

# HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

Dec 2019 - Jan 2020 | Hilltop Action Coalition | volunteer organized | [www.hilltopactioncoalition.org](http://www.hilltopactioncoalition.org)



## Home in the Hilltop

If you walk into the Red Elm Café in Tacoma's historic Hilltop neighborhood on any given day, chances are you will see a very familiar, and friendly face.

Henry is the resident crochet teacher and "street preacher" of the Hilltop, and he frequently makes the café his office.

As you put an order in for your coffee, you can hear friendly hellos being exchanged and chatter filling the warm and welcoming coffee shop. While you wait for your coffee, you can

turn around and see Henry sitting on the small couch, making himself at home and looking comfortable; bag of yarn by his side and crochet needle in hand.

Henry greets everyone with a smile. Patrons say hello as they find their tables or join their meetings. He will ask you how you are doing, fill you in on his latest class offerings and inevitably talk about his favorite foods. He may even join in your meeting conversation to follow up with you.

He's a Hilltop celebrity.

And like any celebrity, you will see him out and about, hitting all the spots in town. You can see him preaching on stage in People's Park during the Hilltop Street Fair, meeting community members, spreading the gospel and promoting his crochet classes at the monthly Hilltop Action Coalition meetings and attending numerous events in his community. It would be difficult to find another community member that attends more events than he does, or who is more friendly to fel-

low neighbors.

The Hilltop is his home. A home that he is proud of.

The Hilltop is home to many, who all share a love for the community and for each other. Henry embodies this and spreads it through his crochet, his preaching, and his positive attitude. Henry serves as a great reminder of how we should be appreciative of the life we have been given and the community we are fortunate to be part of. He approaches every situation with a smile and a few simple words-

"God told me to do this."

Our community is better because of compassionate and loving individuals such as Henry. He brings real life before us and challenges us to think about how much more we can be doing for our beloved community.

The next time you are in Red Elm, walking the streets of Hilltop or simply see him in passing, say hi to Henry, catch up, listen to his hopes, take a picture and maybe do some crochet.



## Hilltop Action Journal

Award-Winning Publication

### Publisher

Hilltop Action Coalition

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Molly Nichols  
Jenni Prange Boran

### 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



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### 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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#### Secretary

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#### Board of Directors

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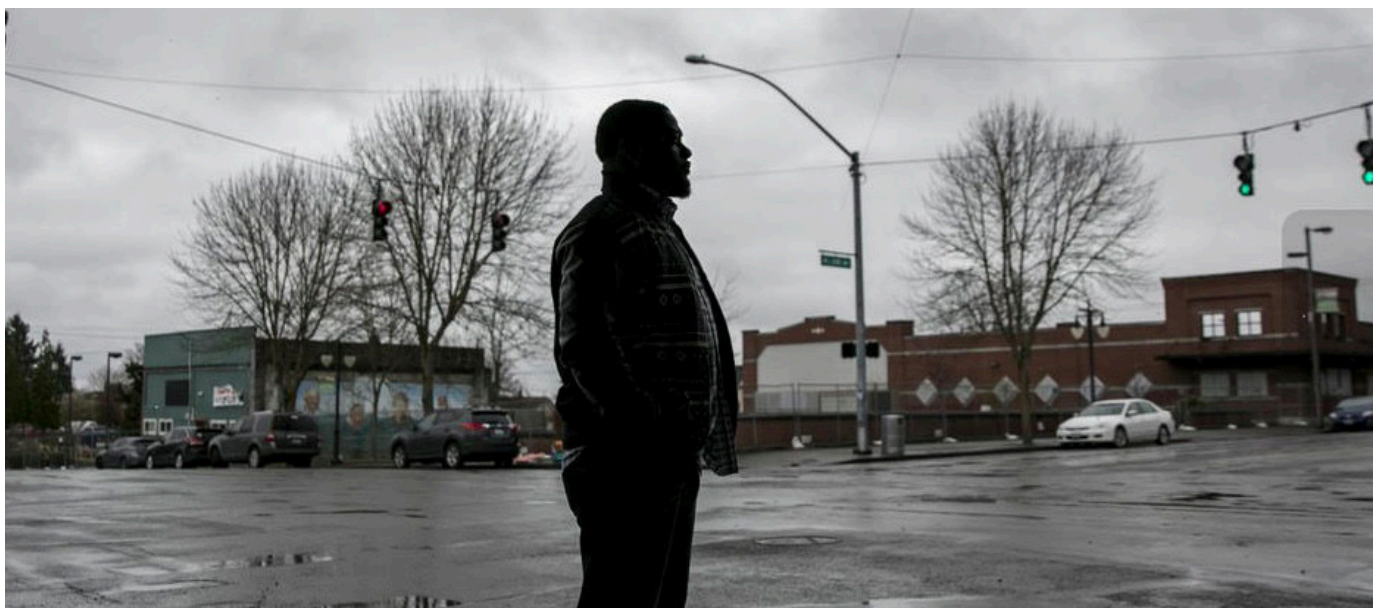
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## Hilltop Action Coalition Monthly Community Meetings 3rd Mondays @ 6pm

Community Healthcare Bldg. 1202 Martin Luther King Jr. Way

Meet your neighbors and become part of the local Hilltop community. Each month we have presentations and information about community events, activities, policy, and important news. Light refreshments and kid's activities provided!



## President's Message

By Brendan Nelson

Hilltop Family,

I write to you with a heart full and hopes high, a sentiment that may feel out of place in a time when so much is happening in our community. In the last year we've witnessed ongoing issues with affordable housing, homelessness and an increase in violent activity. We've seen families fractured by painful and unnecessary loss of life. And yet, we remain optimistic.

In the midst of all of these things, we've also witnessed survival and strength, kindness and generosity, love and grace. It has been so awesome to see our community step up when things are tough and the voices of our most vulnerable have been silenced. These are the

things that make the Hilltop one of the best places to live. In the face of adversity, we look forward with faith.

In the late 80's some amazing and committed neighbors that wanted to address the issues I've shared founded Hilltop Action Coalition. For nearly 30 years we have been a force for positive change and a pillar of the Hilltop community, and in that time we have grown to be the communications anchor of the area. We believe that helping our neighbors and ensuring that they are informed on the issues affecting us makes our community stronger.

We are continuing our fight to make sure the Hilltop is a more equitable place for people to live, work and play. We are holding those in power accountable to the things they said they would do to move us forward.

The Hilltop Action Coalition is committed to addressing the most pressing needs of our community every day, by working in partnership with many organizations doing the work that will help our community to be strong, vibrant and resilient.

In the New Year HAC will deepen our commitment to the values that have always defined us—values of compassion, resilience, and equity. We will continue to offer support where needed and lean in when things get tough. We don't have all of the answers or solutions to every problem but we will continue to advocate for the community we love so dearly. I hope you will join us on this journey.

In service,  
Brendan Nelson



# HAC November Monthly Community Meeting

By Kristine Coman

.....Board members decided to change up the monthly community meeting – instead of having speakers lined up, they opted for one speaker and two community engagement activities. The meeting started off with Allyson Griffith, City of Tacoma, who provided an update on the City’s Emergency Temporary Micro-Shelters (TEMS) Site plan. Allyson let us know where we could get more details prior to the City Council session; and, that public comments would be heard prior to Council vote.

Two community engagement activities followed: Putting together Warming Bags and a Hilltop Community Quilt. A BIG Shout out to the following for providing items for the Warming Bags: Carol Wolfe, City of Tacoma; Wanda Rochelle, Safe Streets; Carly Johnson, University of Washington Tacoma; and Alyssa Torrez, KBTC Public Television. They gathered items and brought them to the HAC office (hats, gloves, hand warmers, food items, health items, etc.). HAC made scarves from fleece (before the meeting) and filled in the gaps with items to fill the Warming Bags. Altogether, we made 80 Warming Bags that were taken home by meeting attendees to hand



out to those in need.

The second community engagement activity heralded the creation of a Hilltop Community Quilt with the first quilt squares made this evening. We asked community members to convey what the Hilltop Community means to them on the colorful squares. I want to take a moment to give a gratitude shout out to Jennifer Schaal, HAC Board Secretary, for providing the fabric to make the quilt – “Thank you, Jennifer!” As you can see in the photograph below, many beautiful squares were made - many more are needed.

HAC will offer additional opportunities to make quilt squares at future events and meetings. Stop by the HAC office for a couple squares

– you can spend some time in the office working on your square(s); or, feel free to take them with you, share them with friends, then bring them back. Once we have enough squares, expect to see future emails for a few quilting/sewing parties to put this piece of community art together. After the Hilltop Community Quilt is assembled, it will be hung in various community locations to continue spreading Hilltop inspiration and love far into the future.

Come on out to the December HAC Monthly Community Meeting on the 16th at 6:00 PM. This month will be a Holiday Community Celebration! Bring your family and friends – and remember, these meetings are ‘kid friendly’- everyone is invited to join!



## Hilltop Toys for Tots

Please keep in mind that Tacoma Police Department headquarters and substations are drop-off locations for Toys for Tots. You can drop off new, unwrapped toys in our collection boxes. Coordinators pick-up the toys and sort them by age and gender.

On Christmas, Toys for Tots coordinators distribute the toys to the less fortunate children in our community. Drop off a new,

unwrapped toy today!

Bringing the Joy of Christmas and sending a message of hope to children since 1947, the Marine Toys for Tots Program has served 258 million children with 566 million toys to date. What an amazing program!

Toys for Tots Coordinator, George Hilbish (g.hilbish4t@gmail.com), oversees Pierce County distribution. You can sign up for this program at DSHS on December 19th & 20th, 8AM – 4PM at 1949 S State ST Room 195. Call 253.983.6200 for details on

## “New Year Same Me”

By Bethany “B.Lyte” Montgomery,  
Founder of Power 2 The Poetry

Maybe not here  
But now  
Someone is being ostracized just because they are different  
Society has always excluded those who stand out  
They are afraid of the change we preach in our campaigns  
Here are some names

Sojourner Truth  
Rosa Parks  
Martin Luther King Jr.  
Ida B. Wells  
Malcom X  
Muhammad Ali  
Tupac Shakur

Need I say more  
You see who I am  
But do you see who I reach  
Will society murder me because of the words that I speak

I see you judging me  
For who I want to be  
Who I am going to be

They said that I was free  
If only they could see

That it's a new year and nothing's changed  
Still disadvantaged because of our race  
If life was really a race  
No one would start at the same exact place  
I wish we all could actually see pain  
So we could truly relate  
To the horrible agonies  
that people of color must face  
just because of hate

And I am not one to make excuses  
But the majority of this country is clueless  
And no  
We ain't new to this  
For black people  
this has never been news to us

Momma always told me  
that this life isn't fair  
I have to grow up and conquer my fears  
Face my situation and absolutely dominate it  
A new year does not change  
How we are viewed in this nation

I can reach the masses  
while holding your conscience captive  
Say you want to be woke  
Well I want to be free  
No longer a slave to society  
These shackles to be ripped off my feet  
We're so blind as a nation  
when will we ever see  
That the way to escape from the ghetto is not only to be an athlete

So forget your track meets  
And your basketball teams

Just like Martin Luther King  
I have a dream  
That one day  
We won't have to run fast  
Or jump high  
To be valued in everyone's eyes

We will reach for the sky's  
Come together and unify  
That one day we will truly be free  
And fight for equal rights  
for every single human being

So it would seem my lesson is through  
Tell me Hilltop have you figured out what to do  
If so then go now and be the breakthrough

Because  
Maybe not here  
But now  
Someone is being ostracized  
just because they are a different  
Society has always excluded those who stand out  
Because they are afraid of the change that we preach in our campaigns

Power 2 the Poetry  
Remember the name

Learn more at [power2thepoetry.com](http://power2thepoetry.com)  
<https://power2thepoetry.com/>  
My TEDx Spokane Talk 2018

# Hilltop Happenings

Building Community through Fun and Engaging Activities

## African-American Storytelling

Jan 11th 3pm - 5pm

Storyteller, *Zelda Foxall*, takes on a historical persona while telling their story. A walking museum with a gallery of important moments in African-American history will be on site for viewing. Refreshments will be served. Location to be determined.

## Since 2008, Zelda Foxall .....

..... has been performing in-character vignettes of historically significant African American Woman who overcame poverty, racism, sexism and ignorance to become successful in their fields and/or change cultural and societal norms.

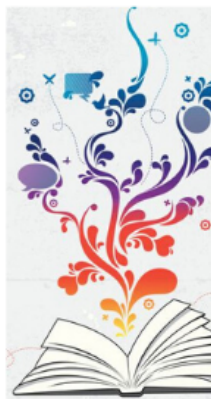


Photo courtesy of  
<https://www.juliewinklegiulic.com>





# Loyal to the Local Series

## The Fish House Café, Welcome Home

By Kristine Coman

If you live on the Hilltop, you know about The Fish House Café and have eaten their fabulous food. Here is the story behind the delicious fish that has fed Hilltop families since 1987.

Good men from the community, and brothers in the Nation of Islam (Roy, Walter Gary, Wallace, Anthony Muhammad and family members), began selling fish sandwiches as a fundraiser. They actively tried to keep the spirit of Hilltop positive, especially during the 1980's when a gang problem was growing in the Hilltop. What began as a fundraiser has turned into a Community Legacy Business. After returning from The Million Man March, and inspired by Minister Farrakhan to make your community a decent place to live, Anthony turned it over to his son Ahmad.

Community members have much love for Fish House's wholesome, delicious, economically priced menu items from parents to children. Interviewed on Veterans Day, Anthony Muhammad said he has seen parents come in as teen agers, then with their babies; pretty soon those babies grew up and were walking in themselves with their children. People have taken ownership of The Fish House, which is evident by the hundreds of photographs in collages

on the wall. Anthony often hears from the customers, "This place has always got to be here!" He added that their motto, "The Fish House Café, Welcome Home," is well known.

A landmark at MLK Jr Way and 19th Street since 1987, Your Fish House officially became The Fish House Café in 2000. Anthony emphasized how The Fish House stabilized the corner location and showed investors that the Hilltop was a viable place for business. Anthony added that the restaurant business is tough and has a high failure rate – the community kept The Fish House going and is "heart felt" – a part of his family. He believes The Fish House inspires a spirit of entrepreneurship and personally knows it has encouraged others to start a business.

Anthony wants the public to know that The Fish House Café has never been robbed. A woman took the tip jar once; but after being scolded by other people, she brought it back – untouched - and apologized. Community policing at its best!

Growing up on the Hilltop, at age 10 Anthony walked into The Fish House location for the first time – back then it was the Soul King Record Shop. Records took the place of the pictures of patrons, friends and family on the walls. I asked Anthony if he could tell me the top three reasons he feels connected to the Hilltop:



1) Anchor families, Churches Businesses the Normans, Boyds, Clarks, Bonds, TMA, Black Collective, workers from St. Jo, TG, TPU, TFD, TPD, City Government, etc. they patronize to make the community a good place for families.

2) Small businesses – a large percentage of workers depend on small businesses to survive; and, even if your business fails, there are important lessons to be learned.

3) Elijah Muhammad says "Do for self." This also helps form grassroots connections and builds social capital.

We talked about the new Link transit construction and any impacts on customers coming to The Fish House Café. Construction does challenge business. Ahmad and his great crew Shana, Jackie, Nyesha and the spirit of Jeramey "keeps it rollin," Anthony said with a smile. Anthony feels if your business can persevere the construction till 2020, it will be worth the wait. He firmly believes that, "what doesn't destroy you makes you stronger.... business is tough anyway."

The Fish House Café is part of Sound Transit's Loyal to the Local Program. Loyal to the Local reminds us to help our neighborhoods grow and thrive by shopping local. You can make a difference during construction by taking a few extra steps to get to The Fish House; or, by calling Door Dash or Grub Hub to grab your food and bring it to your home or work. Want to learn how your business can become Loyal to the Local? Call Rossana Garner, Business Relations Program Manager at (206) 689-3373 or email at [rossana.garner@soundtransit.org](mailto:rossana.garner@soundtransit.org).



## Mr. Mac Ltd - In Hilltop Since 1958

By Kristine Coman

Mr. Mac has been a part of the Hilltop for 62 years! Beginning in 1958, Mr. Mac – aka Morris McCullum - began offering great quality merchandise to neighborhood residents. Moving around various locations, including 9th and S G Street, Lakewood and Seattle, Mr. Mac Ltd. has been an icon in the community.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Derrick Curry, Store Manager, who conveyed how Mr. Mac had a heart for the community – for the people – and it was evident with the things he did. Mr. Mac passed away July 2017, but he is not forgotten. People still talk daily about the positive impact Mr. Mac had in their lives; from Seattle to Vancouver Canada and all the way down to Portland Oregon, his kindness is still remembered. An example of his love for community is the support he provided for amateur boxing: he was not only a fan, but also provided boxing gloves, etc., to Al Davies Boys & Girls Club.

After his passing, Mr. Mac Ltd. was passed down to McCullum's son. After one year, Mr. Mac was for sale. The Tacoma Ministers Alliance (TMA), who previously purchased Sam and Terry's Barbershop in 2008, came to the rescue and bought Mr. Mac Ltd. Curry explained how proceeds from the establishments now fund Elizabeth Wesley Incentive Awards; and, that this year alone, ten thousand dollars has been awarded in three scholarships to Hilltop students. What a great way to keep Mr. Mac's community legacy alive!

We talked about Hilltop gentrification and how it has effected Mr. Mac as a whole. "It has been positive in some ways," Curry explained. "Hilltop is definitely changing – our black business isn't as strong - more diverse people are coming in." We talked about the impact from Link construction which has really hurt business. Curry feels that some kind of compensation should be made to area businesses to offset the impact construction has on way finding for customers. They either think Mr. Mac is closed, or they cannot find parking, so they keep

driving. When the Link is completed in 2020, he hopes the loss of business during construction time will be worth it and that the Link will bring more people to the Hilltop.

Mr. Mac participates in Sound Transit's Loyal to the Local Program; however, they do not feel this marketing has helped promote business. Curry is the 'face' on Mr. Mac ads and has been seen on Pierce Transit buses and Pandora radio but they feel it has not sparked anyone to visit the store. The fact remains that removing easy access to the store has hindered business.

What does the future hold for Mr. Mac? Will they remain a Hilltop icon? As far as Curry knows, Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) purchased the building where Mr. Mac resides and will add affordable housing to the lot. THA plans include relocating Mr. Mac during construction and rehusing them back in the building once it is completed. Glad to hear Hilltop will still have access to this community serving business long into the future.

## Loyal to the Local!

Sound Transit's Loyal to the Local Program was set up to help businesses impacted by Tacoma Link Light Rail construction. The intention is to let customers know that even though construction is impending access, shops are still open.

Navigating through construction zones, finding parking and making your way to Hilltop and Stadium businesses may be more challenging - but you know it's worth it! Have you tasted the Fish and Chips at The Fish House Cafe? Have you seen the quality made shoes and clothing offered at Mr Mac? Be loyal to your local - visiting these businesses during construction will help keep our community vibrant.

Push past the construction cones and patronize these legacy businesses today! Instead of driving across town, keep it local.





# Tacoma's Pop-Up Barber

By Jenni Prange Boran

You might have already heard about Tre' Wilkins, aka Tre' Tha Barber. He went viral in April of this year after a woman who'd witnessed him cutting hair free of charge for those experiencing homelessness in Tacoma shared an image on social media. At the time he'd been on the corner of South Tacoma Way and Pacific.

"I don't look at my phone a lot when I'm cutting hair. I could feel it going off in my pocket but I was busy, cutting hair and talking with the people. People started driving by and honking and yelling their support. I didn't know what was going on until my cousin showed up and said, 'Man, you're famous!'"

In fact, Wilkins had been cutting hair for free three years prior to the sudden explosion of awareness last Spring. It all started with a Facebook message from a friend asking if he'd donate his time cutting hair at a church that was housing families in need. A few of the fathers had job interviews and needed a fresh, clean look. Wilkins' response to the message? "Yessir."

Last April wasn't the first time Tre' Wilkins went viral though.

In 2016, Wilkins made the news when he won a contest that provided him a home rent-free for a year. Along with 2,000 other applicants, Wilkins wrote to the Andy Taylor real estate agency describing some undeniably life-changing trials. Things had just gotten on track, he'd finished dental assistant school and had just started his internship when his daughter, only two-years-old at the time, suffered a stroke and required a heart transplant. Wilkins spent the following two months in the hospital with her, losing his dental assistant internship—and his home—in the process. When she was finally healthy enough to leave the hospital, Wilkins had nowhere to go.

"Once you're evicted, it's almost impossible to rent a new place, especially when the eviction is so fresh. And no one wanted to give me

a job as a dental assistant because, at the time, I had so little experience."

After living in his car and couch-surfing with friends, the rent-free home was a dream come true, but he admits, he didn't take advantage of it.

"I didn't save during that time. I didn't have a plan. My daughter and I were just enjoying life. A year feels like a long time, but it goes by so fast. It was definitely a life-lesson in planning and readjusting my mindset for the future."

During that year, though, he started giving free haircuts, helping others out the way he was being helped out. That didn't stop after he had to return the keys to his yearlong home. Although he wasn't sure where he was going to go from there, he knew he wanted to keep giving back to the community that had given him that second chance.

With this most recent surge of awareness and growing platform of social media followers (his Instagram alone has nearly 1,500 followers), he wonders how to plan better this time, how to harness this new opportunity.

"I've been asking myself recently, why has this happened to me? Why has my story gone viral twice? What does God or the Universe want from me?"

Then, about a month ago, a friend posed an idea over a pizza in the middle of the mayhem that is a child's birthday party at Chuck E. Cheese – an idea that Wilkins had been bouncing around inside his head, but one he hadn't dared yet verbalize. That in order to pay his bills AND fulfill his passion of giving back to the community, he should open his own barbershop.

"When he came up with that idea and asked me that question I was just like, man, get out of my head!"

Wilkins' vision goes beyond the storefront alone – it includes entire designated business days offering haircuts completely free of charge for those in need. He envisions an adjoining shop that offers true,



long-lasting high-quality barber supplies, so that the thriving Tacoma barber community can buy local and hands-on. He's already got a name, Tre's Fades, Inc., and a logo, and if you go to his Facebook page, you can even buy merch. All proceeds go towards making the dream a reality. True Tre' fans might opt for a hoodie in red, Wilkins' favorite color.

"My passion is cutting hair and giving back. When you're in my chair, I'm not just your barber. I'm your therapist, I'm your cousin, your uncle. I hear you."

Sometimes it takes a few minutes for folks to warm up to that spirit, to accept help.

"When the guys at People's Park first get in my chair sometimes they're stiff, but when we start talking and they find out I was homeless too,

it's like they just relax."

Wilkins is currently employed as a dental assistant at Lindquist Dental, a non-profit with a mission to 'provide accessible, compassionate and effective dental care to Puget Sound children in need,' regardless of the families' ability to pay. This is how Wilkins' currently pays his own bills – bills he hopes to one day pay with Tre's Fades, Inc. Tre' never takes a penny for any of his free haircut events.

"It's all about love and positivity and peace. A lot of people think that getting out of homelessness is just 'get a job' or 'give them a place to live,' but out there it's a survival mentality and you forget how to live. You forget how to plan. To move from homelessness back into society, you need someone listening. You need assistance, a coach."

Wilkins believes his barbershop can be part of that support.

So that's the update. Where might the upcoming shop be located? Not Hilltop, he smiles and names the handful of barbershops within walking distance of where we sit at Manifesto coffee.

In the meantime, you'll see him around town continuing to cut hair at People's Park, on the corner of South Tacoma and Pacific, at elementary schools on Picture Day, just about anywhere he can set up the equipment that he keeps in his car at all times, the ultimate barber pop-up shop.

"There's a lot of trust and respect involved in being a barber. I can offer that. I can bring some of that to someone who needs it."

And it all started with one message, July 20, 2016: "Sup bro so you down with cutting tomorrow?"

Follow Tre' on Instagram @tre\_

## Hilltop Youth Voice



Hi my name is Jazelle, and I go to school on hilltop. Where they have lots of things I love like, the candy shop I get a lot of candy there, sometimes. It's really good at Johnson candy company. I'm in third grade and

I've been loving the candy there since the first time I went there and it is really good which is why I've been going my whole life all 8 years. Here is a picture of me and my big sister in 2013.

## Santa in the Hilltop

By Kristine Coman

I looked up from my desk in the HAC office and who did I see through the glass front door? Santa Claus! With a smile on my face, I asked Santa what he was doing on the Hilltop: he said, "I'm walking up and down MLK Jr Way visiting businesses and handing out candy." Well of course I let him inside to warm up on this chilly day after Friendsgiving and asked him to sign in on our guest log - so I could show the board members that Santa came by.

This gave me the opportunity to inquire about how he became Santa Claus. Chuck Mazza was walking out of the local Wal-Mart recently when a woman approached him and said he has a great Santa face complete with hair, mustache and beard. She explained how Hilltop's Santa Claus



had passed away and that he would make a good replacement.

Chuck continued home and thought about what the kind lady had said. He was born on the Hilltop in 1952 at St. Joe's and still calls Hilltop his home. He attends St Rida's Church and walks around Hilltop on a regular basis. Chuck made his decision, went back to Wal-Mart, and found the last Santa suit available. He went home, tried it on and showed his wife and

daughter. They assured him he did not need to wear the fake hair and beard set - his own hair will do just fine!

Today was Santa's first walking visit through the Hilltop. He'll be walking the Hilltop a couple days a week until Dec 24th handing out candy and seasons greetings to all he meets. If you see Santa, be sure to stop and say hello!



## Cheney Stadium- Year Round Fun



Photographs by  
Raimundo Jurado

You may only know of Cheney Stadium as the home of the Minor League Baseball team, the Tacoma Rainiers. But the Tacoma Defiance and Reign FC teams also call this landmark home.

It may not be baseball season right now, the Tacoma Rainiers ended another great season earlier this year, but Cheney Stadium is always a great place to visit. Whether its for a family baseball game complete with a decent priced hot dog, peanuts and cracker jacks, or a lively soccer game,

it will always be entertaining (Rhubarb makes sure of that)! Whether they win or lose, you'll have a good time!

Did you know they also have tasty beer? They do! Tacoma's local brewery, 7 Seas, is there to hook you up with some great draft beers and IPAs. Stay tuned for 2020's line up and get your baseball, and soccer, gear ready.

Visit Cheney Stadium's website to find off season events you may enjoy: <https://www.milb.com/tacoma/ballpark/cheney-stadium>.



## Tacoma Golden Gloves

Photograph by Raimundo Jurado

Tacoma Golden Gloves – America's oldest amateur boxing tournament west of the Mississippi River – has been around longer than the NBA.

The event has bounced around town since its 1949 inception, from the National Guard Armory, to the UPS Fieldhouse, to the Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall.

Watching the Golden Gloves could be an inducement for others to stay in the game. The tournament, after all, is a Tacoma tradition. It began during the same 1949 month as the inaugural Emmy Awards, preceded the Grammy Awards by a decade, and figures to be

around when the 7-year old kids at the Tacoma Boxing Club are grownups who regard JAY-Z as so yesterday.

2019 Championship Results - both participants advance to Vegas in their weight class as Champions:

Golden Boy-Ramel Claseblanca  
Inspirational Award-Hector Rendon  
Team-Tacoma Boxing Club

Interested in getting involved? Give them a call at 253.759.1124 or

\*Information about Tacoma Golden Gloves courtesy from <https://www.tacomaathletic.com/golden-gloves/>. Visit their website for more local boxing photographs.



## Alberta J Canada Building



The Tacoma Housing Authority, the Hilltop Community and a host of partners celebrated the remodel of the Alberta J. Canada building. It was a good day for the Hilltop, affordable housing, and the City of Tacoma. Lyle Quasim served as Master of Ceremonies, contributing his own knowledge of the neighborhood, of Alberta Canada, and the importance of community. Lyle led a succession of speakers to celebrate the following:

- A newly renovated building. The renovations include a brand new exterior, updated commercial storefronts, and office space, a new tenant courtyard, a lounge and manager's office, six residential ADA accessible units, a community room with courtyard access, a new HCAV system, and a Harborstone Bank ATM, which is the only ATM in Hilltop.
- The life and accomplishments of a Hilltop Hero, Alberta J. Canada. Her three daughters shared com-

- pelling stories about their mom's determination and ability to take personal responsibility for the problems and opportunities she saw in her community.
  - An art piece in honor of Alberta J. Canada. Mauricio Robalino created a large colorful mosaic, now installed on the building's outside corner on 11th and MLK. During the celebration Mauricio discussed the importance of each detail in the art work.
  - Lastly, THA celebrated its partnerships. Bryan Flint of Sound Outreach, Dona Ponepinto of United Way and Mayor Victoria Woodards all discussed the need for close partnerships to create stronger communities.
- After the ceremony, guests were invited to tour the building and admire the newly installed art.

## Tents and other temporary shelters in planting strips

On October 1, 2019, Police Chief Ramsdell approved legal directive #19-003. This directive essentially reverses the City's previous position that viewed the planting strips as public space. The purpose of this legal directive is to provide guidance to addressing structures in the public right-of-ways, including the planting strips in the City of Tacoma.

Previously the City regarded the planting strips as public property and, as such, the adjoining property owners had no control over temporary shelters that were erected on the planting strips. According to the recent legal directive "the property lines for businesses and residential property owners extend to the center of the roadway, which includes the planting strip. Property owners may sign a trespass authorization, which prohibits persons from engaging in the following activities on the planting strip: building, placing, or maintaining structures."

In order for property owners obtain a no trespass authorization, Sector One Lt. Gretchen Aguirre

outlined the following process:

- Trespass authorization forms are available at the Sector One substation.
- Lt. Aguirre suggests that you call first as there is not always a volunteer available to staff the front desk: (253-594-7800) or stop by the station (1524 MLK Jr. Way).
- The front desk volunteer can provide the trespass authorization form which the property owner/manager can fill out at the substation or the completed form can be returned by email or mail. The property owner will need to provide their name, address, date of birth and contact information for the report.
- A TPD officer makes an appointment with the property owner and completes a report,
- The form is signed by the owner/manager and the officer. Once written and assigned a case number, the address is added to the City's com-

puter automated system (CAD).

- The authorization is good for five years or when the property/business owner decides to revoke it, whichever occurs first.
- A property/business owner can proactively request a trespass authorization.
- Posting "no trespass" signs on the property can be helpful, as it makes it clear the land/property is privately owned. A owner does not need prior authorization to post signs on their property but TPD cannot remove trespassers without authorization.

For any questions, comments, or concerns about the legal directive, please contact Legal Advisors Keith A. Echterling at (253) 591-5908 or Michael Smith at (253) 591-5573. For questions, comments, or concerns about the trespass authorization process, please contact Lt. Gretchen Aguirre, [gaguirre@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:gaguirre@cityoftacoma.org).





# Tacomaprobono's new Pre-Eviction Clinic

Free legal aid clinic for people experiencing eviction.

By Laurie Davenport

Are you facing eviction? Have you received a notice from your landlord and don't know where to turn? A new, free legal aid clinic opened by Tacomaprobono Community Lawyers in November can help! Tacomaprobono Community Lawyers is proud and excited to announce the launch this month of our new Pre-Eviction Legal Clinic, in partnership with the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office.

This clinic will power a significant opportunity for low-income people in our community who have received a notice from their landlord and may be facing eviction, to understand their rights and get timely individual legal advice from trained volunteer attorneys in order to deal effectively with the eviction process.

As rising housing prices, lack of affordable housing, gentrification and ultimately displacement of families who call our Tacoma neighborhoods home increase dramatically, access to legal assistance to preserve housing becomes more and more vital. The Pre-Eviction Clinic joins

Tacomaprobono's Housing Justice Project and Post-Eviction Clinic to provide a full spectrum of legal services for tenants – all essential in our community's fight to prevent homelessness by avoiding the consequences of eviction.

In addition to the Pre-Eviction Clinic, Tacomaprobono's Housing Justice Project provides access to advice and representation in court for those who have eviction hearings, Monday-Thursday in the Pierce County Courthouse. The Post-Eviction Clinic is offered in partnership with the Pierce County Department of Assigned Counsel and deals with issues such as moving out and deposits.

If you need help with a landlord-tenant problem and would like to be scheduled into one of these clinics, please contact Tacomaprobono at (253) 572-5134 or walk in to our downtown office at 621 Tacoma Avenue South, Suite 303, Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 4:00pm (closed noon to 1pm for lunch). If you have an eviction hearing scheduled, look for the Housing Justice Project in the

Courthouse on the day of your hearing.

If you are reading this and need help with another type of civil legal issue such as family law, legal financial obligations, wills, vacating criminal records, bankruptcy, etc., Tacomaprobono holds more than 80 legal clinics in Tacoma and Pierce County each month and may be able to help you! Call or walk in to find out.

Tacomaprobono could not be more grateful for the unusual dedication and community commitment of our Pierce County Prosecutor's Office, Department of Assigned Counsel, Office of the Attorney General, Pierce County Courts and Pierce County Law Library in making the law work for everyone!

\*Laurie Davenport is the Program Director for TACOMAPROBONO Community Lawyers (formerly Volunteer Legal Services) and the Executive Director for Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Foundation. Visit their website at <http://www.tacomaprobono.org>.



# A Native Narrative

By Kristine Coman

In case you missed it, Hilltop Happenings event, *A Native Narrative*, was held at Peace Community Center on Nov 9th. Connie McCloud, Puyallup Tribe Member, was present to share her story, and stories that have been passed down through Tribal Elders to be heard today. For the Puyallup, storytelling is a traditional way to share their culture and knowledge with their youth.

One story she shared sounded familiar: the great flood. According to Elders, the waters rose and the people climbed Mt. Rainier to escape. When the waters receded, they came down and set up villages. One village was where the Glass Museum is today; another one was where Interstate 5 intersects with Portland Avenue. There were cedar trees to build long-houses, clothing and canoes; food was bountiful. They were in need of nothing and had time to pursue skills and arts in the winter months.

Hearing about the destruction of their homes and canoes by colonists brought tears to Connie's eyes.... mine too. This year is the twentieth anniversary of Frank Brown's canoe trip to Seattle to bring the canoe culture back home. This trip was part of the Centennial Accord which aimed to have tribal sovereignty recognized and start collaboration between Washington government and twenty-six federally recognized tribes. Connie has many canoe stories to share from participating in yearly Tribal Canoe Journeys. She told us about her first canoe journey where there were no cell phones, no GPS to guide them through fog. Community voices brought them to shore.

The Puyallup native language Lushootseed, once banned, is now being renewed. Children are learning to speak Lushootseed beginning in pre-school.

Connie explained that in the beginning, trees were the first teachers - they taught us by sharing relationships. The animals taught us by example. Language came last and allowed for liars and a false sense of values. We need to ask ourselves: whose values are we upholding? "Human beings," Connie added, "have a true relationship with the world around them." I thought about how easy it is to disconnect from nature in our consumer driven culture and the need for a rebirth of what it means to be a human being.

Connie takes her granddaughter with her to speaking events and is glad to see the Tribe becoming more visible. Land acknowledgments at the beginning of ceremonies or dedications remind us that we are on Puyallup land. As Connie simply put it, "We have always been here."

Hearing Connie's stories about the Tribe's history, past efforts to regain treaty rights (Fish Wars), and current efforts to be visible, filled me with awe. The Puyallup have always been here and are constant advocates for nature's rights. At this time, they strive to protect and increase salmon habitat and the Salish Sea. Thanks to the Tribe, we will have salmon in the future that call The Port of Tacoma home.

The next Hilltop Happenings event will take place Saturday, January 11th from 3-5PM. Join us for another great storyteller, Zelda Foxall, who takes on a historical persona while telling their story. This event will also offer a walking museum showing a gallery of important moments in African-American history. Location will be announced in the near future. Hilltop Happenings are provided by Hilltop Action Coalition, Tacoma Housing Authority and EPIC.

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**Dec 9** – Mon – Annual Yuletide Ride 5pm (Bluebeard Coffee Roasters, 2201 6th Ave)  
**Dec 10** – Tues – Tacoma City Council Meeting with Citizen's Forum 5-7:00pm (Tacoma Municipal Bldg, 747 Market ST, City Council Chamber)  
**Dec 11** – Wed – Neighborhood Council of New Tacoma Meeting 5:30pm-7:00pm (Tacoma Municipal Bldg, Rm #248, 747 Market ST)  
**Dec 11** – Wed – Food is Free 253 at the Forum – charity auction 7:00pm-10:00pm (The Forum, 815 Pacific Ave)  
**Dec 12** – Thu – City of Tacoma Community Vitality & Safety Meeting 4:30 – 5:30pm (Tacoma Municipal Bldg – 747 Market ST, Room 248)  
**Dec 12** – Thu – Associated Ministries Community Quarterly Meeting 5-7:00pm (Oasis of Hope, 1937 S G ST)  
**Dec 14** – Sat – Breakfast with Santa 9:00am-12:00pm (Sprinkler Recreation Center, 14824 C ST S)  
**Dec 14** – Sat – Cookies with Santa 10:00am-12:00pm (People's Community Center, 1602 MLK Jr Way)  
**Dec 14** – Sat – 4th Annual Downtown Tacoma Holiday Haul Crawl 10:00am-8:00pm (1742 Pacific Ave)  
**Dec 14** – Sat – Holiday Community Health Fair 11:00am-3:00pm (Lincoln High School, 701 S 37th ST)  
**Dec 14** – Sat – Know Your Rights Youth Summit (4th-12th graders) 11:00am-4:00pm (People's Community Center, 1602 MLK Jr Way)  
**Dec 14** – Sat – Dickens Festival at Stadium 12:00pm-5:00pm (Stadium District, 633 Division Ave & Tacoma Ave)  
**Dec 15** – Sun – Northwest Thriftcon 11:00am-5:00pm (Court House Square, 1102 A ST)  
**Dec 16** – Mon – **HAC Monthly Community Meeting** 6-7pm (Hilltop Regional Health Center - Conf Rm on MLK Jr Way)  
**Dec 17** – Tue – People's Center Steering Committee Meeting 5-6:30pm (People's Community Center, 1602 MLK Jr Way)

**Dec 19** – Thu – Hilltop Business Association Meeting 8-9:00am (Allen AME Church, 1223 MLK Jr Way)  
**Dec 19** – Thu – Tacoma Human Rights Commission Mtg – Fair Housing 6:30-7:30pm (747 Market ST Room 243)  
**Dec 21** – Sat – Elf- Free Family Flick 10:00am-11:37am (The Grand Cinema, 606 Fawcett Ave)  
**Dec 21** – Sat – Tacoma Night Market: Dec Edition at Alma Mater 5-10:00pm (1322 Fawcett Ave)  
**Dec 21** – Sat – Tacoma Night Market: December Edition at Alma Mater 5:00pm-10:00pm (1322 Fawcett Ave)  
**Dec 25** – Wed – Christmas Day – Happy Holidays!  
**Dec 27** – Fri – Community Social & Open Mic 6:30pm-8:00pm (People's Community Center, 1602 MLK Jr Way)  
**Dec 31** – Tue – First Night Tacoma 2020 5:30pm-12:30pm (Tacoma Arts Live, 901 Broadway)  
**Jan 1** – Wed – Happy New Year!  
**Jan 2** – Thu – Central Neighborhood Council Meeting 7:00pm-8:30pm (Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 S Tyler ST)  
**Jan 8** – Wed – Neighborhood Council of New Tacoma Meeting 5:30pm-7:00pm (New Location TBD)  
**Jan 11** – Sat – **Hilltop Happenings: African-American Storytelling** 3:00pm-5:00pm (Location TBD)  
**Jan 14** – Tue – Tacoma City Council Meeting with Citizen's Forum 5-7:00pm (Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market ST, City Council Chamber)  
**Jan 16** – Thu – Hilltop Business Association Meeting 8-9:00am (Allen AME Church, 1223 MLK Jr Way)  
**Jan 16** – Thu – Tacoma Human Rights Commission Mtg – Fair Housing 6:30-7:30pm (747 Market ST Room 243)  
**Jan 20** – Mon – **Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No HAC Mtg)**

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