on their feet," said United Way of Pierce County President and CEO Dona Ponepinto. "Connecting them to services is important but making sure they have job skills and financial coaching to keep them from relying on those services is critical. By bringing together trusted community partners to apply an integrated service delivery approach in the neighborhoods where these families live, we are not just strengthening the family, we are strengthening the system serving them as well."

The Center for Strong Families will join FOCs nationwide in providing clients with an "integrated" set of three core services: employment and career planning assistance; financial education and coaching; and access

to income supports. These core services are provided to clients in a bundled fashion in order to reinforce one another and to provide a multi-faceted approach to income and wealth building. The services are also provided to each family over an extended period of time, potentially two to three years.

Sound Outreach will serve as the lead organization for a Center that will incorporate multiple partners in the Hilltop area. Other providers include Bates Technical College, Tacoma Urban League, Tacoma Housing Authority, and Northwest Leadership Foundation.

"We're interested in figuring out how to keep people in their neighborhood, but just through traditional methods like affordable housing mandates. We want to see household incomes rise," explained South Outreach Executive Director Jeff Klein.

Goodwill will lead the Milgard Work Opportunity Center and serve as a single provider. "With the financial stress on our area families it is critical that our programs offer additional skills to build and maintain solid family foundations," said Terry Hayes, President and CEO of Goodwill of the Olympics and Rainier Region.

United Way of Pierce County is creating a network of organizations to learn from each other and continue to improve how we deliver services for families in Pierce County. This initial network will serve as a launch pad for other organizations working to implement the model. United Way will provide funding as well as infrastructure, training, technical assistance, and advocacy support. In addition, one of the most unique elements of this model is the use of common metrics to gauge the improvement of the families being served.

To learn more about the Centers for Strong Families visit: http://www.uwpc.org/centerstrong-families



Class is offered monthly, days and location vary.

Follow the link below for details, and to register:

https://goo.gl/forms/ TXipYUSBkzRcAdgr1

Contact Rachel with Questions:

Phone: 253-593-2111 X 106

Email: rachelgreene@ soundoutreach.org

# First-Time Homebuyer Education Workshop

Interested in buying a home?

Come and find out more about...

- the loan approval process
- down payment assistance programswhat to do about poor credit

Register now and get the guidance you need in preparation for home ownership.

Class is sponsored by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission





# Good Jobs and Local Hires

# Leveraging the Building and Construction Trades to Improve Access to Family Wage Jobs in Tacoma

Washington State nearly leads the nation in job growth over the past year, much of it driven by growth in the construction sector. The construction sector is the fastest growing sector in Washington State and has the largest number of annual job openings that pay a family-wage. To fill these family wage job, will require several trades to increase recruitment into their apprenticeship programs and pre-apprenticeship training.

Apprenticeship is a combination of on-the-job training (OJT) and related classroom instruction in which workers learn the practical and theoretical aspects of the Construction trades. A progressively increasing schedule of wages is based on the journeyman hourly wage. These increases occur with satisfactory progress in both related instruction and on-thejob training until wages reach 85 to 90 percent of the rate paid the journeyman. Upon completing your apprenticeship, you receive an Apprenticeship Completion Certificate and are recognized as a qualified journeyman nationwide. This Certificate is one of the oldest, most basic, and most highly portable industry credentials in use today. Apprenticeship graduates earn an average of \$58,000 per year.

The Downtown/Hilltop Subarea is poised for a great future and has unmatched potential to be a thriving urban center that brings opportunity to local residents and businesses while promoting a sustainable future for the City and region. The City of Tacoma estimates at least \$1 billion dollars in planned development projects in the Downtown/Hilltop area; a neighborhood with the highest percentage of poverty and largest African American community in Pierce County.

must reside in the City of Tacoma limits or an area that is serviced by Tacoma Public Utilities. Your zip code will be verified. This is a 11-week PAID TRAINING course that is intended to lead to employment with the City of Tacoma, TPU and other construction related industries.

# Washington State nearly leads the nation in job growth over the past year, much of it driven by growth in the construction sector.

If you're are interested in the trades, consider participating in one of the local programs that are currently recruiting women and men for pre-apprenticeship training classes. The requirements for this training opportunity is 18 years of age or older, high school diploma or GED, low income and you

### WA STATE PROJECTIONS BY SECTOR

OCCUPATIONS	AVG. ANNUAL OPENINGS 2014 - 2019	AVG. ANNUAL OPENINGS 2019 - 2024	MEDIAN HOURLY
1. Food Preparation Related	17,972	14,321	\$11.35
2. Sales and Related	16,858	13,865	\$14.35
3. Office and Administrative Support	16,374	14,997	\$17.75
4. Food and Beverage Serving Workers	10,713	8,364	\$11.35
5. Retail Sales Workers	10,436	8,180	\$11.88
6. Transportation and Material Moving	8,481	8,666	\$16.42
7. Construction and Extraction	8,425	4,643	\$25.23

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department Labor and Economic Analysis Report May 2016 and Bureau of

Labor Statistics 2015 wage data

### WA STATE PROJECTIONS BY OCCUPATION

OCCUPATIONS	REGISTERED APPRENTICES BY OCCUPATION 2015	AVG. ANNUAL OPENINGS 2014 - 2019	AVG. ANNUAL OPENINGS 2019 - 2024	MEDIAN HOURLY
Carpenters	530	1,621	678	\$23.36
Construction Laborers	469	1,573	1,080	\$18.92
Painters	98	955	524	\$18.78
Electricians	587	826	474	\$30.46
Plumber and Pipe Fitters	284	499	252	\$29.27
First-Line Supervisors	N/A	496	203	\$44.76
Roofers	92	264	121	\$22.99

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department Labor and Economic Analysis Report May 2016 and Bureau oj Labor Statistics 2015 wage data

# **HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL**

### BENEFITS OF APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

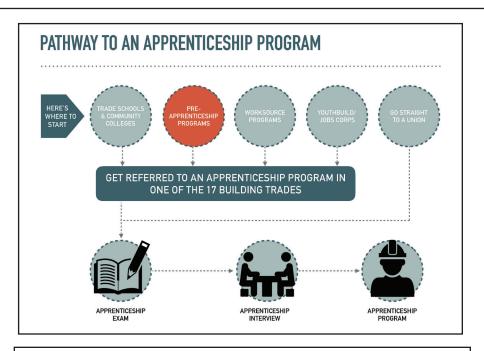
Apprentices receive paid on-the-job education and training.

2

Apprentices currently earn \$18.00 to \$24.00 per hour in starting wages.

3

Life-long career with high pay & family benefits (i.e. Health care).



# APPRENTICE APPRENTICE 3-5 YEARS UNION MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS START EARNING WORKSITE TRAINING CONTINUE TO WORK ON PROJECTS

### LIST OF LOCAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- ➤ Point Defiance By-Pass (heavy rail) **\$90 million**, project to start 2016
- ➤ Sounder Yard Expansion (Lakewood), project to start 2016
- LINK Light Rail Expansion
   Tacoma, \$165 million, project to start 2017
- ➤ Tacoma Trestle Track & Signal, **\$115 million**, project to start 2016
- Sumner Station Improvements,\$39 million, 2016-2023
- ➤ Puyallup Station Improvements,

- ➤ Tacoma Roads Program, **\$375** million program, 2016-2026
- ➤ THA Hilltop Lofts Apartment Complex, **\$15.8 million**
- ➤ Wilson High School, **\$60 million**, 2015-2017
- Arlington Elementary School, \$28 million, 2016-2017
- ➤ Completion of State Route 167/State Route 509, **\$1.2 billion**, 2019-2022
- ➤ Interstate 5 at Joint Base Lewis/ McChord, **\$350 million**, 2019-2022

# **Training Opportunities**

Paid pre-apprenticeship training classes are currently recruiting Tacoma residents and TPU customers.





# REAL ESTATE ON THE HILL

Take advantage of first-time home buyers classes and see if you qualify for up to \$10,000 in down-payment assistance.



3701 S. 18th, Tacoma, WA 3 beds / 2.50 baths 1,500 sqft \$259,900



2513 S Hosmer St Tacoma, WA 3 beds / 1 bath 855 sqft **\$113,000** 



1751 S 25th St Tacoma, WA 3 beds / 1 bath 1,084 sqft **\$189,950** 



2333 S Grant Ave Tacoma, WA 4 beds / 1.75 baths 2,308 sqft **\$219,000** 



2112 S Ainsworth Ave Tacoma 4 beds / 2.50 baths 2,220 sqft **\$289,900** 



2346 S I St Tacoma, WA 4 beds / 2 baths 1,688 sqft **\$210,000** 



2344 Yakima Ct Tacoma, WA 2 beds / 2.25 baths 1,396 sqft **\$219,000** 



2127 S I St Tacoma, WA 3 beds / 1 bath 1,294 sqft \$239,000



2130 Yakima Ct Unit 403 2 beds / 2.50 baths 1164 sqft \$215,000



1925 S M St Tacoma, WA 2 beds / 1 bath 1,534 sqft **\$214,900** 



1624 S L St Tacoma, WA 3 beds / 1.75 baths 1,560 sqft \$259,000



1502 S Ainsworth Tacoma, WA 4 beds / 2 baths 1,832 sqft **\$229,000** 



1614 S 14th St Tacoma, WA 2 beds / 1 bath 724 sqft \$149,950



1309 S Ainsworth Ave Tacoma 4 beds / 2.50 baths 2,825 sqft **\$255,000** 



1404 S M St Tacoma, WA 3 beds / 1 bath 1,184 sqft \$157,000



1202 S Ainsworth Ave Tacoma, 8 beds / 3 baths 4,096 sqft \$650,000



1322 Earnest S Brazil St 3 beds / 2 baths 1,898 sqft **\$245,000** 



1312 S J St Tacoma, WA 4 beds / 2 baths1,396 sqft **\$135,000** 



1212 S J Street Tacoma, WA 4 beds / 1.50 baths 1,292 sqft **\$165,000** 



915 S Cushman Ave Tacoma, 4 beds / 1.75 baths1,245 sqft \$235,000



1406 S 8th St Tacoma, WA 4 beds / 1.50 baths 1,712 sqft \$189,945



1515 S 8th St Tacoma, WA 3 beds / 1 bath 1,164 sqft **\$135,000** 



514 S Cushman Ave Tacoma 6 beds / 3.50 baths 4,036 sqft **\$547,000** 



1601 S Ainsworth Ave 2 Units 4 beds / 3 baths 2,008 sqft \$430,000

# Interested in a first-time Homebuyers Education Workshop?

The Loan Approval Process | Down Payment Assistance | What to do about poor Credit Call Sound Outreach and ask for Rachel Greene 253-593-211 X 106

# **Tacoma Tool** Library

## Build it! Fix it! Modify it! Learn a skill! Teach a skill!

Tacoma Tool Library is a community project whose goal is to develop a sustainable, community tool lending library in Tacoma that is accessible to residents regardless of income. The library provide low cost access to shared tools and other durable goods, and encourages re-use, repair, and reduced consumption. In addition, it hosts a safe community space for learning how to use household tools, and empowers Tacoma residents to care for their homes and neighborhoods, house by house and block by block.

### 1314 MLK Jr. Way (954) Tool-253

www.tacomatoollibrary.com

Tacoma Tool Library's goals is to benefit all Tacoma area residents by reducing waste and making tools available at low cost. It especially benefits residents with barriers to basic tool use, either because of income or lack of knowledge/confidence about tools.

Tacoma Tool Library has developed the following "Principles of Action" that guide our work. We are committed to:

- Fostering a sense of community and mutual support
- Strengthening community resilience and self reliance
- Supporting inclusivity of participation and accessibility to tools, particularly for people with less economic resources and people who aren't traditionally encouraged to use tools
- Prioritizing sustainability through waste prevention, reuse, repair, and
- Encouraging skill building and empowerment through tool use and maintenance education
- Participating in the Sharing Economy.

This project is all about sustainability—promoting environmental sustainability through shared resources, and promoting a sustainable community by maintaining a place for people to learn and engage each other in improvement projects. It encourages individuals who want to participate in waste reduction and care for their homes and neighborhoods, and also creates a community network that promotes sharing and mutual support.

# **SUMMER WORKSHOPS** AUGUST 4 5-8 PM HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY WITH TACOMA POWER CONSERVATION AND MATTHEW'S ENERGY SERVICES LEARN SIMPLE BUILDING SCIENCE, HOW YOUR HOME BREATHES, <mark>AND HOW YOUR APPLI</mark>ANCE AND LIGHTING CHOICES AFFECT YOUR ENERGY FOOTPRINT. GET FREE ENERGY SAVINGS BULBS, AND THE CHANCE TO ASK A GREEN BUILDING PROFESSIONAL QUESTIONS! LED BY SARA BOWLES, TACOMA POWER CONSERVATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR, AND GREEN BUILDING EXPERT MATTHEW STEFNIK. AUGUST 14 2-5 KNIFE AND TOOL SHARPENING WITH HENRY HANEDA (ARCHISTRIAL DESIGNS) LEARN THE PROPER TECHINQUE FOR SHARPENING KNIVES AND A VARIETY OF TOOLS FROM AN AWARD-WINNING DESIGNER AND MASTER CRAFTSMAN. A SHARP EDGE IS SAFER AND EASIER TO USE—AND GETS BETTER RESULTS! BRING 2-3 OF YOUR OWN TOOLS TO SHARPEN, OR SHARPEN OURS. AUGUST 21 2-5 PM ASK A CONTRACTOR WITH MASTER CONSERVATOR FRANK TERRILL

AND EXPERT BUILDER PATRICK REED

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO ASK PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTORS WITH DECADES OF EXPERIENCE YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW TO HIRE A GREAT CONTRACTOR, WHAT CONTRACTORS KNOW ABOUT PROJECTS THAT MOST DIY'S DON'T, AND MUCH MORE!

WORKSHOPS LISTED ARE FREE! DONATIONS WELCOME TO SUPPORT FUTURE PROGRAMMING. ALL VISITORS MUST BE 18 OR OVER TO ATTEND. FOR ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL STELLA@STELLA-BELL.COM

TACOMA TOOL LIBRARY 1314 MLK JR WAY TACOMA, WA 98405 TACOMATOOLLIBRARY.COM



This Fall, the Credit Up initiative and suite of financial products for consumers with lower income, bad credit, or no traditional bank accounts will go live.













### **Services**

Sound Outreach will provide alternatives to predatory lending and a pathway to financial well-being with a combination of one-on-one financial coaching and access to financial products including:

- **Emergency Loans**
- **Auto Loans and Auto Refinancing**
- **Small Business Loans**
- **Prepaid Debit Cards**
- **Second Chance Checking**

The first product to be made available will be a \$500 credit-building loan. This is a low-risk product because customers receive the funds after making 12-18 payments rather than at the beginning, making it more like a savings account than a loan. And this product can raise customers' credit scores by as much as 50 points.

### **Credit-Building Loan**

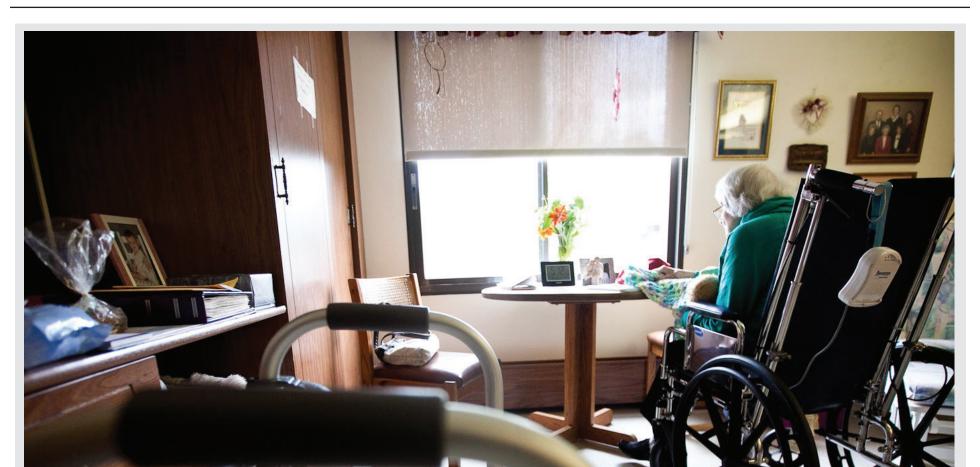
Promoting financial well-being through access to wealth-building products and counseling. To learn more contact Brian Humphreys: brian@soundoutreach.org or call (253) 486-6381

Financial products are provided in partnership with American Lake Credit Union, a local not for profit credit union.

Sound Outreach compassionately guides people through the complex array of resources needed to achieve sustainable, independent living. We provide services in four areas: Basic Needs, Health Insurance Guidance, Housing, and Financial Well-Being

www.soundoutreach.org





# **Property Tax Relief** for Seniors, and Widows

If you are a senior citizen or disabled with your primary residence in Washington State, there are two programs that may help you pay your property taxes and/ or special assessments. Your household income and your age or disability determine your eligibility for both programs. The qualifying applicant receives a reduction in the amount of property taxes due. The amount of the reduction is based on the applicant's income, the value of the residence, and the local levy rates.

### **Program Overview**

Under the exemption program, the value of your Washington State residence is frozen for property tax purposes, and you become exempt from all excess and special levies and possibly regular levies resulting in a reduction in your property taxes. The exemption is available for your primary residence and up to five acres\* of land. A mobile home may qualify, even if the land where the mobile home is located is leased or rented.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for this program you must meet the age or disability, ownership, residency, and income requirements Your application must include proof of your age or disability.

### Age and Disability

On December 31 of the year before the tax is due, you must meet one of the following criteria. At least 61 years of age or Unable to work because of a disability OR a veteran entitled to and receiving compensation from the United States

Department of Veterans Affairs at a total disability rating for a service-connected disability.

### **Ownership**

You must own your home in Washington State by December 31 the year before the taxes to be exempted are due. For example, to receive an exemption in 2016, you must own your home by December 31, 2015.

A home owned jointly by a married couple, a registered domestic partnership, or by co-tenants is considered owned by each spouse, domestic partner, or cotenant. Only one person must meet the age or disability requirement. If you share ownership in a cooperative housing unit and your share represents the specific unit or portion where you live, you will be eligible for the exemption of your unit.

If your primary residence or the land under your primary residence is owned by a government entity and you meet the program requirements, you may be eligible for a leasehold excise tax credit.

### Residency

The property must be your primary residence by December 31 the year before the tax is due. For example, you must be living in your home by December 31, 2015, to receive an exemption on your 2016 property tax. To keep your exemption going forward, you must live in your home for more than six months each

Your residence may qualify even if you are in a hospital, nursing home, boarding home or adult family home. You may rent your residence to someone else during your stay in one of these facilities if the rental income is used to pay the facility costs. Property used as a vacation home is not eligible for the exemption program.

### **Household Income**

Your annual household disposable income may not exceed \$40,000. If your household income is between \$40,000 and \$45,000, you may qualify for the deferral program. See the Property Tax Deferral for Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons fact sheet for more information.

Household income includes the combined disposable income of you, your spouse or domestic partner, and any co-tenants. A co-tenant is a person who lives in your home and has an ownership interest in your home.

Renewal Applications Every Six Years A renewal application is required at least once every six years. After your initial application and approval, you will be notified by your county assessor when it is time to submit a renewal application.

### **For More Information**

If you need help or have questions regarding the property tax exemption, application form, or the application process, contact your local county assessor's office. The telephone number is listed in the local county government pages (usually the blue pages) of your telephone book. If you have questions about the laws and rules governing this program contact the Washington State Department of Revenue at (360) 534-1400.

Visit our website at: www.dor.wa.gov

# Jane's Fellowship Program

Jane's Fellows are people in Pierce County who are willing to lead even without formal job titles, institutions and structures. They are often outside the spotlight. They are people of caring and vision who stay involved in tough causes despite the challenges, and they inspire

In 2004, the foundation launched Jane's Fellowship Program to support grassroots leaders in Tacoma and Pierce County. Each class of fellows participates in a 15-month leadership experience before becoming part of the graduate network.

### We seek leaders who:

- > Work from within their neighborhoods
- and communities
- > Lead informally, or in volunteer or professional roles
- > Value social justice and racial equity in
- everything they do > Want to lead more effectively to achieve
- community goals > Commit to self-awareness and lifelong learning

- > \$6,000 stipend to honor leadership and defray costs such as transportation,
- childcare or time away from work \$2,500 Individual Development &
- Education
- Account for self-selected training or related experiences after the program is completed
- > \$1,000 matching grant for community
- projects after the program is completed > Access to notebooks or tablets

Applications for the next class of Jane's Fellowship Program (Class 7) are now being accepted. The application deadline is October 3, 2016, and Class 7 will begin in January 2017. You can download the application in a fillable Word document or a standard Word document. If you need an application sent to you directly (either electronically or printed) please e-mail or call Susan Dobkins, 253-857-

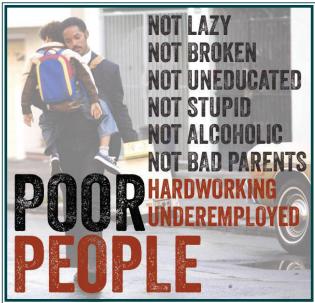
For more information please visit: www.trff.org

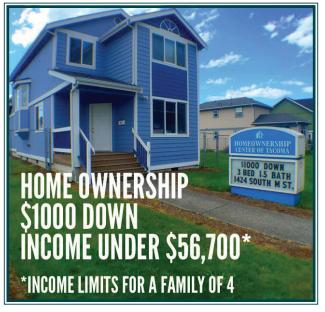
# **BULLETIN BOARD**

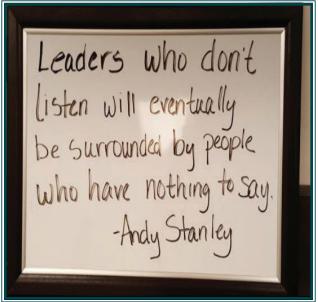


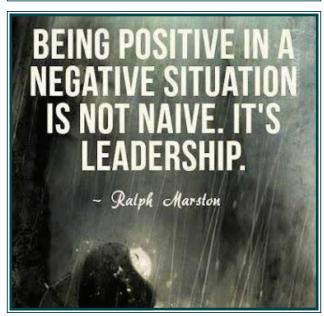












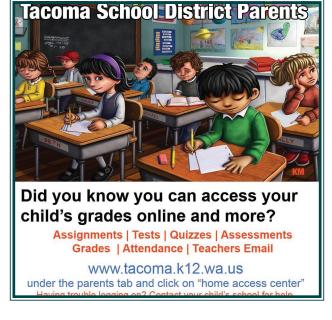


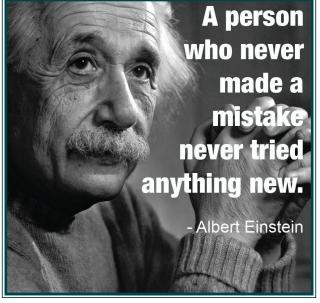
DOES YOUR FAMILY NEED HELP WITH FOOD, CASH ASSISTANCE, CHILD CARE, MEDICAL BENEFITS OR LONG-TERM CARE?

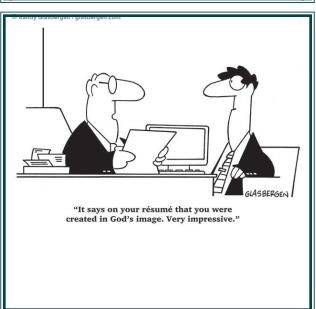
SIX QUESTIONS TO FIND OUT IF YOU MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE.

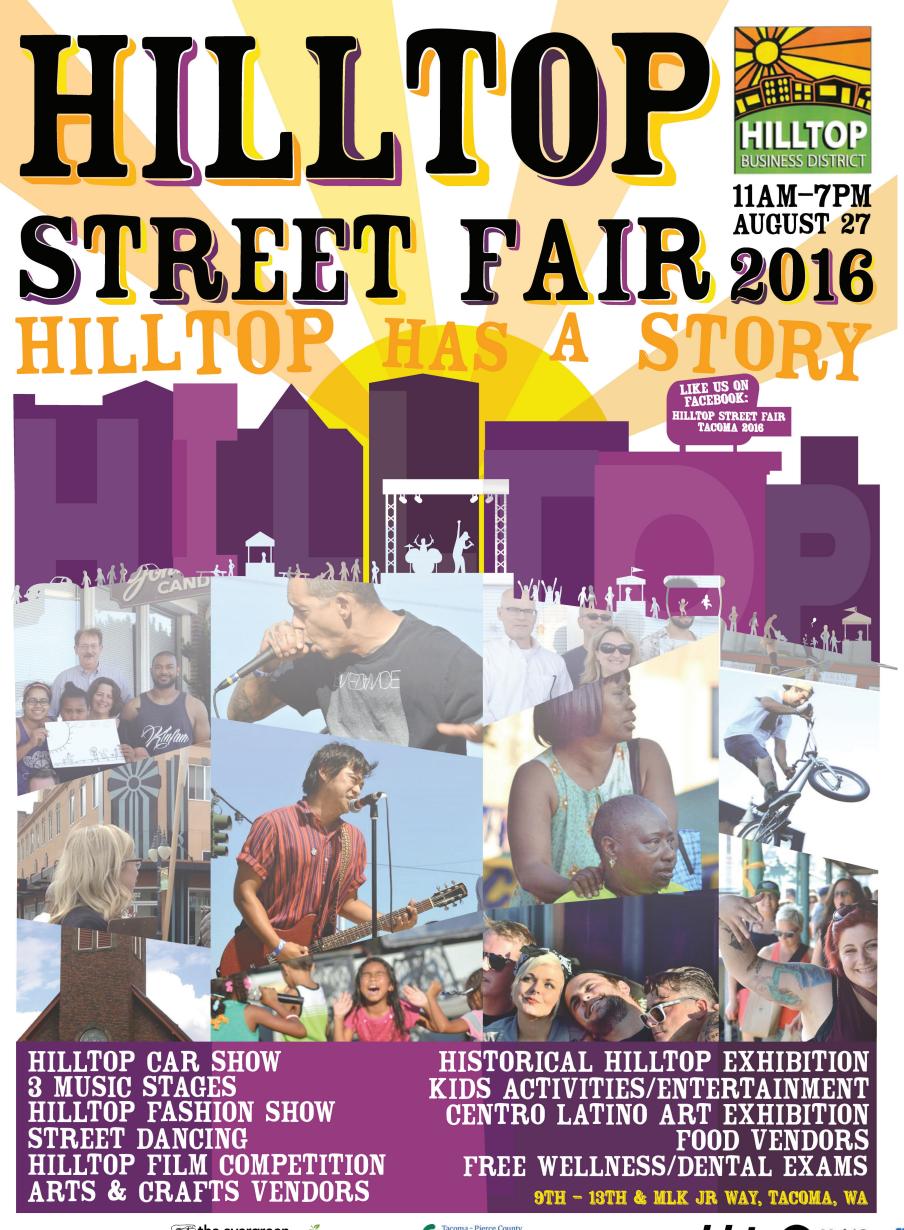
WWW.TINYURL.COM/DSHSBENEFITS







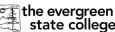




















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