

HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

Fall 2019 | Hilltop Action Coalition | volunteer organized | www.hilltopactioncoalition.org



Hilltop Storefront Murals

Jo Davies

Recently, the Hilltop Action Coalition saved a little bit of Hilltop history when it moved the last remaining “Hilltop Storefront Murals” into storage.

In these two panels, a collaboration by R.R. Anderson and Morgan Alexander, the viewer is looking through the window of an Italian restaurant where cartoon characters are enjoying large plates of spaghetti and meatballs. They have been mounted on the former sausage factory next to Vallhalla Hall in the 1200 block of MLK Jr. Way since the “Music and Murals” event in September of 2007.

Alexander was the founder of Tacoma Works and in 2006 he organized the community “Hill-

top Storefront Murals Project” during which artists and community members created murals for several vacant buildings on MLK. Alexander’s inspiration for the project was based on a similar project in Columbia City. The murals created a vision of what the boarded up buildings could become and some of those visions have come, or are coming, true.

The Storefront Murals Project was one of community building through art. Alexander’s call for artists was answered by practicing and aspiring artists alike who donated their time and talent. Paint and materials were donated by businesses and organizations and volunteers showed up for a myriad of other tasks. Experi-

enced artists coached the beginners and folks stopped by the workshop for a period of time, or just an hour or two. Orzio says “we shared paints and brushes - it all flowed wonderfully.” For a culminating event on September 8, 2007, the Martin Luther King Housing Development Authority revived the Music and Murals festival which had been on hiatus for three years.

The murals became the property of the building owners and most have vanished with the demolition/renovation of those buildings. If you were involved in creating the murals, have pictures of them, or know of their whereabouts, we’d love to hear from you. Please contact the Hilltop Action Coalition office at 253-442-8848

Be ‘Loyal to the Local’ in Stadium & Hilltop Districts

Sound Transit

You can make a difference in your community. When you visit your local neighborhood restaurants, shops and services you not only get a unique experience, you connect with your community. Be loyal to your local. Visiting local businesses during construction will help keep the community vibrant. Instead of driving across town, keep it local.

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light rail. The Business Relations program helps local businesses succeed through collaboration, shared tools and resources. Transit helps build a stronger, more vibrant community, including strong businesses, by connecting people and places throughout the region. Contact Rossana Garner, Business Relations Program Officer, at (206) 689-3373 or rossana.garner@soundtransit.org to find out more.

*Loyal to the Local information provided by Sound Transit.



Hilltop Action Journal

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Community Priorities

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- Safety through Community Policing
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- 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



Join Us

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!



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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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Presidents Message

By Brendan Nelson

Today, our community is impacted by rapid gentrification and displacement. Families who have called the Hilltop home for decades find themselves unable to pay sky-rocketing property taxes, effectively pushing them out of the area. A lack of affordable housing options forces low-income families further from education and employment opportunities and people experiencing homelessness is at an all time high.

These are the very issues Hilltop Action Coalition is committed to addressing,

every day. We are working in partnership with Tacoma Housing Authority, City of Tacoma, and many other organizations to engage in meaningful dialogue that produce action items for us to aggressively work towards. HAC is also gathering data to influence policy and shed light on issues critical to creating opportunity and prosperity within the community.

As we move forward together, I hope we will be open to the thoughts, ideas and opinions of others and engage in ways that strengthen the Hilltop. Being a part of a community can make us feel as though we are a part of something

greater than ourselves. It can give us opportunities to connect with people, to reach for our goals, and moves us towards a vibrant and thriving place to live, work and play.

I am extremely honored to serve the Hilltop and look forward to more challenging and courageous conversations.

In service,

Brendan Nelson
President, Hilltop Action Coalition

Community Micro Libraries

Kristin Giraldin

The Hilltop Library Planning Committee (HLPC) is grateful to City Council Member Keith Blocker, Metro Parks Executive Director Shon Sylvia and Tacoma Public Library (TPL) Director Kate Larsen for hosting a Town Hall, on February 21st at the People's Center, to discuss ways to bring library services to the Hilltop neighborhood. TPL opened the Eastside Micro-library in September and plans to place a micro-library in the Hilltop neighborhood. Micro-libraries (self-service kiosk) contain a browsing collection of traditional library materials, laptops and portable Internet access points, and serve as a pickup location for items placed on hold. The kiosks will accept items being returned and are placed in facilities that have space available for library events. The events and the kiosk collection will be tailored for each community by an Outreach Librarian.



Director Larsen has said that the kiosk is not intended to take the place of a possible future library branch. She is forming a committee to oversee a feasibility study, conducted by consultants, to determine if there is a need for a branch library in the Hilltop neighborhood. A member of HLPC will sit on the committee. The feasibility study is expected to be completed by the end of this year. HLPC is always open to new members

and new ideas.

Join us from 6:00 to 7:30 on the 4th Thursday of the month at the Hilltop Regional Health Center, 1202 MLK Jr Way.

Email us at contact@tacomahilltoplibrary.org for more information.



Hilltop Action Coalition Summer Social

Staff

Hilltop Action Coalition's (HAC) first Summer Social was held this summer, in conjunction with Art on the Hill. Two Hilltop Hope Murals by artists R.R. Anderson and Morgan Alexander were on display which show cartoon characters eating spaghetti. This artwork was inspired by the community's desire to have an Italian restaurant on the Hilltop. In the near future, these two murals will be located at Hilltop Loans, 1101 S 11th ST, Tacoma. What a treat to have them refurbished and on view again!

The Summer Social was designed as an informal friend and fundraiser. HAC's office and outdoor sidewalk area offered a splendid space to connect with friends and catch up on neighborhood news while having a glass of wine or beer. HAC's board members, community engagement liaison and office manager were present to meet and chat with. It

was a really great opportunity to visit with community members and meet people new to the Hilltop. A good time was had by all!

Many attendees generously donated to Hilltop Action Coalition - and for that, we are very grateful. Your donation enables our non-profit to be more proactive and have a greater impact in our Hilltop neighborhood. This allows us to mobilize and empower diverse individuals, families, community organizations and businesses to build a safe, clean, resilient and united community.

The Summer Social was a great success and will be held again next summer 2020. Until then, come on by the Hilltop Regional Health Center's Conference Room on the 3rd Mondays of each month from 6-7:30 pm to stay connected with HAC's Monthly Community Meetings. Come for the HAction, leave empowered!



Former Alumni Creates Opportunities for Students and Communities to Thrive

Jason Reddock

Successful alumni almost always play a generous role in supporting the aspirations of today's students. From donating funds to universities to reflect modern trends in education to building organizations that employ students as interns, alumni serve their communities in countless ways, even when they choose to do so in secret. That was the case this time when an anonymous alum urged administrators to act on a gap in its curriculum after donating a large sum of money to The Evergreen State College. Historically, The Evergreen State College has lacked a dedicated business program, although 25% of its alumni are self-employed (based on a 2016 survey conducted by the College). Many students develop their ideas while attending TESC and then take what they've learned back to their communities to test and iterate their business and enterprise plans.

Until now, nothing has been done to formally capture this entrepreneurial spirit. Enter Entrepreneurship at Evergreen, "a project to deliberately raise the profile of and student engagement with entrepreneurial skills and opportunities and create a pathway for students to refine their ideas and skills." Ironically, droves of liberal arts students are rumored to despise capitalism after reading what some consider too many books on social justice. Still, a handful of students find ways to satisfy their entrepreneurial leanings and build

successful organizations.

"The key is to learn to use the principles of capitalism responsibly," says Scott Morgan, Director of Sustainability at the Olympia campus, "To create win-win situations that solve two or more problems just like a social enterprise, a hybrid business model with a social mission. The intent is to encourage self-sufficiency and meet the long-term needs of students after they graduate."

The \$1.5M donation—rumored to originate from an anonymous alum who excelled in business—is to support the deliberate work of the college to encourage and build on the ideas students developed and applied during their time at "the nation's only alternative, liberal-arts college that's also publicly funded." The donation is expected to fund three years of operations, although other sources of funding are being researched to ensure that there are no gaps in programming. All funds will be used to support student success programs at both campuses of The Evergreen State College.

Before this donation many students relied on grit and ingenuity to start their own businesses. Take Marzella Harris, for example, an Evergreen-Tacoma alum, who out of frustration with the level of compassion she received from government agencies and community resources while a single mother with four children, sat down at her kitchen table in Kent in 2003 with a friend to start a jointly-owned nonprofit, called

True Blessings, to assist low-income families, at-risk youth, and immigrants in Pierce County with essential resources and human services. Their idea was to bring truth, honesty, and integrity to the social service system by only offering food, clothes, and services that they would personally eat, wear, and use. A noble concept that has allowed this organization to receive grants from the Greater Tacoma Foundation and the seal of approval from The Secretary of State's Office.

Because community is at the heart of The Evergreen State College-Tacoma experience, many students visit the college year after year to update staff and faculty on their personal and professional progress. With large swaths of students earning bachelor's degrees in social and human services, establishing a co-op at TESC-Tacoma is a natural extension of the curriculum. TESC-Tacoma plans to use its portion of the funds to develop a student-led cooperative to address the long-term needs of its student body. Services the co-op will offer include childcare, food service, and a Sankofa gear store. Each service will develop independently as resources become available.

A Sankofa gear store merchandised with t-shirts, sweaters, and hoodies will open in December 2018, just in time for winter.

"We want to start small with a solid base, and then build on that

base," says Dr. Zaragoza, a Political Economy Professor at Evergreen-Tacoma, "We want students to get good at finding opportunities, have the skills to build those opportunities and, more importantly, have the ability to work together cooperatively, make decisions cooperatively, and own and control things cooperatively."

At a college that values reciprocity, inclusivity, civility, and hospitality, the Tacoma campus has a rich history of community building and giving back. From its annual spring fair to its open-door policy for community members to join and participate in all Lyceum and classroom discussions, student and community success is at the forefront of this college's mission. In addition to students learning marketable skills in team-building, collaboration, recruiting and training, fundraising, customer service, and retail operations, students will develop creativity and innovation and learn how to be self-sufficient in an uncertain world. Above all, students will be able to test their ideas in a safe "skills-building laboratory" and master business principles that they can immediately use in their businesses, communities, or on the job.

According to Sherwanda Beck-Atkinson, the Student and Activities Board Event Coordinator, the challenge is documenting and preserving the progress past students have made during their college tenure. "We have to lay out a kind of blueprint, so the next group will

have something to build from," says Sherwanda, "I don't want to take all of the secrets with me when I leave."

Because cohorts change quarterly at this university, students often take their ideas and their notes with them on the next leg of their academic journey. Capturing these ideas and preserving them for future use is key to building thriving organizations and communities with shared goals and engaged members. Engaged members move the needle.

Without the help of an engaged alum, business programs at The Evergreen State College would still be a topic discussed briefly in administrator meetings and recorded in the minutes. Because this engaged alum had the courage to move forward and reach back—in the spirit of the Sankofa bird—current and future students can now transform their "inspiration into enterprise" the same way she did and help their communities at the same time. You can too.

For details about current and future programming at the Tacoma campus, please call Natasha Lemke at 253.680.3005, email at lemken@evergreen.edu, or visit the college at 1210 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA 98405.



the
evergreen
state college

YOUR WAY TO THE WORLD

Connectedness Through Reading

Olivia Ash

A sea of books sat in front of her, but only one caught her attention. The 2nd grade student, originally from Iraq, was beside herself with excitement. Her eyes got wide as soon as she saw it—"Salam Alaikum: A Message of Peace" by Harris J. She ran across the room, held up the book, and furiously tapped the illustration on the front cover of a woman in a hijab.

"This is an Iraq book! This is an Iraq book!" she told her friend. "I'm from Iraq," she said, "and in Iraq, they wear these," she said, pointing to the woman in the headscarf.

Her classmates nodded and smiled, and the student beamed. It was a powerful moment that highlighted the importance of representation. The student was able to see herself reflected in the book, prompting her to share her enthusiasm with her classmates. At its core, this is what the Read2Me program strives to do—to connect students with books that are meaningful, relevant and interesting, and to make them accessible through the support of a caring adult mentor.

Read2Me is a unique tutoring program that strives to meet students where they are at, and with

as few barriers as possible. Students read with their tutors weekly during the school day for 30- to 45-minute sessions, choosing from the leveled library in the Read2Me space. By



giving students choice in what books they read, there is more buy-in from the student as they discover topics and titles that they are interested in.

The students also build Social Emotional Learning skills, as they engage with their tutors through reading and discussion. Students and tutors start each session by reflecting on how they are feeling, by sharing their "zones," from the Zones of Regulation framework. Tutors use their check-in to tailor the session to the student's needs.

Amanda Roane, teacher at Manitou Park, saw her students grow in both reading and confidence.

"My students that are participating in the Read2Me program this year have made tremendous growth. They went from being a full school year behind in reading to reading on-grade level texts. In addition, they've developed a love for reading by discovering what types of books they're interested in and have developed meaningful relationships with their mentors."

Are you interested in becoming a Read2Me volunteer? Contact Olivia Ash to learn more about the program, and next steps to becoming a 2019-2020 Tutor.



Tacoma Tree Foundation has been gearing up this year and they've announced several partnerships in the neighborhood! The Hilltop Shade Tree Program makes free shade trees available for the south side of properties. This project is a partnership between

Tacoma Tree Foundation and Tacoma Public Utilities. The Hilltop Native Plant and Fruit Tree Distribution program also provides a variety of trees and plants to help green Tacoma. Register today by filling out the form here: <https://www.tacomatreefoundation.org/registration>

Hilltop Cleanup Success

Staff

The Hilltop Neighborhood Cleanup was another success this year. The annual event helps neighborhood groups provide an opportunity for residents and community members to come together to get rid of trash and other items. This program through the City of Tacoma has resulted in the removal of 771.64 tons of unwanted items throughout the City. The Hilltop Action Coalition once again partnered for this year's clean up that took place in July at the Tacoma campus of the Evergreen State College. With volunteers, and snacks, we cleaned up our neighborhood and got rid of 44.54 tons of tires, mattresses and other unwanted items. Not only was this an opportunity to get rid of all that stuff that tends to

accumulate around our homes and yards over the course of the year, it was also a great time to contribute to making the Hilltop a more beautiful place to live, and to make new connections with our neighbors. There were over 140 neighbors that came by and participated in the cleanup! And a special thank you to our volunteers and City staff that made it possible. We look forward to another successful event next year and encourage more neighbors to participate and volunteer. There is a role for everyone! Stay tuned for more information on the next Hilltop cleanup.



LaVonne's Room: A Special Kind of Kids' Store

Bridget Demerson has been working on a new retail storefront in the Hilltop called Lavonne's Room. The store will provide low-cost clothes, shoes, toys and apparel for newborns and young children! You can find the store at 1120 S 11th Street (former Key Bank) and while they don't have regular hours yet, you can connect with Bridget online at <https://www.facebook.com/lavonnesroomakidstore/>. Bridget's story is inspiring and shows how one can emerge from a devastating time in their life and find ways to assist families experiencing the same loss.

Here is Bridget Demerson's story.

Lavonne's room started with an idea to properly honor her son LaVonne Kenneth Edlin. LaVonne was born June 26th, 1993, and suddenly passed August 30th, 1993 - cause of death was Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Bridget was a teen mom at the time of his birth, and since his death, she always wanted to properly honor him, his name his life.

Back in March, a friend of hers asked what she was going to do when she decided not to bartend anymore. She said that if she could, she would open a nonprofit children's thrift store right here in the Hilltop where she has spent most of her adult life. The store would be adorable and affordable to the community. It would be staffed with teen mom volunteers to give them an opportunity to learn some retail customer service ...as a training program with hopes to allow them to earn some elective credits towards their high school diploma. Oakland Alternative High School has agreed to offer this program to

their teen moms. Also, the proceeds from the store would go to help low income families who were faced with the same tragedy as Bridget was by providing assistance with burial costs for infants that have passed away due to SIDS.

Now, here we are - LaVonne's Room has opened its doors for business! This would not have been possible without the support of the community: from all the donations received and the support of key individuals who believed in the idea. Bridget gives special thanks to Roberta and Chris, with the Tacoma Housing Authority, Kiara Daniels from Spaceworks, and her fiscal sponsor who have all worked to make her dream of LaVonne's Room come true.

Being able to provide our Hilltop Community with this "special kind of kid store" brings so much joy ... this area was in much need of a store just like this where families could come get really cute outfits and affordable necessities needed for their children.

The hope is for this to be a success and grow to really make a difference within our community... a positive difference. So, please come check it out! There are great goodies to offer at a great price. Your donations of newborn to 5T clothing, shoes, books, toys, car seats, high chairs, strollers, toddler beds, etc. are also needed to help support this great cause. The shop is located at 1120 South 11th Street right on the corner of 11th and L Street in the Old Key Bank building. Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 12 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thank you, Hilltop Community, for your support!



Printmaking shop appears at Washington State History Museum

Julianna Verboort

Have you ever seen a hand-operated printing press in action? You can do just that at the Washington State History Museum's Write253 Pop Up Print Shop on select dates through April, 2020. You'll even get a chance to operate a small press in the shop and make a print to take home.

Write253 is a nonprofit literacy arts organization that provides youth with meaningful and transformative writing opportunities that create community in greater Tacoma. They offer poetry festivals, book clubs, tutoring, writing workshops for college applications, and more. The organization will collaborate with local writers and print artists at the History Museum, and will make and sell limited edition prints with proceeds supporting Write253 programs.

Michael Haeflinger, Write253's executive director, said "Write253 is very excited to add printmaking to our roster of programs. We think that this art form is an invaluable tool for young people to express themselves and to learn new skills. We are grateful to the History Museum for partnering in this endeavor, and look forward to engaging with the community."

Printmakers will be on hand in the Write253 Pop Up Print Shop to facilitate visitors with operating a press to make a free print of their own. The artwork will be set up ahead of time, and different themes will be featured on different pop up dates. Connecting with the current exhibition A New Moon Rises, on October 10, 12, and 17 the pop up shop will feature limited edition moon

prints for sale, and a moon-related print on the Kelsey printing press for public to engage with. In association with the exhibition Little Black Dress: A Fashion Evolution, the October 18 limited edition print will be a special Little Black Dress designed by Taylor Cox. The take-home free print will also be fashion-related. On November 10, Write253 will collaborate with Tacoma Poet Laureate Abby E. Murray for a unique Veterans Day print.

"We are thrilled to partner with Write253 on this project. It offers museum visitors a chance to connect with historical content through a hands-on activity," said the History Museum's lead programs manager, adding, "And let's be honest, printmaking is also just really fun!"

Visit the Write253 Pop Up Print Shop at the History Museum between now and the end of April, 2020. Details at WashingtonHistory.org/Write253.

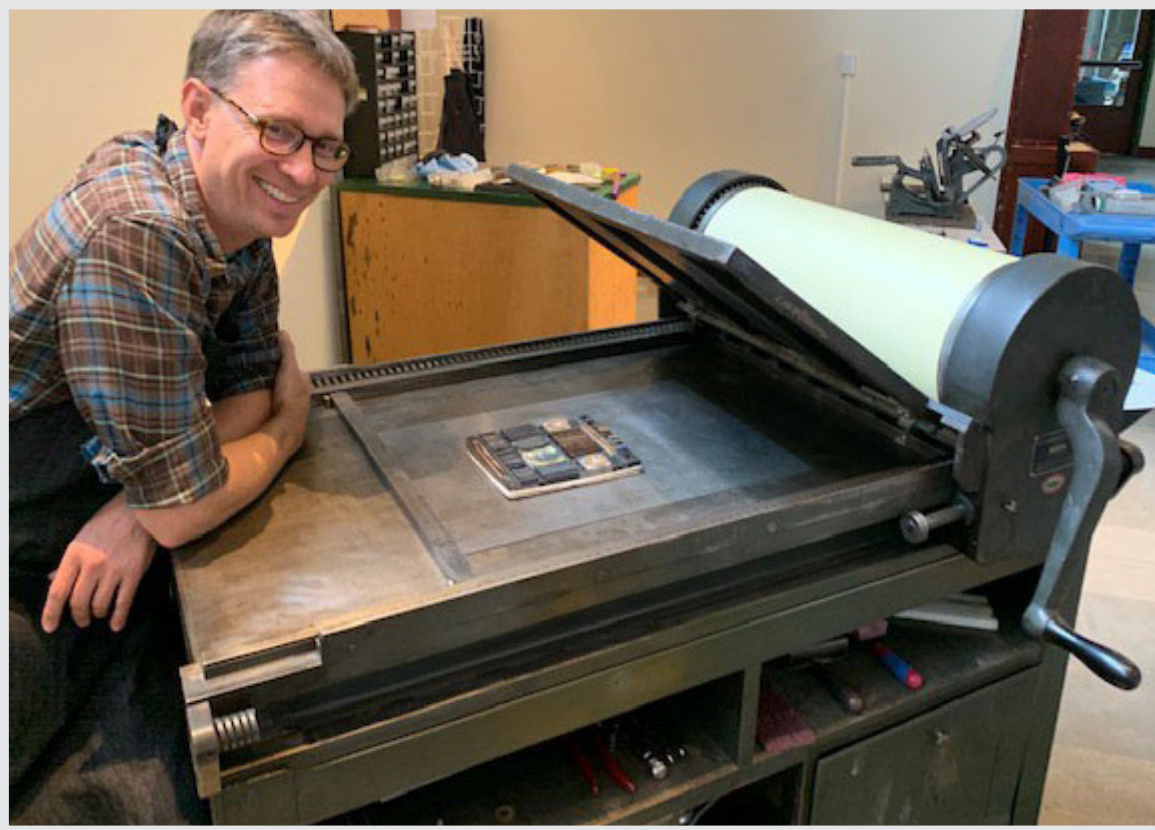
Write253 Pop Up Print Shop schedule through 2019:

- October 10, 7:00-10:00 PM
- Open during Washington In Spaaaace! (an ages 21+ ticketed event)
- October 12, 1:00-3:00 PM
- Open during Family Saturday hours (included with admission, FREE for WSHS members)
- October 17, 3:00-8:00 PM
- Open during FREE Third Thursday hours
- October 18, 5:30-8:30 PM
- Open during the Little Black Dress Fashion Show (a ticketed

after-hours event, FREE for members)

- November 9, 1:00-3:00 PM
- Open during Family Saturday hours (included with admission or FREE for members)
- November 10, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM, Veterans Day observance
- Write 253 and Tacoma Poet Laureate Abby E. Murray will collaborate to make a special print for Veterans Day. (included with admission; FREE for veterans with ID and up to five family members)
- November 21, 3:00-8:00 PM
- Open during FREE Third Thursday hours
- December 5, 7:00-10:00 PM
- Open during Bootleggers' Ball (an ages 21+ ticketed event)
- December 14, 1:00-3:00 PM
- Open during Family Saturday hours (included with admission or FREE for members)
- December 19, 3:00-8:00 PM
- Open during FREE Third Thursday hours
- December 21, 5:00-7:30 PM
- Open during Model Train Festival Members Appreciation Night (for WSHS members only).

January through April dates will be scheduled soon.



Homelessness: A Social Problem That Needs to be Solved

Kristine Coman

A lot of people are asking important questions about the homeless situation in the Hilltop. The most common questions I hear are, "How come we can't use port-a-potties at homeless encampments? How come they don't just place the homeless people in a camp to keep them from camping at parks and sidewalks? Can homeless people camp on the grassy strips between the sidewalk and the street? Is Puyallup really bussing their homeless people to Tacoma?"

I was thankful to get a lot of answers at the October 9th New Tacoma Neighborhood Council Meeting.

Council members sent questions ahead of time to City of Tacoma and were happy to have Captain Shawn Stringer with Tacoma Police Department's (TPD) Community Policing Division at the meeting. Captain Stringer supervises outreach efforts. During the course of his report, the important questions were answered:

- 1) How come we can't use port-a-potties at homeless encampments? In the recent past, Tacoma tried using port-a-potties to reduce human waste; unfortunately, the portable bathrooms became commodified, being used for drug use, prostitution, and worse than that – females were forced to 'pay' for use of the bathroom facility. Captain Stringer stated that Sea Mar and other organizations are allowing the use of their public restrooms.
- 2) How come they don't just place the homeless people in a camp to keep them from camping at parks and sidewalks? Forcing homeless to all be in one camp leads to bullying of the disabled and increased violence and drug activity. A camp promotes homelessness versus re-housing services.
- 3) Can homeless people camp on the grassy strips between the sidewalk and the street? Attendees were reminded of the Boise decision that states cities cannot criminalize homelessness. If you have no shelter

space to take a homeless person, you cannot remove them from public property or sidewalks; or, in other words, you cannot enforce anti-vagrancy laws or prohibit someone from camping in public parks or on sidewalks. The City of Tacoma is considering a sidewalk ordinance that would require all sidewalks to be ADA compliant, meaning 3-4 feet access width with no obstructions. In addition, at the Oct 1st Tacoma City Council Meeting, Council Members voted 8-1 to approve an ordinance that would ban tents with walls from city parks. Due to the public comments received at the meeting, Council voted a 60-day extension for the park ordinance to be in effect in hopes of finding a better solution for this housing crisis.

4) Is Puyallup really bussing their homeless people to Tacoma?" This was the easy question to answer – Yes, but only women and children. Puyallup does not have a shelter for women with young children; however, the Salvation Army runs a family lodge in Tacoma where they are sent.

A stability site for the homeless was also discussed. Catholic Community Services oversees the site (opened in 2017 in the Port of Tacoma) with the ambition of relocating patrons within 90 days to more permanent housing. Funding ends at the end of 2019. If a patron is making progress, their time at the site can be extended; if a patron is not taking steps to progress, then they have to leave. A large number of people are on the waiting list to get into the stability site. City Council will be voting in November on whether or not to increase the funding passed 2019.

Homelessness is a social problem that everyone wants the police to solve. I'm hoping Tacoma leaders, businesses, non-profits, and residents can find the answers to ending this social problem and lead the way for other cities to follow.



MOMENT OF BLESSING

Jahleen Mitchell

That which was taken from us by violence and death we reclaim as a place of life, community, and hope.

Moment of Blessing

Community Member

Hilltop Action Coalition, Peace Lutheran Church and Trinity Presbyterian Church brought community members together at the corner of 10th and L Street for a moment to pause and remember that a human life was taken in the Hilltop.

Jahleen Mitchell will be greatly missed by his family - his beloved 8 year old daughter, his mom, brothers, cousins, aunts and uncles in the Tacoma area as well as his father and family members residing in Jamaica.

At the Moment of Blessing, we came together as a community to pray for all involved and to reclaim and bless the space as sacred, a place of life. This act of love reminds those who pass by 10th and L that violence does not belong here - our neighborhood is a place of peace, a place for families, and a place for community.

If you would like to donate to Jahleen's funeral and medical expenses, please visit this [gofundme](https://www.gofundme.com) account today.

Jahleen Mitchell's name was added to the ribbons that adorn the poles

representing those who have died violent deaths in Pierce County since 2005. Purple is for domestic violence, yellow is for youth, orange is death by gun violence and red is all other violent deaths. These poles are a sober reminder that violence is not the answer.

Tacoma residents are ready to lead their Welcoming City to peace. A CALL2ACTION march to Put the Guns Down was held at 1pm on this same date as a 'call to end violence in Tacoma'.



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INFO



Voter Registration

Are you Registered to Vote? Need to find a ballot drop box near you? Visit <https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/328/Elections> today to:

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- Update your address or view your registration information
- Return your ballot or track your ballot
- Request a replacement ballot
- Read the online voters' guide
- Read the local voters' pamphlet

Need more information about the General Election? Go to <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/6564/General-Election---November-5-2019> where you can read about candidates, resolutions, or view General Election Local Voters' pamphlets. No online capabilities? Stop by your local library or visit the Hilltop Action Coalition office to register to vote today!

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Harvest Fest

Metro Parks People's Community Center is hosting a Spook-tober Harvest Festival and Halloween event on Thursday Oct 31 from 6:00 to 8:00pm. This event will take place indoors for families and kids, with games, arts and crafts, treats, music, a costume contest and haunted house! All Free!!! They are looking for people interested in volunteering to operate a game, or to bring a table, or help with decorations for the event; and they're looking for people with decorations to donate. Call (253) 404-3915 if you're interested!

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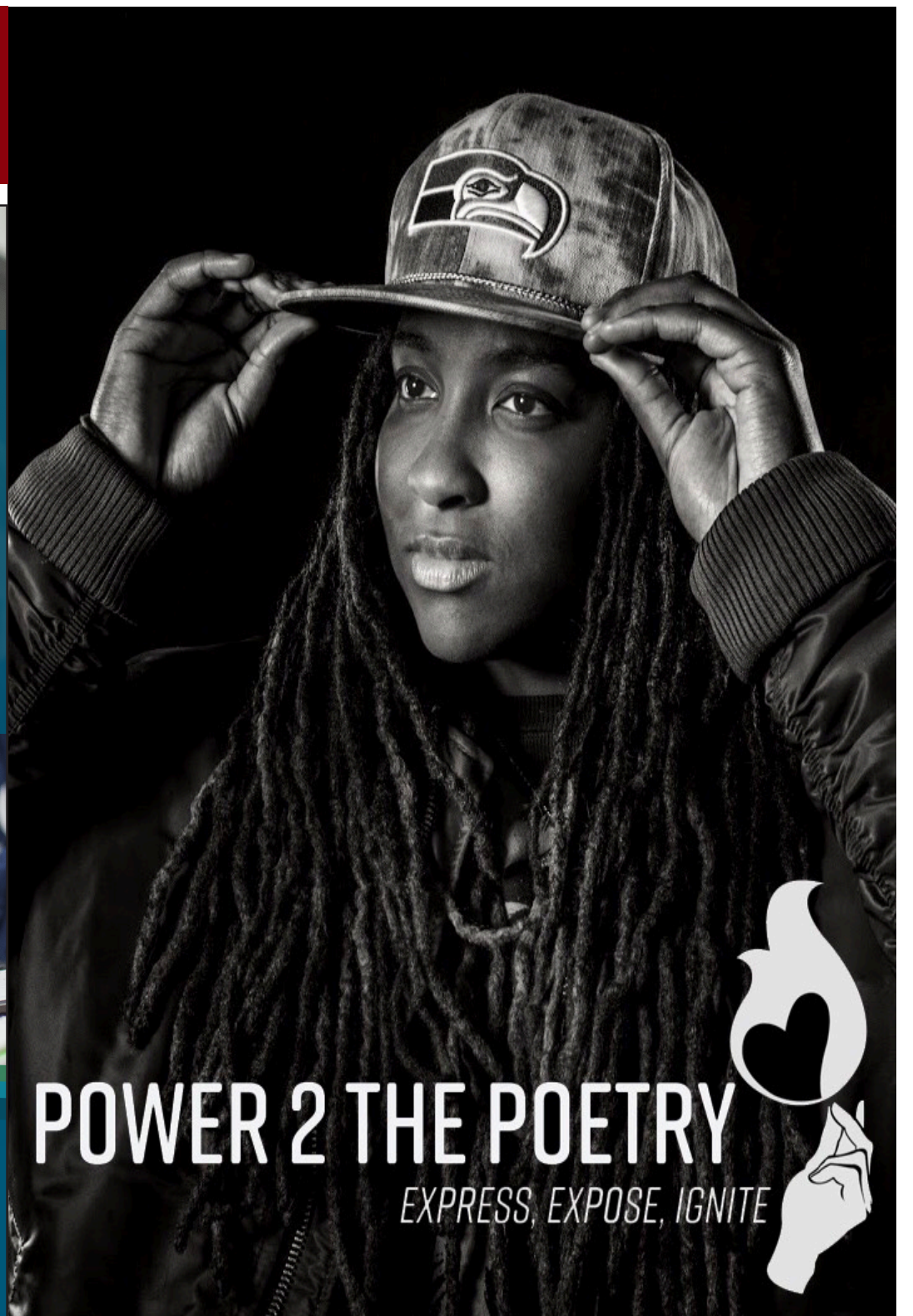
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POWER 2 THE POETRY

EXPRESS, EXPOSE, IGNITE





Oct 24 – Thursday – Tacoma Community House Grand Opening 2:30 – 4:30pm (TCH, 1314 S L ST)
Oct 24 – Thursday – City of Tacoma – Community Vitality & Safety Meeting 4:30 – 5:30pm (Tacoma Municipal Building – 747 Market ST, Room 248)
Oct 24 – Thursday – Ancestral Waters Screening 6:30 – 9:30pm (Urban Grace, The Downtown Church – 902 Market ST)
Oct 25 – Friday – Slo + Social Shop Ride 6:00pm (2nd Cycle, 1205 MLK Jr Way)
Oct 25 – Friday – Community Social & Open Mic 6:30pm- 8:00pm (People’s Community Center, 1602 MLK Jr Way)
Oct 25 – Friday – Creative Circle of Women 6:30pm- 8:30pm (Artful Dreamers Studio, 2926 S Steele ST)
Oct 26 – Saturday – Keep Tacoma Clean – Litter Be Gone 9:00am- 12:00pm (1515 Dock ST)
Oct 26 – Saturday – Tacoma Litter Pick Up Day 9:00am- 1:00pm (Police Sub Station #2, 5140 N 26th ST)
Oct 29 – Tuesday – Story Alive: Room on the Broom 10:00am- 11:30am (Children’s Museum of Tacoma, 1501 Pacific Ave)
Oct 29 – Tuesday – Harvest Fest 2019 6:00pm- 8:00pm (People’s Community Center, 1602 MLK Jr Way)
Oct 30 – Wednesday – Health Heroes & 50th Anniversary Celebration 5:00pm- 8:00pm (Hotel Murano, 1320 Broadway: Tickets at www.commhealth.org)
Oct 31 – Thursday – Metro Parks People’s

Community Center Harvest Festival 6- 8:00pm (1602 MLK Jr Way)
Nov 1 – Friday – Tacoma-Pierce County People First Meeting 2:00pm-3:00pm (PAVE-Partnerships for Action Voices for Empowerment, 6316 S 12th ST)
Nov 2 – Saturday – Dia de los Muertos 1:30pm-7:30pm (Eastside Community Center, 1721 E 56th ST)
Nov 3 – Sunday - Daylight Savings Time Ends – clocks turn back 1 hour
Nov 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25 & 27 – Mon & Wed ALL Month – After School Teen Drop-In (6th – 12th) 3:00-5:30pm (People’s Community Center, 1602 MLK Jr Way)
Nov 7 – Thursday – Lead the Way Home Breakfast 7:30pm-8:30pm (McGavick Center, 4500 Steilacoom Blvd SW)
Nov 9 – Saturday – A Native Narrative 3:00pm-5:00pm (Peace Community Center, 2106 S Cushman Ave)
Nov 11 – Monday – Veterans Day
Nov 12 – Tuesday – Tacoma City Council Meeting with Citizen’s Forum 5-7:00pm (Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market ST, City Council Chamber)
Nov 13 – Wednesday – Neighborhood Council of New Tacoma Meeting 5:30pm-7:00pm (Tacoma Municipal Building, Rm #248, 747 Market ST)
Nov 13 – Wednesday – Origins of the Tribal Journey with Philip Red Eagle 6:00pm-7:00pm (Tacoma Public Library – Moore Branch – 215 S 56th ST)

TACOMA COMMUNITY HOUSE
Grand Opening

You are invited to attend the grand opening of
TACOMA COMMUNITY HOUSE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH 2019 | 2:30^{PM} TO 4:30^{PM}
 1314 S L St. Tacoma, WA 98405

Join us for light snacks, a building tour, and the following speakers:

Lauren Walker Lee, Executive Director
Laurie Jenkins, 2020 Washington State Speaker of the House
Keith Blocker, Tacoma City Council, District 3

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Sound Transit Claims for Damage

This information is provided by Sound Transit. Please note that Sound Transit does not have a fund to mitigate for business loss during construction of the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension. This would be considered a gift of public funds and is not allowed by the Federal Transit Administration.

However, Sound Transit does have a claims for damages process, which investigates incidents that occur during construction, such as a window breaking or damage to a vehicle as a result of construction.

In that process, an individual submits a claims form, which is available on the Sound Transit

website at www.soundtransit.org/help-contracts/customer-service/claim-forms.

Sound Transit’s risk office works with their insurance company and the contractor to investigate the claim. Any payment would be made after the investigation is completed and a determination has been made. They ask folks to take pictures or videos of the incident and keep invoices and records that will help their case.

Questions about submitting a claim? Please contact Liz Satterhwaite, Sound Transit Community Outreach Specialist, at (253) 208-0586.



Thank you from Hilltop Action Coalition board, staff and community members!

Hilltop Happenings

A series of events to build community through fun and engaging activities.

Nov 9th 3pm - 5pm
A Native Narrative

A storytelling event that explores how stories shape who we are and how we understand and interact with other people.

Refreshments provided during this event at Peace Community Center, 2106 S Cushman.



Photo courtesy of nathnewsonline.net

Jan 11th 3pm - 5pm
African-American Storytelling

Storyteller, Zeldia 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.



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



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Are You Expecting?

Community Health Care has the full range of maternity services.

- **FREE pregnancy tests!
No appointment needed!**
- **Obstetrics & Gynecology**
- **Have your delivery at a local hospital.**
- **Specialized maternity program to help you prepare for your baby.**
- **You can choose your doctor from a staff of 12 physicians.**



Hilltop Regional Health Center
1202 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Tacoma
(253) 441-4742
Learn more at www.commhealth.org

