

HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

May 2018- June 2018 | Hilltop Action Coalition | volunteer organized | www.hilltopactioncoalition.org



**LACK OF
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING UNITS**

vs

**190 HOMES
BOARDED UP
FOR YEARS**

Hilltop Action Journal

Publisher

Corey Mosesly

Editor

William Towey

Photographer

Raimundo Jurado

Guest Writers

Kris "Sonics Guy" Brannon
Monica Cysensky
Christina Butcher
Mario Lorenz
Jennifer Stolle
Jennifer Schaal
Kalina Miller
Amy Howard
Anne Artman
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- Community Journalism
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William Towey
toweyw@uw.edu

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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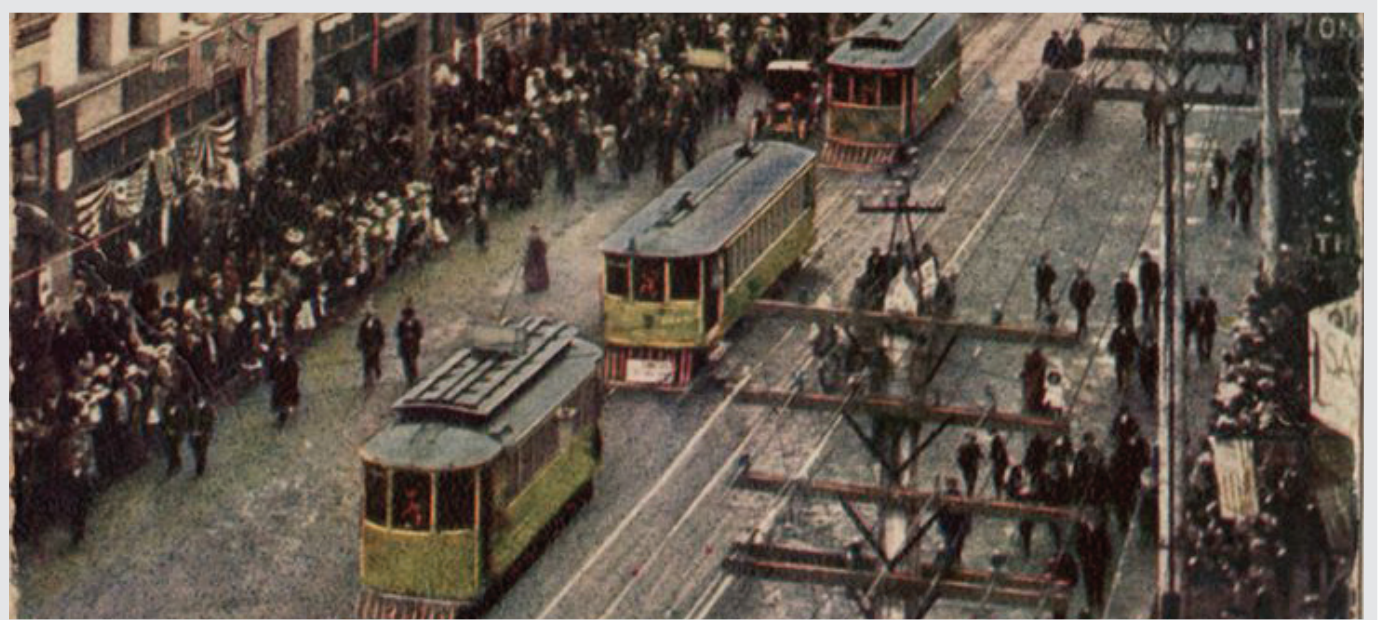


Hilltop Action Coalition Monthly Community Meetings 3rd Mondays @ 6pm

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.

In the Tracks of Hilltop History The People's Park Mural



By Jo Davies

As we wander south down MLK Jr. Way, the murals tell the story of the Hilltop. The People's Park mural on the Johnson's Candy Company building is a tribute to Hilltop heritage. It depicts the time when there was a thriving farmer's produce market and a major trolley station in this area.

The trolleys, which ran down K Street (now MLK Jr. Way) to South 23rd, brought workers up the hill from the city and they would shop and visit on their way home. The mural depicts women catching up on neighborhood news near the produce market, and other shoppers and a newsboy

boarding the trolley while a farmer stands by his truck in front of a hardware store. At that time shopping along K Street was vibrant and varied: bakeries, ethnic restaurants, a millinery, etc. Note the goods on display in the windows of the brick building which incorporates some of the features of Normanna Hall (corner of 15th and MLK).

The mural, painted in 1996, is the result of a partnership between the Hilltop Business District and the Neighborhood Council which is acknowledged on one of the trolleys. It was designed by artist Joni Joachims, she and two other mural artists, Mary Mann and Jodi Ewins painted the mural in five weeks.

The viewer may recognize that this

mural epitomizes the adage "what goes around, comes around" as we look forward to the Link light rail coming down MLK Jr. Way, almost on top of the trolley tracks that lie under the street.

For more information about the trolleys, see "K Street and Cable Cars" <https://tacamahistory.live/2016/06/25/k-street-cable-cars/>.

This is the first in a series of articles about the murals of the Hilltop. If you have comments/observations/recollections, please email jodavieshac@gmail.com.

What About Bob's BBQ?

an interview with Kay Littles

By Sharon Russell

"What makes us tick is a lot of prayer and faith in God," says Carolyn (Kay) Littles as she sits in her regular seat at Bob's Bar-B-Q Pit at 911 S. 11th Street. Bob's has been in this location since January, 1989. But there's more to the history of the business beyond the present location.

She points to two portraits on the wall. "That's my mom and dad," she says. "Dad started the business in 1948 and ran it until 1983 at 1318 Court D." Her parents grew up in Texas and married at a young age. Her father joined the army which is how he ended up in the Northwest, at Ft. Lewis. The couple decided not to go back to Texas, but to stay in Tacoma.

However, they noticed there was no barbeque in the area. Bob set out to change that. He had been raised on Texas-style barbeque that uses hickory wood to smoke the meat. That wood was not available around here, so he began using alder wood. "The kind of wood used," Littles says, "is the most important factor. We also use some charcoal to enhance the flavor."

The recipe for the barbeque belonged to her father's auntie. Starting at age 9, he'd helped make the barbeque and was anxious to share the delicacy in his new home. At first, he moved with his barbeque barrel from restaurant to restaurant, cooking the meat, with permission, outside each establishment. He also worked at Karsten Packing where he could



obtain the best cuts of meat.

Soon the business was doing so well, he decided he needed to find a permanent location. His first restaurant was on Fawcett, but as the popularity of his product grew, he had to get a larger building. He eventually ended up at the Court C location. In 1983, he sold the business.

Littles and her sons decided to re-start the barbeque business in 1989 at its present location. At that

time, the Hilltop streets were full of gang members and all kinds of negative things, so it was hard to establish a business. "Fortunately, a second generation of customers who remembered the original location sought us out." Littles also worked, for 17 years, at a chemical plant to help underwrite the business. Littles has lived in the area for 70 years. "Over the years, so much has changed," she says. "Now gentrification has

certainly changed our customer base, probably for the better."

Bob's has been named Best Barbeque twice by Taste of Tacoma. Other awards have also come its way.

Littles comes into the business every day. She used to do everything but the barbequing, but she's cut back as she's gotten older. Now her two sons, John and Michael, and her "play" son, Paul, do most of the work. Michael also owns the phone business

next store to Bob's. Littles has two other children, John and Diane, who aren't involved in the business.

And as we finish speaking, Michael rolls out the big black kettle to get the award-winning meat started for the day.

Culture Kids & Teen Tix

You Can't Beat the Price

By Courtney Chamberlin and Jo Davies

While nationally, more people participate in arts activities than in sports, young people often lack the opportunity, comfort-level, or means to attend a performance or explore a museum. In Tacoma and Pierce County, there's a group trying to make access for youth easier, more welcoming, and more affordable.

The Arts & Culture Coalition of Pierce County, a coalition of two dozen arts, culture, and heritage organizations in our area, has launched two pilot programs in the past year to welcome young families and teens into our cultural venues.

Culture Kids is a pilot program to introduce museums, theater and music to children 0-5 years old and their families. The goal of the program is to provide children at least five free cultural experiences before they start first grade. As a pilot program, Culture Kids is currently offered only to Tacoma Public School Head Start and ECEAP preschool students and children in foster care. If a child in your care is enrolled in one of these programs, please ask your teacher for a pass. The free admission pass is valid at ten participating organizations: Broadway Center for the Performing Arts, Buffalo Soldiers Museum, Children's Museum of Tacoma, Foss Waterway Seaport, Job Carr Cabin Museum, Museum of Glass, Symphony Tacoma, Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma Historical Society, and the Washington State

History Museum. To

Culture Kids is not just a free pass. Part of offering Culture Kids is providing tools to introduce families to the organizations and venues and to make them comfortable in these settings. A map of the locations and the nearest bus routes was created by Pierce Transit and each organization has an online story that orients children and families to the experience before they even leave their own home. For example, the online story for the Buffalo Soldiers Museum on Hilltop, includes the information that they will get to sit in a saddle that the Buffalo Soldiers used.

When children arrive at a venue, they are given an activity card. Families are directed to find something specific – a circle, a violin, a light fixture – and offered some questions about what they see or hear, some things to talk about with their family members, and an activity to do later that relates to their visit.

Staff are also trained on how to welcome young children and on what parents may need to know about their visit. Where are the restrooms with changing tables? What do we do if one of the kids starts crying during a performance?

Ivory Ramos, head of Visitor Services at the Museum of Glass, reports that passes get the most use during the holidays – there were nearly sixty Culture Kids passes used in December and individual children and their families can visit anytime the Museum is open and can use the pass as often as they like. The online introduction to the Museum of Glass

describes how to get to the Museum, what happens when you go in, the Hot Shop where you can watch glass artists at work, and other activities.

Making visitors feel welcome is also one of the goals of Teen Tix which aims to break down the barriers that prevent teens from accessing art, such as feeling comfortable attending, ticket or admission cost, not knowing where to look for events, or how to get to venues. While the majority of Teen Tix focuses on Seattle, it has been extended to Tacoma as a pilot with use limited to the Broadway Center, Grand Cinema, Museum of Glass, Symphony Tacoma, Tacoma Art Museum, and the Washington State History Museum. Any teenager age 13-19 years old can sign up at the Teen Tix website, <https://www.teentix.org/>, for a free pass that allows them to purchase \$5 day-of-show tickets at partner organizations. (There are 69 in Seattle.) Plus, Teen Tix provides an online calendar of events searchable by day or activity and a weekly newsletter with top picks for the week.

SOTA student Kelly Moylan is working on marketing with Teen Tix. She learned about Teen Tix from her orchestra director and has used it mainly to attend events and museums in Seattle, such as the Seattle Art Museum and the Museum of Pop Culture. She sees Teen Tix as an affordable way to see movies here in Tacoma at the Grand or theater productions in Seattle.

And did you know that you can play tourist in your own town and visit one of Tacoma's world-class museums for



free this summer. The Tacoma Public Library has passes to the Washington State History Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, and Museum of Glass. All passes circulate for 1 week and make the perfect family activity.

For more information visit www.artsandculturecoalition.org, [https://](https://www.artsandculturecoalition.org)

www.teentix.org, <http://www.buffalosoldierstacoma.org>, <https://www.museumofglass.org/> <https://www.tacomalibrary.org/news/visit-tacoma-museums-for-free/>

Doubled-Up	Hotels/Motels	Shelter	Unsheltered
1,204	117	377	49

744

Tacoma Homeless Student Count

Homeless Students: PK to Kindergarten 179, Elementary 744, Middle School 324, High School 500

2015-2016

(Source: OSPI, Education of Homeless Children and Youth Data Collection and Reports)

“Most of the affordable housing that have been built are 1-2 bedrooms, which does not help the families with children in our community that bare the burden of poverty. Can we incentivize the construction of larger low-income units? - Korbett Mosesly

Open Letter: from the Director of Coffee Oasis

By Dave Frederick

Recently the long-vacant Rite Aid building and its possible re-use as a shelter for homeless youth surfaced as a hot topic of discussion among Hilltoppers. While the consensus is that this is probably not the best use of that site, the plight of homeless youth has not gone without examination. To that end, Dave Fredrick, founder and Executive Director of The Coffee Oasis, has joined with local service providers to help address the issue. The following letter from Mr. Fredrick seeks to clarify the role of Coffee Oasis and invites the community to an open meeting on Monday, May 21st, 7pm at the Salvation Army at 1110 S. Puget Sound Avenue.

To the Hilltop Action Journal:
The past few weeks have been busy for us at The Coffee Oasis seeking to understand the youth homeless landscape in Tacoma and Pierce County, seeking to discover how The Coffee Oasis might become a partner in providing a solution to youth homelessness, AND seeking to communicate clearly WHO we are as an organization.
The first two efforts have gone great thanks to lots of good conversations with other social service providers, concerned citizens and youth. We feel like we are beginning to get an initial grasp of both the need and

some possible ways that The Coffee Oasis can be a part of the solution.

The third (seeking to communicate clearly WHO we are as an organization) has been much more challenging!

Why?
We immediately needed to overcome two misunderstandings before we even got started:

That the intention of The Coffee Oasis was to come in and, without regard for anyone or anything, set up camp at the Rite Aid building and establish a youth shelter!

That The Coffee Oasis as a faith-based organization would not serve LGBTQ youth in any of our programs!

NOT TRUE!!

What do I mean?

The Coffee Oasis has only entered a community where we have been invited and where we have spent lots of time building relationships. The Coffee Oasis does not see itself as anyone's savior! We do not sweep into a community to be the answer to its youth homelessness problem. We enter a community invited and eager to be a partner in the huge task of loving and serving the most broken youth in a community.

That the Rite Aid building was our focus was never the case. Our focus was and is and always will be homeless youth and how we

can serve them and help them out of homelessness. If the Rite Aid building ended up being part of that solution, great, if not, great also!

Therefore, we are still in the process of figuring out how and what and where we will serve homeless youth in Tacoma and Pierce County. If anyone has a great suggestion; let us know ☺!

The Coffee Oasis serves ALL YOUTH regardless of their record, race, religion, gender, identity or anything else! We don't care how they identify or what they have done. We love ALL YOUTH! This is BECAUSE we are faith-based. To be faith-based to us simply means that we follow Jesus and following Jesus means that we love youth (and anyone else!) unconditionally as He did...period!

So what now?

On Monday, May 21st, 7pm at the Salvation Army at 1110 S. Puget Sound Avenue, we will be holding a Community Forum to communicate our vision and officially kick off our plans to serve homeless youth in Tacoma and Pierce County! Please come!

Dave Frederick, Executive Director, The Coffee Oasis

Everyone counts, no matter where they live

By Sandy Windley, Associated Ministries

Each year, Pierce County's Human Services Department participates in a nationwide effort to determine how many people are experiencing homelessness within each community; this effort is called the "Point-in-Time" (PIT) Count. On January 28, 2018, Pierce County conducted its annual PIT Count, a process that enables participants to talk with people and learn more about their homelessness. This year 1,628 homeless persons were counted on that one night within our County. The PIT Count is a snapshot that captures the characteristics and situations of people living here without a home.

The PIT Count includes both sheltered individuals (temporarily living in emergency shelters or transitional housing) and unsheltered individuals (those sleeping outside or living in places that are not meant for human habitation).

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Washington State Department of Commerce require communities to conduct these one-day counts annually. The information is collected to design and fund programs that help people re-establish housing and access support services to keep their housing.

The PIT Count happens the last Friday of every January, and is carried out by volunteers who interview people and ask where they slept the night before, where their last residence was located,

what may have contributed to their loss of housing, and disabilities the individual may have. It also asks how long the individual has been homeless, age and demographics, and whether the person is a veteran and/or a survivor of domestic violence. This year, more than 300 volunteers fanned out across Pierce County, talking with people in places like encampments, overnight and day shelters, meal sites, libraries, and special events like Project Homeless Connect. Perhaps you volunteered; if so, thank you very much!

The County made some changes to the process this year. They counted people during the early hours of the morning—from 1:00 am to 5:00 am. They included an observation count of people in encampments who preferred not to participate in a survey. And they replaced their old paper surveys with a mobile app that gave them real-time, consistent data entry. These changes resulted in a more accurate picture of homelessness in our County.

Like all surveys, the PIT Count has limitations. Results from the Count are influenced by the weather, by availability of overflow shelter beds, by the number of volunteers, and by the level of engagement of the people being interviewing. Comparisons from year to year should be done with those limitations in mind.

Please visit the County's PIT Count website to view an infographic and presentation highlighting this year's results, and to explore the full dataset.



Pierce County

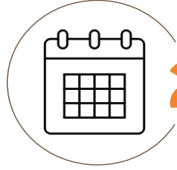
HOMELESSNESS 2018

2018 Point-In-Time Count Results

Each January, Pierce County surveys people experiencing homelessness. This "point-in-time count" is a one-day snapshot that captures the characteristics and situations of people living here without a home.

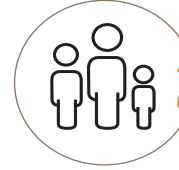
1,628

Homeless persons counted



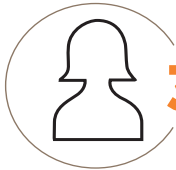
22%

Chronically homeless



25%

Households with children



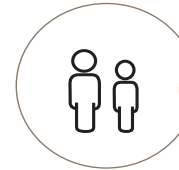
38%

Female



10%

Victims of domestic violence



6%

Unaccompanied youth & young adults



9%

Veterans



48% People of color*

*However, people of color make up only 24% of the Pierce County population. (U.S. Census Bureau 2015)

Not all people experiencing homelessness sleep outside



46%

Emergency shelter



33%

Out of doors (street, tent, etc.)



8%

Transitional housing



13%

Vehicle, abandoned building, other

Most told us they lived in Pierce County before they became homeless

78% Pierce County

5%

7%

10%

Other WA counties

King County

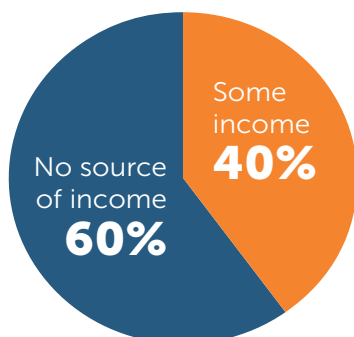
Outside WA

The main causes of homelessness are economic and housing-related

Survey respondents shared many causes for becoming homeless. These are the top three:

- 1.** Lack of affordable housing
- 2.** Inadequate income or employment
- 3.** Eviction

Many people experiencing homelessness have an income



40% of people who are homeless in Pierce County report at least one source of income.

Mental illness is the most commonly reported disability

Here is the breakdown of the most commonly reported disabilities. Some people reported having multiple disabilities.

Mental illness

31%

Physical disability

25%

Chronic health condition

24%

Substance use

18%

Developmental disability

9%

For the full data set:

Visit www.piercecountywa.org/pointintime/2018data

Homelessness Threatens Education

Enormous Challenges Confront Students

By Mary Fox

He was unusually reserved and sat in the back corner of the classroom, near the two other older male students.

Fall had gotten off to a bumpy start. A new teacher had taken over three weeks into the 10-week quarter because the instructor originally scheduled to teach the class faced unexpected health issues.

Although the student came to class regularly, he didn't socialize with classmates before class started or chat easily with them during group projects. He seemed to prefer to work alone, eyes down on his textbook or notebook at his regular spot near the large east-facing window.

If he glanced to his right, he could see the rust-colored roofs of Tacoma Community College's 60's-era buildings, a slice of the soccer field empty in the late morning, and, on the rare clear day last fall, Mount Rainier.

To his new teacher, he seemed serious and motivated, so she was surprised when he started missing class.

It was not until after a month or so that she realized he had become homeless, sometimes spending the night in shelters or with family members, sometimes sleeping in his car with his wife and four children, the oldest age 12. He'd get his kids fed, dressed and to school. Then, English class.

He hung on that quarter and managed to earn an A and three B's.

When things were going better for him, he earned A's and B's in almost all of his classes, including difficult ones, such as introduction to engineering, anthropology and Spanish. As homelessness continued to haunt him, his grades slipped in winter quarter and he failed his first class.

He tried to stay in school. But outside pressures mounted. He withdrew from all of his classes -- history, political science and math -- this spring.

In mid-May, he found out that if he had waited just a week or two before withdrawing, he would not be required to pay back more than \$600 in federal financial aid. Withdrawing also put in jeopardy his financial aid for next year.

He had earned just over a 3.0 grade point average though fall quarter. When homelessness hit, his GPA dropped more than a full point.

He is working with TCC staff to appeal his financial aid suspension. Because he was doing well in his classes until just this year, there is a good chance that his appeal will be granted and he will receive funding for the 2018-19 school year.

However, the \$600 he owes prevents him from registering for fall classes. He's not sure if he can pay it.

He has earned 65 credits, just 25 shy of the 90 credits required to receive a two-year associate's degree. His major is computer science.

Recently, he found through church connections an apartment near Swan Creek on the east side of Tacoma. He describes it as "small and filthy." He, his wife and children were greeted by rats, cockroaches and a leaking toilet.



The apartment manager doesn't let his kids play outside. But it's a place to live.

His case is not unusual.

The News Tribune reported in March that 1,370 homeless students attend Tacoma Public Schools this year. The U.S. Department of Education notes that more than 1.3 million homeless children attend public schools around the country. Homeless students are 87% more likely to drop out before finishing high school.

When a Lincoln High School senior didn't show up for class for a couple of weeks this spring, his seminar teacher's first reaction was to get on him. The teacher was worried: The student was in danger of not graduating in June.

The teacher learned that the student had become homeless and was sleeping in his car. They are now trying to figure out if it's possible to find a way to make sure the student, who was already struggling in his classes, meets the graduation requirements and can move forward.

At TCC, the mother of four school-age children was forced to find housing last fall when her landlord upped her rent. She and her kids were homeless for part of fall quarter.

They stayed with a classmate for a short time before moving into housing provided by the YWCA, a non-profit supporting victims of domestic violence. One of her teachers led a campus effort to provide Christmas gifts for the children.

The student has earned A's in all of her classes and was recognized for her outstanding academics at TCC's Spring Student Awards Banquet. On stage, she stood straight, smiled, and accepted congratulations from the chair of the board of trustees.

But last fall, she would text her teachers late at night, saying that she didn't think she could keep going.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

notes that "more than 56,000 college students indicated they were homeless on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in 2013—and that figure almost certainly underestimates the true total."

A HUD report titled "Barriers to Success: Housing Insecurity for U.S. College Students" states that housing insecurity "acts as a barrier for student success."

"According to the U.S. Census Bureau, from 2009 to 2011, 51.8 percent of students living off campus and not with relatives had incomes below the poverty level. Living in poverty has a biological impact on the brain that impedes academic success, and it also presents students with difficult logistical hurdles," the report stated.

In Pierce County, the number of people without a place to live has swelled 37% since 2015.

According to the U.S. Census, Pierce County's net migration, the rate of people moving in versus leaving, more than doubled in 2016 over the previous year. It was the largest county net population increase in the entire country. More people means higher housing prices and fewer choices.

The HUD Point in Time Count (PIT) takes place on the last Friday of January and requires communities to survey people experiencing homelessness. The 2018 count in Pierce County included more than 300 volunteers who talked with people in homeless shelters, encampments and on the streets between the hours of 1 and 5 in the morning. The temperature was near freezing.

The PIT report "Homelessness in Pierce County: A Single Night" highlights the serious, sometimes life-threatening issues facing our community.

"In Pierce County, rapid increases in market-rate rents are making

housing unaffordable," the report stated, noting a 49% increase in the median rent of a one-bedroom apartment between 2012 and 2017.

Tacoma is one of the five cities in the country with the highest year to year rent increases. For every one affordable apartment, there are 10 people who need it, the PIT report found.

Pierce County's sudden and dramatic population surge, resulting in higher rents and less affordable housing, has pushed local officials and affordable housing advocates to act.

On May 15, the City Council approved a new "inclusionary zoning" rule requiring developers to include some affordable housing in new apartment complexes of more than 15 units in the Tacoma Mall neighborhood.

Housing advocates have called on council members to require developers beyond the mall area to designate space for people who can't afford the rising prices.

This April, prompted by the sudden evictions of about 100 people from the low-income Tiki Apartments off South 12th Street near Tacoma Community College, council members approved an ordinance requiring landlords to give tenants more time to move, extending the "eviction notification requirement" from 20 to 90 days.

In the fall of 2014, TCC partnered with Tacoma Housing Authority to provide housing vouchers for homeless students or students in danger of becoming homeless. The HUD report describes the partnership as "the first of its kind in the United States." It was estimated that about 100 TCC students were homeless that year.

Students who meet the THA and TCC requirements and agree to 21 participant obligations may receive a voucher for monthly housing support. The number of vouchers available

has increased from 25 in 2014 to 150 this year.

There are three open application periods for students at risk of losing housing, in fall, winter and spring. Students who are homeless are able to apply anytime.

According to HUD, the average participant is 35 years old. Most are parents and work while attending school. They are majoring in subjects ranging from social work to business and many plan to transfer to a four-year college.

Early results showed that 95% of participants were still in school a year after receiving their first voucher, compared to 24% of student who were eligible but didn't receive one. The participants' GPA was slightly higher (3.05) than the TCC average.

However, even innovative programs like the TCC/THA housing partnership have limitations.

The former TCC student now living on Tacoma's eastside did the things everyone told him he was supposed to do.

He applied for and received financial aid. He came to college and attended class regularly. He earned good grades. He figured out his major and career path.

When he became homeless, he worked through the community coordinated entry network. He received

the Associated Ministries' weekly list of low-income rentals. He applied for and received a TCC/THA housing voucher.

But he never used it. He was unable to find an affordable three-bedroom unit rented out by owners willing to take the voucher.

It has since expired.

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A Generation of Recreation Leadership: Michael Bradley Retires

By John Levi

Michael Bradley, a longtime presence in the Hilltop community, has retired from his post as supervisor of People's Community Center.

It's a position Bradley held since 1997, during which he solidified his reputation as a community-minded and youth-oriented manager with a big heart. "If he can do something for an organization that's struggling, Michael will do anything he can to help," said Roy Fletcher, a Metro Parks Tacoma recreation coordinator who has known Bradley for about 25 years. "He's given a lot of people lots of opportunities."

Bradley's career running community centers dates to 1989. That's the year he started working at the old East Side Community Center in the original Salishan public housing development.

There he reported to the Tacoma Housing Authority until 1992 when Metro Parks was asked to manage the facility and retained Bradley at the site. The building no longer exists, but Metro Parks and numerous partner agencies are building Eastside Community Center, which will open on the campus of First Creek Middle School later this year.

Bradley, now 61, was a standout basketball player at his alma mater, Lakes High School, and continued playing on scholarship, initially at Shasta College, in Redding, Calif., and later at what is now Eastern Oregon University, in La Grande, Ore., where earned a degree in economics.

He no longer shoots hoops, but expects to remain active in the game, primarily by coordinating Amateur Athletic Union tournaments in

Hawaii, something he's done twice annually since 1999.

For about 10 years ending in 2015, he organized similar tournaments in Reno, Nev. Bradley also is a past president of AAU in Western Washington. Bradley remembers when Los Angeles Lakers player Isaiah Thomas played AAU ball at the People's Center as a kid growing up on the Hilltop.

Bradley was working in Eastside Tacoma when he started Tacoma's first Late Night basketball program for teenagers and young adult men, a magnet for many talented players. In addition to providing financial support, the City of Tacoma awarded Bradley a City of Destiny award for his initiative.

From the original Late Night group, he put together teams of players and for several years took them on tours of junior colleges and four-year schools in nearby states. Several were offered scholarships.

The City of Destiny award for Late Night was the first of several honors Bradley has received for various youth development efforts he has initiated, primarily on behalf of Metro Parks.

In 1994, he won a yearlong fellowship in urban planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, during which he researched measurable indicators of successful youth programs. MIT recruited him after he set up a youth-run convenience store in the community center in partnership with 7-Eleven.

In 1997, he launched Gear Up with a grant from the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Participating high school students



Photo Credit: Russ Carmack

received stipends for participating in the homework assistance program, which also included college tours and the promise of scholarships upon completion. Gear Up won an outstanding program award from the Washington Recreation Park Association. The project ended in 2008.

Recreation activities at People's were limited to youth development and basketball until Tacoma's newest indoor swimming pool opened to the public in fall 2016. The rebirth of the pool was the catalyst to creating a more expansive fitness and wellness center. Before the pool opened, between 50 and 75 people came through the doors daily. Bradley

said the number is now between 300 and 400. "It brought in a whole new crowd," he said.

Fletcher Jenkins, a member of the People's Community Center Steering Committee, attributed the pool's success in part to Bradley. "When we started the pool project, he wasn't for it. He wanted another gym. But he came on board and worked hard to get it going. He gave it his all," said Jenkins, who has known Bradley for about 10 years. "He's going to be greatly missed in the community and the center. In the time he's been here he's been a tremendous servant in our community."

Aside from running AAU basketball tournaments, Bradley's retirement

schedule is somewhat open. He and his wife, Teresa, who also has left the work world, have a second home in Palm Springs, Calif., where they will spend at least a few months every year. Bradley also plans to travel to Europe and do some fishing, a pastime he picked up from his father, who is now 82. Bradley said he'll miss his daily encounters with community members and the center's staff. "It's like family. I know everybody," he said. "My wife cannot believe how many people I run into that I know. There's joy in seeing people I've had an impact on."

Tacoma Link is coming!

PLANNING
2010–2015

DESIGN
2015–2017

CONSTRUCTION
2018–2022

Start of Service
2022

Public Involvement

Safety Education

We are here

A Walk on the Wine Side

By Michelle Marconi

More than one hundred visitors strolled the Hilltop in search of fine wine on Saturday, April 28. They poured into thirteen Hilltop Businesses to sample red, whites, roses, and bubbly and while they were there, they discovered treasures they hadn't known existed - colorful hats and socks at Mr. Macs, intriguing gifts at Basket Nook, lip-smacking BBQ at Bob's, and unprecedented hospitality at the House of Scott.

The Wine Walk introduced the community to the locally owned,

family-run businesses on MLK Jr. Way. Marconi Chiropractic and Wellness served as headquarters for the event. Other participating Hilltop businesses included the Basket Nook, Broken Spoke, Hilltop Loans, 1111, Backdoor Wines, 1022, Zodiac Supper Club, Johnson's Candy, Scott Funeral Home, Hilltop Action Coalition, Mr. Mac's and Bob's BBQ. Every ticket holder received a commemorative wine glass and a raffle ticket. Many wine walkers, lured by the prizes, purchased additional tickets hoping to win prizes donated by the Hilltop Business Association merchants.

Lucky winners are entitled to dinner for two prepared by a personal chef (Scott Funeral Home), massage by Pick Massage Therapy, and a bucket of beer and wine from Broken Spoke, and many other items.

Comments overheard on the street included "I never expected that a funeral home would be so much fun! If I ever need their services, I'm going there!" We certainly hope that those services are not needed soon, but we do hope that many wine walkers return to the Hilltop again and again.



Hilltop Visions

Elementary students in Hilltop Schools were invited to write their vision for the future of Hilltop



This Spring, elementary students in Hilltop Schools were invited to write their vision for the future of Hilltop. Each student could submit a poem or story of 200 words or less. The invitation to write was extended by the City of Tacoma 311 Customer Support Center, the Tacoma Housing Authority, and the Hilltop Action Coalition.

As you read the following entries from McCarver and Bryant students you will note common themes of a desire for beauty, for a litter-free, crime-free neighborhood, for smiling and fun, ...and for an ice cream store.

Entries from McCarver students

Messiah - 4th Grade

I want to see a big outdoor swimming pool with three D lights and LED lights, as well. The babies will get a kiddie pool

Lia - 4th Grade

I would like to see a big pool and an ice cream shop so people could have free ice cream. I would also like to see more people writing signs to hold up on streets that says, "Have Fun!"

Alana - 4th Grade

I want to see my community set up a group to clean up MLK Street. This would make it clean and nice. I also want to see more water parks so we can play to the water during the summer.

Amayia - 4th Grade

I would like to see an ice cream shop on MLK Street. I'm hoping that they will serve ice cream at my school, McCarver. I would also like to see a water park where everyone can come and play during the summer.

Jammal - 4th Grade

I want to be rich and have an infinite amount of money, so I can help all of the homeless people in the Hilltop.

Donna - 4th Grade

I would like to see more violins in my neighborhood, because I would be able to hear more music. Music makes me happy. When I am happy, I dance. It would make other people happy. Happy people have fun!

Leandre - 4th Grade

I want to stop bullying and to see no more gangs. I want to see more shelters to the homeless and to give them more food. We need to have people stop littering and not have as many people smoke weed. No more kidnapping and we need to stop racism. After all of this is gone I would like to see no more homelessness. Last of all, we need jobs for kids.

Jeremiah - 4th Grade

I want a Hilltop that has no drugs, racism, stealing, homelessness or bad things. I want kids to have their own shops for ice cream or anything else they dream of.

Omari - 4th Grade

I would like my neighborhood to rebuild the park for older kids. Right now it is only good for babies. I would like to see them add swings and bigger slides. I want to add bigger everything.

Shawn - 4th Grade

I would like to see no drugs, crack, weed, cigarettes. I would also like to see more Shelters for the homeless and more food for homeless people. No littering and stop racism. We also need to stop kidnappings and for kids to stop bullying.

Kaytanie - 4th Grade

My Hilltop vision is to have many tall evergreen trees and kids playing under them. Kids having a good time in the neighborhood and families being together. People need to be kind to the homeless and giving them support in my vision. People need to clean up the streets in the Hilltop, even if it is a Friday. Also in my vision is to have a beautiful garden where we all can have picnics. My Hilltop vision is to have a happy

neighborhood with you.

Azriel - 3rd Grade

I would like to see the neighborhood in the same way, but we need less gangs. The reason I say the same way is because I was born on the Hilltop and I don't want it to change, except to take away the violence that gangs bring. We need to have more peace in the Hilltop. We need to make sure that McCarver stays the same. We need to have more afterschool programs so kids on the Hilltop have places to go and not be bored and won't join gangs. We need to make sure there is no bullying. That is my vision for the Hilltop. What is yours?

The Bryant Students wrote

"My Hilltop Vision" by Fairah Quiton - 5th Grade

Lots and lots of smiles
Friendly greetings everywhere
Good morning, hello

Fresh air everywhere
Lots and lots of trees, sweet aromas
Really really sweet aromas

Almost completely silent
Really, really quiet, not a loud sound
Words are only a whisper.

"Everytime My Pencil Hits Paper" by Joseph DeJarlois - 4th grade (Taylor)

Everytime my pencil hits paper,
My mind begins to taper,
Off a wall of sanity leaving me with nothing but vanity.

"From an End Comes a Beginning" by Sabine Reynolds - 5th Grade

I used to stand in the center of Hilltop,
Scared, worried,
Wondering when the sirens would scream
Again.
But in 2022
All this will not be true.
For blossoms will bloom in crystal dew,
Rainbows will dance along the sky
And smiles will never die.
A fortune teller told me true
That from an end comes a new

Beginning,
Towering against the great sky blue.

"The Large Hearts of Hilltop" by Anna Smith - 5th Grade

Small is the world compared
To the compassion of the Hilltop community.

Gardens glowing, people mowing as
Their yards bloom with care.

Love growing as it is cared for
By laughter.

Hilltop isn't perfect, it has its
Faults but to me it's the only
Place I'll love more than my own
Little home perched on top of
A hill.

"My Hilltop Vision" by Elise Bouchard - 4th Grade

Hilltop, such a scary place
Treetops brown
No bloom at all
But with all the work we can put in
There will be all bloom light
Treetops as green as light
Grass, not the dirty brown no more
So, you see Hilltop has potential
And this is my Hilltop vision.

By Harlan Baker - 5th Grade

The Hilltop dream is like many others. To have a diverse place with a large community, people who help each other, and do favors for one another. But unlike other places, the people of Hilltop have many redeeming qualities, and already have most of the traits that are required to have a great community in 2020. Including:

Acceptance
The quality of being accepting and respecting other peoples' religions, cultures, and any believes that are different from yours or what you're used to.

Being Involved
Being involved is a quality that helps stabilize the community. If no one is helping out, companies will stop being in business, schools will have less money for supplies, and funding to go on field trips, stores will go out of business, and people won't know each other as well. So by

you being part of the community, it helps the entire community.

So let's show people how great Hilltop is for the people who think otherwise. Let's make Hilltop one of the best places in all of Washington!

By Bella Ibarra - Grade 5

The wind carries the leaves of our Hilltop trees in our communities. The wind will drag and trash along the way but in the year 2023 everything like that will disappear and no trash outside of a garbage can will be in sight. To line in the grass of our community's parks not a single wrapper or plastic bag will fly away out of our grasp, too high to reach or too small to find. All this is possible in our 2023 Hilltop community.

"Oh...the Most Beautiful Place" by Blaine Parker - 5th Grade

Hilltop 2024 will be filled with new delicious restaurant's and thriving new offices filled to the brim with busy-ness. I want a place where families can come in peace. I see myself walking down a street and looking at a neighborhood where everybody has a roof over their heads and a pillow for dreaming on. I have a vision of fresh streets clear of debris. We can make all this possible because we are a powerful community and all our hearts combined can make this place a beautiful one.

"The Stars" by Solomon Selkin

To find the future you must look to the past
The past of Tacoma you must do some math
The grit city, its pit at Hilltop
Back then Hilltop was a flop
Then the industry got set up and we no longer a pup
Once our population grew we could still get the flu this was all true
But I just seem to reject because we seem to project a certain aspect
The future of ours may improve our posture
I think we need less light pollution that still fits the constitution
I want us to play under the milky way.

The Pierce County Black Collective



By Korbett Mosesly

The Black Collective is a community of black people dedicated to civic engagement through volunteer service. Since 1968, the Black Collective has met every Saturday, without exception, at the City Association of Colored Women's Club House from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

OBJECTIVES

- To advance the political interests of black people.
- To improve the educational outcomes of black students.
- To provide social justice advocacy to black individuals and communities.
- To increase black economic development.

Arising out of Tacoma, Washington's civil rights struggle in the 1960s, the Black Collective is a volunteer leadership organization engaged in addressing issues affecting the black community of Tacoma and Pierce County. The Black Collective began as the Concerned Black Citizens in the

immediate aftermath of the Mother's Day Disturbance of May 11, 1969.

Inflamed by rancorously divided city politics, violence broke out that night in the Hilltop neighborhood, home to Tacoma's largest black population. Several black leaders, including Thomas Dixon, Executive Director of the Tacoma Urban League; Harold Moss, then a leader in the Tacoma chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); James L. Walton, student president of the Obi Society at Tacoma Community College; and pastors Reverend Earnest S. Brazill and Joseph A. Boles, both leaders in the Ministerial Alliance, stepped in to help quell the outbreak.

In the days following, they negotiated successfully with the City Council to win black representation on the police force and some, although limited, improved services to the Hilltop. These leaders decided to continue meeting and expanded to include others of color, becoming the Minority Concerns Task Force. By 1970, however, they resumed their focus on issues specific to the

black community. Since then, the Black Collective has met each Saturday morning, 52 weeks a year.

The Black Collective is open to anyone in the black community regardless of position and is a non-hierarchical, democratically run organization. Anyone who attends a meeting has voting privileges. Individual members volunteer for specific tasks and events. The ongoing topics of discussion are education, employment, healthcare, and politics, but the flexibility of the group enables it to address critical current issues as they arise. The meetings are neither recorded nor photographed, and requests to do so have been declined.

Harold Moss, Tacoma's first black city council member (1970), mayor (1994) and Pierce County council member (1997), in describing the organization in 2008 said, "The great strength, endurance, and influence of the Black Collective is not its structure or lack thereof, but it is in its autonomy and commitment to the mission of empowering and bettering the conditions of the black community."



The Annual Hilltop Neighborhood Clean Up

By Staff

The annual Hilltop Neighborhood Clean-Up is Saturday, July 21st from 10:00 am to 1:45 pm at the Tacoma campus of the Evergreen State College. The City brings giant dumpsters to the site and all residents of the area, including those living in multifamily buildings, are encouraged to bring authorized items and dump them for free.

In past years, the clean-up has been limited to homeowners and duplex-dwellers. This year, according to Alex Gibilisco of the City's Community Service Division, "we are piloting an expansion of the program to residents who live in multi-family units...so bring it on!"

Not only is this an opportunity to get rid of that stuff that accumulates around your home, garage, and yard over the course of the year, it is also a great time to improve the look of the Hilltop and to connect with your neighbors.

The Hilltop Action Coalition partners with the City of Tacoma to provide

vide volunteers to staff the collection site but also to assist neighbors who are unable to transport their stuff and to clean up sore spots in our neighborhoods, alleys and vacant lots. Greg Walker who is coordinating the HAC volunteer effort estimates that 30 - 40 volunteers will be needed.

As Walker points out "There is a role for everyone, from assisting with site check-in and distributing information, to assisting residents with unloading. We can also use volunteers with trucks to help with off-site collection and clean up. If each neighborhood could muster a few volunteers for a couple of hours on Saturday, July 21, we'd have the Hilltop looking good."

HAC will provide gloves, water and snacks for all volunteers. Please contact the HAC office at (253)442-8848, or had-office15@gmail.com to volunteer.

McCarver Scholars Summer Program Begins June 25th

By McCarver Staff

Peace Community Center's McCarver Scholars Summer Academy is a 4-day a week program that runs during the summer for six weeks, Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 3:30. The program provides elementary students with a positive environment to continue building academic and character skills. The mornings focus on academics (reading, writing, math, and science) followed by project-based learning after lunch and enrichment programming in the afternoon. Thursdays feature

community learning experiences such as the field trip to the Foss Waterway pictured below.

McCarver scholars is partially funded by the current 21st Century Learning Grant and serves students from 2nd to 5th grade at McCarver Elementary. The program is free. Preference is given to students enrolled at McCarver and secondary preference to students not at McCarver, but who live in the Hilltop neighborhood.

For more information, please contact Alyssa Urish at alyssa@peacecommunitycenter.org



Stop Mart Closed Until Further Notice

By Staff

The Stop N Mart at 1501 MLK Jr. Way remains closed until further notice.

The owner of the business, Mr. Phong Hwan Kim, has forfeited his City business license as part of a settlement with the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office in exchange for dismissing the criminal charges against him. Following an undercover

investigation, he was booked by TPD for unlawful delivery and unlawful possession of a controlled substance, "Spice."

Additionally, the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB) has issued an emergency liquor license suspension of 180 days beginning March 27 until September 23, 2018. During that time the WSLCB will seek permanent revocation of the license.

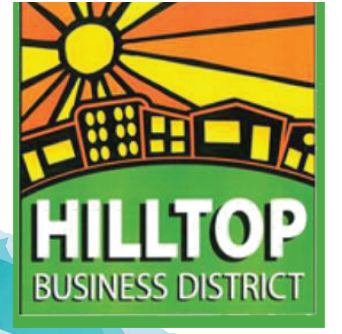
In January 2018, the property was purchased by SSB Investments, LLC of Lynnwood. Sector 1 TPD and Code Enforcement and the Hilltop business community will be working with the new owners to deter further criminal activity and improve the relationship with the community.

2018

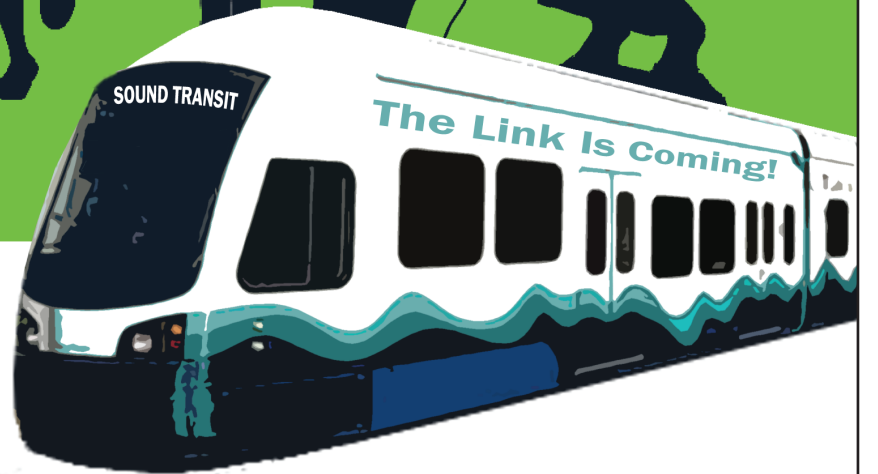
5th Annual

TACOMA'S

HILLTOP STREET FAIR



"Hilltop On The Move"



 facebook.com/hilltopstreetfair

 @tacomahilltopstreetfair

Saturday, August 25th

11am- 7pm

S. 9th & MLK Way -S. 13th & MLK Way

TACOMA, WA

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Cultural Events • Quilt Show
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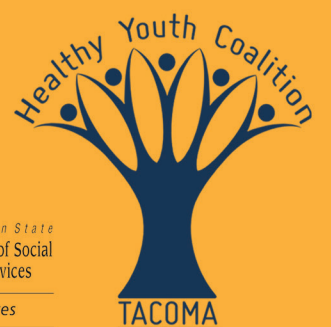
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MARIJUANA WHEN ADULTS ARE
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AND AT WWW.HYCTACOMA.ORG



Street Fair to Showcase Hilltop on the Move

By Kristie Worthey

Tacoma's Hilltop is a unique and diverse community that both captures the past and portents the future of our city. Hilltop Street Fair Tacoma, now planning our 5th annual event, was awarded the Third Place National Winner of the Neighborhoods USA 2016 Best Neighborhood Social Revitalization Award in Memphis, TN. It is our intent to enhance our signature community driven arts experience. The 2018 Hilltop Street Fair will offer arts experiences for all ages with the theme Hilltop on the Move to include: Kinesthetic sculpture art exhibitions, dance productions, the fourth annual Hilltop Film Showcase, third annual Mr Mac Hilltop Fashion Show, and Unity through Diversity Hilltop Quilt Show.

This fifth annual Hilltop Street Fair will take place Saturday, August 25th, 2018 from 11am to 7pm. Hilltop Street Fair's footprint includes MLK, Jr Way from 9th – 13th Streets to include Centro Latino on L Street and other Hilltop locations.

The theme "Hilltop on the Move" refers to the planning activities with Sound Transit and the Link coming to Hilltop. It is a way to introduce the idea of movement to the community through the arts and other activities. With the concept of movement and the arts we will be featuring art exhibitions with movement such as this commitment from artist Lynn Di Nino, an experienced art organizer, will create "community-participatory Kinetic artworks in response to the theme 'Hilltop on the Move' for the 2018 Street Fair." The kinetic element of the street fair would be my major public project for 2018.

Dance and movement will be a major component of this year's Hilltop Street Fair. Centro Latino and The BareFoot Collective are representative of those aspects and this year will kick off with parading from 14th Street to People's Park. We plan to bring back Aerial & Cirque performances by Vuelta La Luna,

as well as contemporary dance intertwined with traditional Latin/Samoan dance and urban hip hop by a variety of area dance companies.

Martha Davies of Centro Latino comments that they are "delighted to be part of the Fair. For years we have been pushing our Latino Cultural Heritage through art, dance and food. This gives us an opportunity to let more people know of our beautiful cultures - such as Colombia, Peru, Mexico, Guatemala."

two year's success in negotiating the Rite Aid Building venue for the Hilltop Street Fair, the Blacktop Rebels Car Show will feature more than a hundred spiffy cars of all types. For more information visit www.blacktoprebelscc.com

A' Donna Richardson and Liz Burris will be curating the second annual Unity through Diversity Hilltop Quilt Show at Allen AME Church. This was a huge success featuring quilters from Pierce County, Taco-

of the action. "But, there's room for many more, I'd really like to see every Hilltop organization and artist participate, it's such a great opportunity to connect with thousands, many of whom are your neighbors." You can email her at hilltopstreetfair.vendors@gmail.com. According to Gary McNary, coordinator of the food vendors, you'll be able to chow down on Vietnamese, pizza, BBQ, tacos and a wide assortment of other treats. And, he points out, "we're

street fair and expect to grow this year. The emphasis will be around short films to be shot and edited with phones and laptop editing.

2018 will be the third Hilltop Street Fair Fashion Show (now renamed the Mr. Mac Hilltop Street Fair Fashion Show) showcasing the fashion vibe of the Hilltop community and featuring area clothing designers and small clothing businesses.

There will be youth and family oriented activities at People's Park with offerings including a stage and several Youth Arts Experience Performance Spaces. Our vision is to continue this offering with a dynamic performance experience of roving arts opportunities and interactions with performance artists. Last year's Storybook Castle and large community storybook where children could illustrate and write their Hilltop story was a hit.

Centro Latino will host an exhibition of Latino art and performance as well as a continuation of the Hilltop Has a Story exhibition by Tacoma Community House and community storytelling. Again, three stages will offer a broad range of music offerings with the vast majority having connections to Tacoma and the Hilltop neighborhood.

Plans for a first Hilltop Street Fair parade are in the works. Gather your neighbors and plan an entry: maybe a lawnmower drill team, a kids decorated bicycle group, or a kazoo band. To get in on the start up or for information on the Street Fair Parade, please email Megan Clark (Meggs643@gmail.com) or call Mario Lorenz at 253 921 1718.

On August 25th, all up and down MLK Jr. Way, from 9th to 14th, the Hilltop will be "On the Move". There are many ways that residents can be involved: enter a car, submit a quilt, make a film, sign up for a vendor booth, volunteer with an idea or work with a committee, be a performer, or to help on the day of the Fair. Email hilltopstreetfair.info@gmail.com and "get a move on."



BareFoot Collective Co-Director, Kelly Lynch, says "The Barefoot Collective is delighted to support the Hilltop Street Fair. Our participation in the Hilltop Street Fair gives us the opportunity to reach as many as 25,000 people and will allow us to further our commitment to providing access to dance in our community."

The Hilltop Street Fair has something for everyone. Following

ma, and the Hilltop neighborhood so we will be expanding the venue space and number of entries. How exciting to create a physical symbol of the many diverse ideas, beliefs, and cultures which make up the whole of the Hilltop community.

Vendor coordinator, Jo Davies, reports that more than 80 vendors (artists, commercial, organizations and food) are signed up to be part

hoping that the food of every Hilltop immigrant group will be represented. We expecting that several more food vendors will be signing on."

Drena Sellers and crew are organizing the third annual Hilltop Film Showcase. They are meeting with Grand Cinema and area filmmakers to build excitement and marketing around this arts program. We had 15 entries at last year's

Affordable Housing Discussion Topics

By Korbett Mosesly

Last month, residents of the Tiki Apartments were given 20 days notice to move out. New owners had purchased the property to renovate the low-income units to raise the rent in this rising housing market. The community reacted and several organizations stepped up to help people move, access resources, and add stronger tenant protections. The issue highlights the need to come together and engage in deep, actionable conversations about proactive approaches we need to be taking now.

We are at a point that all of the options and strategies need to be on the table to expand housing availability, especially at lower income levels. I want to share some specific strategies that I think need further conversation.

Integrated Strategies

1) How do we better integrate/connect programs and strategies that help people cope with poverty, with programs and strategies that help them get out of poverty?

Solutions without Subsidies

2) Can we create a housing strate-

gy for people on a low fixed income that does not require a subsidy, because there are not enough subsidies to provide housing at the scale we need? We need more market options between \$500 to \$700.

Housing for Families

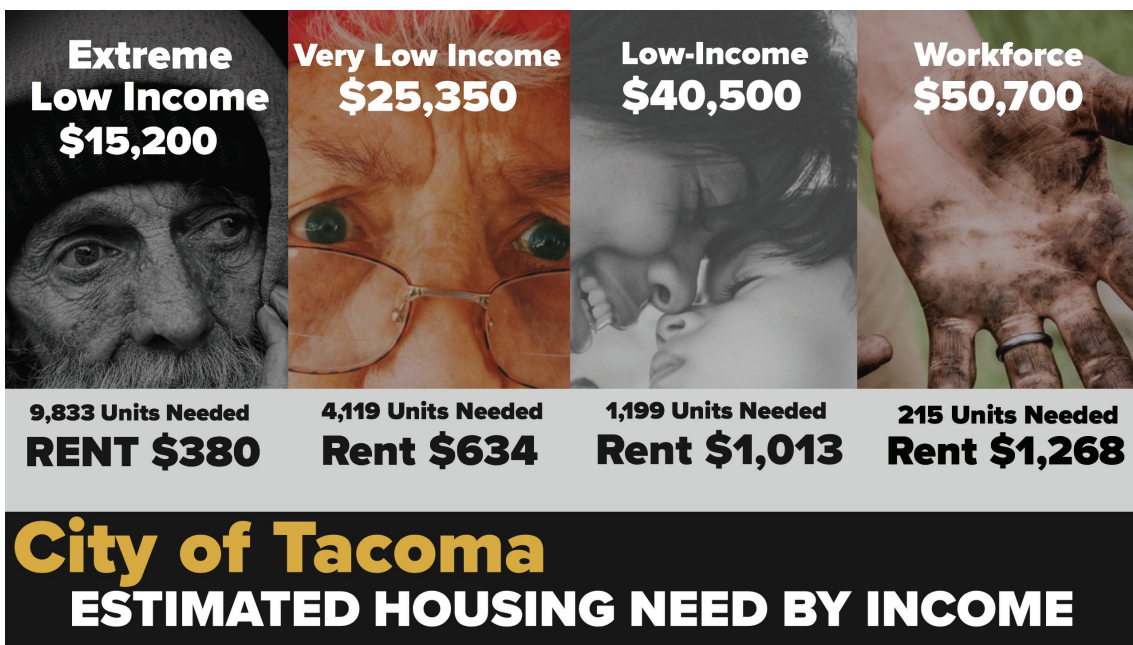
3) Most of the affordable housing that has been built are 1-2 bedrooms, which does not help the families with children in our community that bare the burden of poverty. Can we incentivize the construction of larger units?

Detached Dwelling Units

4) What is taking so long to approve DADUs? First, they can provide a small and affordable rental unit to a household. Second, they can provide the property owner with a source of income that he or she may need to afford the cost of ownership. Can we incentivize the construction of DADU's and speed this up?

Derelict Properties

5) There are 190+ boarded up derelict homes in Tacoma. 144 of them owned by individuals (Only 8 by banks). Can we figure out a way to



(Source: Tacoma Housing Authority City of Tacoma's Estimated Housing Need By Income Groups: 2010 – 2030)

deal with any repairs and the city/county taxes due to bring them back to the market. Over half have been boarded up for two years.

Building with Local Labor

6) How can we maximize economic investments to benefit and provide training and jobs opportunities for low income households, especially as we build affordable housing units in our community? How can we better capture the value of capital investments that help people start businesses and successful careers? Can we

use a similar process in the service delivery sector related to jobs for local residents?

Approaches Beyond Inclusion

7) How will equity be approached beyond inclusion? The human service delivery system is dominated by white women and men. How is the system investing in efforts led by communities of color to address affordable housing and financial instability?

Involve People Impacted

8) How can we continue to involve people directly impacted by the issues in oversight of the strategies developed by the "system" for accountability?

If you are interested in engaging online with conversations about affordable housing, search for "Tacoma Affordable Housing Advocates" on Facebook.

Hilltop Action Coalition Community Calendar

As of May 9th, 2018

***Know of something important happening in your community?
Let HAC know and we'll add it to the calendar***

----- JUNE 2018 -----

- June 4 – Monday – HAC Board Meeting 4:00pm-5:30pm
- June 6 – Wednesday – Hilltop Engagement Committee Mtg 5:00pm
(Clyde Hupp Board Room, Bates Technical College)
- June 7 – Thursday – Central Neighborhood Council Meeting
7:00pm-8:30pm (Tacoma Nature Center)
- June 13 – Wednesday – Neighborhood Council of New Tacoma
Meeting 5:30pm-7:00pm (People's Community Ctr)
- June 15 – Friday – Last Day of School (Tacoma Public Schools)
- June 18 – Monday – HAC Monthly Community Meeting 6:00pm-
7:30pm – Make It! Tacoma, Minority Business Develop-
ment Agency, and others (Hilltop Regional Health Center
- Conf Rm on MLK)
- June 19 – Tuesday – People's Community Center Steering Commit-
tee Mtg 5:00pm-6:30pm (People's Community Ctr)
- June 26 – Tuesday – HAC Links Meeting 6:00pm (HAC Office)
- June 28 – Thursday – Hilltop Library Planning Committee Mtg
5:00pm-7:00pm (Allen Russell Conf Ctr, 1321 MLK Jr
Way)

----- JULY 2018 -----

- July 2 – Monday – HAC Board Meeting 4:00pm-5:30pm
- July 4 – Wednesday – Hilltop Engagement Committee Mtg 5:00pm
(Clyde Hupp Board Room, Bates Technical College)
- July 5 – Thursday – Central Neighborhood Council Meeting 7:00pm-
8:30pm (Tacoma Nature Center)
- July 11 – Wednesday – Neighborhood Council of New Tacoma Meet-
ing 5:30pm-7:00pm (People's Community Ctr)
- July 14 – Saturday – HAC Neighborhood Leaders Meeting 10:00am
(Hilltop Action Coalition Office, 1116 Earnest Brazill)
- July 16 – Monday – HAC Monthly Community Meeting 6:00pm-
7:30pm – Presentations TBA (Hilltop Regional Health
Center - Conf Rm on MLK)
- July 17 – Tuesday – People's Community Center Steering Committee
Mtg 5:00pm-6:30pm (People's Community Ctr)
- July 21 – Saturday – 2018 Hilltop Cleanup (Evergreen College)
- July 26 – Thursday – Hilltop Library Planning Committee Mtg
5:00pm-7:00pm (Allen Russell Conf Ctr, 1321 MLK Jr
Way)
- July 31 – Tuesday – HAC Links Meeting 6:00pm (HAC Office)

----- AUGUST 2018 -----

- Aug 1 – Wednesday – Hilltop Engagement Committee Mtg 5:00pm
(Clyde Hupp Board Room, Bates Technical College)
- Aug 2 – Thursday – Central Neighborhood Council Meeting 7:00pm-
8:30pm (Tacoma Nature Center)
- Aug 6 – Monday – HAC Board Meeting 4:00pm-5:30pm
- Aug 7 – Tuesday – 2018 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!
- Aug 8 – Wednesday – Neighborhood Council of New Tacoma Meet-
ing 5:30pm-7:00pm (People's Community Ctr)
- Aug 15 – Friday – Last Day of School (Tacoma Public Schools)
- Aug 20 – Monday – HAC Monthly Community Meeting 6:00pm-
7:30pm – Presentations TBA (Hilltop Regional Health
Center - Conf Rm on MLK)
- Aug 21 – Tuesday – People's Community Center Steering Commit-
tee Mtg 5:00pm-6:30pm (People's Community Ctr)
- Aug 23 – Thursday – Hilltop Library Planning Committee Mtg
5:00pm-7:00pm (Allen Russell Conf Ctr, 1321 MLK Jr
Way)
- Aug 25 – Saturday – Hilltop Street Fair
- Aug 28 – Tuesday – HAC Links Meeting 6:00pm (HAC Office)

Hilltop Action Coalition
(253) 442-8848

1116 Earnest S. Brazill St, Tacoma, WA 98405

Office Hours: Tues thru Fri 10am – 2pm

Closed Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays

www.hilltopactioncoalition.org

hacoffice15@gmail.com

Keep up with the HAction, visit our Facebook page.

LINKS TO OPPORTUNITY



STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The Links to Opportunity Streetscape Improvements Project is engaging the community to help redesign the sidewalk and pedestrian areas along MLK Jr Way, Division Ave, and N 1st Street. The Streetscape Improvements Project is part of a City of Tacoma effort that strives to improve social and economic opportunities in communities along the Tacoma Link Light Rail Extension Corridor.

STAY ENGAGED WITH THE DESIGN!

Contact us or stop by the office

Andy Micklow | 253-318-5626
1120 South 11th Street, Tacoma
cityoftacoma.org/links

Storefront Office

1120 South 11th Street, Tacoma

HOURS:

MONDAYS	9-2
TUESDAYS	9-4
WEDNESDAYS	9-1
THURSDAYS	9-1 & 2-6
FRIDAYS	9-2



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Graduate Tacoma Hits Major Milestone with 89% Graduation Rate

5-Year Extended graduation rate for Black students reaches record 92%

By Kristie Gledhill

The Graduate Tacoma cradle-to-career partnership has released its 2018 Community Impact Report, the highlight of which is record-breaking graduation rates. Tacoma Public Schools' 5-year extended graduation rate has topped the 2010 community-built goal of a "50% increase by 2020." 89% of the Class of 2016 graduated within 5 years. That's two points higher – and four years earlier – than the 2020 goal.

Graduate Tacoma - a community partnership movement focused on closing gaps in access, opportunity, and achievement for ALL students, also announced that the 5-year extended graduation rate for Black students (92%) exceeds that of White students (89%) for the first time. The gap between Hispanic (86%) and White students has closed

to just 3 points for the 5-year rate. The Class of 2017 also exceeded Graduate Tacoma's 4-year on-time graduation rate goal (85% by Class of 2020) by one point this year, to 86%. That's up 31 points from 55%, with gains across all demographics, surpassing the state average for a fourth year.

Other highlights of the 2018 Community Impact Report include:

89% of sixth graders are passing all or all but one class - a 12-point increase over baseline

A 38-point rise over baseline in the number of students taking college-credit-eligible classes

A full 99% of 12th-grade students taking the SAT college-entry exam

"As a partnership, in close collaboration with TPS," said Eric Wilson, CEO of the Foundation for Tacoma Students, "Graduate Tacoma is creating a new culture of higher expecta-

tions, of opportunity for all students, and of community-wide accountability for equity and student success."

The 2018 data illuminates many bright spots with respect to the impact of the Graduate Tacoma partnership's work and many opportunities for improvement still exist, specifically in the rates of kindergarten readiness, third-grade reading and literacy, student attendance, and college enrollment and completion.

The Foundation for Tacoma Students identifies, collects, analyzes, and shares data on student and community demographics and performance with the 268 community partners who make up the Graduate Tacoma movement. Targets and data-to-action plans are developed by four Collaborative Action Networks, who use the data to measure progress and strategize in monthly meetings at Graduate Tacoma headquarters

at South 9th and J Streets. Using a results-based collective impact approach, the Foundation provides a backbone of support to community-driven work, aimed at success and achievement for all students from early developmental screening through college completion.

"What gets measured gets done," is a familiar phrase used by TPS Superintendent Carla Santorno, whose administration collaborates with Graduate Tacoma, transparently sharing data, strategies, ideas, and results. "We're proud of the wide and diverse community involvement we have here to move the needle on student achievement," she said. "That's what is so different about the Tacoma story."

More complete information on data for all 17 of the Graduate Tacoma Student and Community Indicators can be found on the Graduate Tacoma website: PDF files of all Community

Impact Reports, as well as interactive Data Dashboards showing longitudinal data that can be filtered is available at GraduateTacoma.org/Data.

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Graduate Tacoma's Community-Built Goal: By the class of 2020, WE WILL increase by 50% both the graduation rate of Tacoma Public Schools students and those who complete a college degree or technical certificate. Success will require measuring and closing gaps in access, opportunities, and achievement for all students from cradle to college and career.

MultiCare and Habitat for Humanity Team Up for Affordable Housing

By Elliot Stockstad

Years ago MultiCare Health System purchased four older homes near Tacoma General Hospital with the intent to create office space and provide for campus expansion. However, before plans could be finalized, the neighborhood's zoning was changed making the four homes part of a historic district. The new zoning protects the houses - some of which are now more than 100 years old - from being torn down or modified for another purpose.

As MultiCare contemplated another use for the property, the need for affordable housing was on the mind of organization CEO William Robertson, and Habitat for Humanity was identified as a natural partner for rehabbing the homes and putting them to good use. MultiCare has long recognized the critical role safe and decent housing plays in the healthcare continuum and has been an integral

partner to Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity - providing grant funding, hosting volunteer build days for employees, and supporting Habitat's fundraising events.



As the property donation was discussed, the original plan was for Habitat homebuyers to purchase

the homes, following much-needed rehabilitation. But the combination of the homes' assessed values post-renovation, estimated property taxes, and the cost associated with

the ongoing maintenance of a historic home prove to be an unsustainable solution for the typical Habitat

homebuyer - who earns between 30-80% of the area's median income.

Habitat and MultiCare agreed that the best and highest use of the four properties is to sell the renovated homes on the open market and use the proceeds to create affordable homeownership opportunities. The anticipated net revenue from this unique fundraiser will fund up to 11 new homes - launching an entire community and providing 11 families stability and self-reliance through an affordable mortgage. It's a vision with a pay-it-forward, multiplier effect.

As Bill Robertson put it, "Habitat is an outstanding organization dedicated to making sure families have affordable and safe housing. Partnering with them on this project supports MultiCare's mission of creating a healthy future for our community. This donation will help launch a community and have a lasting, positive impact on the lives of the families who will live there."

Habitat relies on the generosity

of the community to save costs and leverage this gift from MultiCare to its fullest. Volunteers - including college students on alternate Spring Break trips, through Habitat's Collegiate Challenge program - did the initial demolition. Highly skilled Habitat volunteers handle the more technical restoration work, supported by subcontractors when needed, and with contributions from generous in-kind donors.

Once complete, the houses will be listed by the team at Windermere Abode, who have agreed to donate their commission on the sales to make the gift and positive impact stretch even further.



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