



TACOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For Immediate Release: March 4, 2017

New Exhibit Features Northeast Tacoma

Tacoma Historical Society is pleased to announce the upcoming exhibit “Northeast Tacoma: Two Points of View,” presented in partnership with Points Northeast Historical Society. A free public opening reception will be held Thursday evening, March 16, from 5 to 7 pm at the Tacoma Historical Society Museum, 919 Pacific Avenue. The exhibit continues through Saturday, June 3, 2017. Museum hours are 11 am to 4 pm, Wednesday through Saturday, and by appointment. Admission is free.

The exhibit features the early development of Northeast Tacoma, including Browns Point and Dash Point, lighthouse keepers Oscar and Annie Brown, and Native American real estate developer Jerry Meeker. The exhibit includes photos and items from Northeast Tacoma’s pioneer Dash Point School and is curated by Mavis Stears and the Museum Committee of Points Northeast Historical Society.

“We’re thrilled to partner with Tacoma Historical Society,” said Points Northeast Historical Society president, Linda Van Nest. “We have a rich history, and are delighted to have the opportunity to remind visitors that we’re part of Tacoma, too.”

In conjunction with the exhibit Tacoma Historical Society will host a variety of events, including an afternoon of lighthouse craft activities for children, and living history re-enactor Victoria Pann portraying Annie Brown.

The timing of the exhibit recognizes the twenty-fifth anniversary of the creation of Tacoma’s Neighborhood Council districts. “We hope other areas of our city will be inspired to share their stories with us,” said Bill Baarsma, Tacoma Historical Society president.

WHAT: Tacoma Historical Society will open its newest exhibit, “Northeast Tacoma: Two Points of View,” in partnership with Points Northeast Historical Society.

WHEN: Free Exhibit Opening Reception: Thursday, March 16, 2017, 5:00-7:00 pm

WHERE: Tacoma Historical Society Museum, 919 Pacific Avenue in the historic Provident Building

DURATION: The exhibit will be on display from March 16 through June 3, 2017.

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Schedule of Programs and Events “Northeast Tacoma: Two Points of View”

Thursday, March 16, 5 to 7 pm: Exhibit Opening Reception
Tacoma Historical Society Museum, 919 Pacific Avenue

Saturday, April 1, 10:30 am: Tacoma Historical Society Exhibits “Sharing Stories”
Presented by Deb Freedman, Kobetich Branch Library, 212 Browns Point Boulevard NE

Sunday, April 23, 2 pm: “Annie Brown: Keeping the Light”
Meet Annie Brown, wife of Tacoma’s first lighthouse keeper Oscar Brown, as portrayed by living history re-enactor Victoria Pann. Free admission and free street parking.
Tacoma Historical Society Museum, 919 Pacific Avenue

Saturday, May 20, 11 am to 1 pm: Lighthouse Crafts for Kids
Did you know that Tacoma’s lighthouse is square, not round? Thanks to Pam Halsan, Browns Point Boy Scout Troop #398 and Scoutmaster Jerry Montiel for preparation of craft materials. Craft activities and museum admission are free, but registration is suggested. (253) 472-3738
Tacoma Historical Society Museum, 919 Pacific Avenue

Saturday, June 3, at 12 noon: Northeast Tacoma Tour
Begin at the historic 1924 Dash Point Elementary School, 6546 Dash Point Boulevard NE, now the home of Northpoint Cooperative Preschool. Jill Barkley, co-founder of PNEHS, will guide visitors through the museum display, formerly the principal’s office. Then explore the grounds of the Browns Point lighthouse and cottage at your leisure, a short drive away at 201 Tulalip Street NE. Docents will be available between 1 and 4 pm. Bring a picnic and enjoy the beach! Co-sponsored by the City of Tacoma’s Historic Preservation Office.
Points Northeast Historical Society, (253) 927-2536

“Northeast Tacoma: Two Points of View” exhibit continues until 4 pm Saturday, June 3
Tacoma Historical Society Museum, 919 Pacific. Open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (253) 472-3738. www.tacomahistory.org

Did You Know?

Browns Point (no apostrophe) was officially renamed in 1901, replacing Charles Wilkes’ 1841 designation as Point Harris. Although the area was known as Point Brown throughout the 1880s and 1890s, it was entirely coincidental that the first light keeper bore the moniker of Oscar Brown. The original fog bell is now on the grounds of the University of Puget Sound.

Native American real estate developer Jerry Meeker, often called the “Father of Browns Point,” began life as La-Hal-Da. His father, Sky-uch, a member of the Puyallup tribe, took the last name Meeker from his employer, Ezra Meeker. Jerry adopted his anglicized first name from one of his best friends, but gave Native American names to many of Northeast Tacoma’s streets, including his own.

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About Tacoma Historical Society: Tacoma Historical Society is a community-supported volunteer-driven 501(c)(3) charitable, nonprofit corporation, and is dedicated to the preservation, promotion and presentation of the history of the City of Tacoma and its people. Tacoma Historical Society works to forge connections between past and present generations, fostering an appreciation of the past and a sense of place within our community’s history.

www.tacomahistory.org